

## Correspondence

### Native Studies

The articles on Indians by Eugene Zimmerebner and Lydia Pawlenko were excellent. I would add that there are implications for the York community, for staff and curricula changes in the years to come.

The three history departments in Glendon, Atkinson, and Arts are all essentially teaching European ethnic studies, with 93 per cent of their 196 areal courses on the European heritage of the professors and students. Let's face it. We are a narrow-minded, parochial university. There is not a single course on Canadian Indian history at the university. Is it any wonder that Canadian Natives find York to be an alien place? It is all about a foreign culture. We say, in effect, that Indians do not have a history, or philosophy, or economics, and so forth. Maybe they have some social problems that we as the superior, paternalistic charter culture can help them with in a few social science division classes. And, of course, we can appreciate their arts a little, because Inuit sculpture and Ojibway-Cree paintings are

now commercially successful. But it is extremely difficult to get our economists to study and teach about the economic development of Indian reserves. Anthropology too needs criticism because we have allowed York to develop into the only large university in North America without an archaeology programme.

John A. Price  
Professor of Anthropology

### Editorial Comment

The thoughtful editorial "You can cut campus crime", (*Excalibur*, December 4th), shows an appreciation of the dilemma in which the University finds itself in making various campus facilities easily accessible not only to a large internal community but also to those members of the general public who wish to attend theatrical performances or athletic events, to participate in seminars or conferences, or to visit the art galleries or libraries, while at the same time excluding undesirable and disruptive elements.

While the safety and security of members of the University community must be paramount a

"locked door" policy, even if sufficient funds were available to support such a policy, would not be generally acceptable in an academic environment, as one distinguished academic has suggested the ideal university security force should be conducted "unobtrusively, yet visibly"; an apparent paradox, which nevertheless reflects the views of many at the University.

To set things in the right perspective the amount of criminal activity at the University, considering that the permanent and transient population is about thirty thousand persons a year, while it is of concern, is not excessive. However, the University is not a sanctuary and members of the community should take the same precautions to protect themselves and their property as they would in any other place to which the public have access.

It has been encouraging in recent months to note an increased interest by students in the security of their residences, to quote Professor Harold Adelman of Atkinson College, "The people who live in a place must be the prime officers of enforcement...

The only other alternative, a police or military state, is not acceptable in an institution of higher learning." ("The Beds of Academe"). Student Security has also been working efficiently and has been very supportive of the regular security service.

Perhaps I may be permitted to correct one error which appeared in your editorial, in as much as the person to whom you referred as being assaulted earlier this year was not a Security Guard but Mr. Leonard Birchall, the Executive Officer in Administrative Studies. The persons responsible were arrested, charged and convicted, an example of the excellent support and co-operation which the University receives from No. 31 Division of the Metropolitan Police.

C.G. Dunn  
Director of Safety and Security Services

### Mature Reply

In response to Ms. McLetchie's letter criticizing the Mature Student Services Committee for having inadequate minority representation, it should be noted

that this is an *ad hoc* group made up of persons at York concerned about Mature Student Services at York. Ms. McLetchie has been encouraged to attend our meetings as have several other persons who might represent the interests of the non-white community at York.

In addition, a spin-off group the Ad-Hoc committee on Inter-Cultural Relations at York University, includes a number of non-white members. The purposes of the Inter-Cultural Relations Committee are:

1. To assure that York University is sensitive and responsive both in its academic programs and its milieu to the needs of both foreign students and those students who are members of ethnically and racially defined minority groups within Canada.
2. To identify the forms of differential treatment which may be required so that these members of the York community are treated equally.
3. To promote more effective liaison between these constituencies and the University community.

Since the meetings of both *ad hoc* groups welcome anyone interested, please inform your readers that the Mature Student Services Committee will meet on Monday, January 12 in S872 Ross from 2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. to continue working on a 5 year plan for mature students. The Inter-Cultural Relations Committee will meet Wednesday, 12:00—2:00 p.m. at Sylvester's Stong College to discuss the English as a Second Language Programs and the need to create an advisor to deal with Intercultural Affairs.

Ellen Baar  
Coordinator  
Mature Student Services Committee

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