

# editorial

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## Stop screwing cash-strapped students with inflexible rules

As tuition soars, it becomes more evident that money is more crucial than talent in achieving a degree — and a career.

York has recently taken this credo to a cutthroat extreme, in the form of a non-flexible deadline for a \$75 tuition deposit. For many students this summer, \$75 stands between them and an education, because York refuses to extend deadlines for those waiting for loans.

When unemployment figures jump, it becomes harder than ever for students to find work. This means many of them have trouble enough meeting their basic needs, let alone put money aside for tuition.

During this crisis, what they need most from university community members is understanding. What they find instead are officials more concerned about administrative convenience and money in the bank.

Despite officials' protests to the contrary, it's that simple.

The logic behind the deposit is that students must prove they will fill the spaces they've reserved by paying a \$75 deposit on their tuition within two weeks of enrolling.

The deposit will prevent students without the intention of attending York from enrolling in courses, because, so the argument goes, they will risk losing money. This will free up spaces for those who really want to participate.

But registration officials who say, "If you can't pay \$75 now, then how are you going to pay the rest of your

fees," don't mean, "You shouldn't occupy a space in these classes if you don't think you can attend." What they're really saying is, "We don't think you can pay us, get lost."

A distinction has to be made between students who don't intend on coming to classes, and those who do intend but don't have the money by deadline.

While the deposit system is preferable in many ways over the previous policy where a student had to pay at least half of their tuition by the time classes begin, the lack of flexibility presents a disturbing new trend — administrators can reject students perceived as financial risks.

The tuition deposit is the test, the voice response enrollment is the hook — officials can de-enroll students at the push of a button.

This is a change from previous years where students were given at least until the end of October (including a late-fee paying period) to prove they could pay their tuition.

What officials call "ghost enrollments", presents a problem for both the university and students. But as long as York is overcrowded and underfunded, voice enrollment will be a frustrating scramble, and students will take all they can get.

Finding a solution to the problem won't be simple, but any new policy cannot allow the university to pass judgment on students' ability to pay tuition without giving them a fair opportunity to do so.

## Tennis Canada wants respect

An article by Nicholas Davis in a recent issue of York University's *Excalibur* deserves a response.

First, we hope York University is not relying on Mr. Davis' article to promote "positive public relations from academia" as Davis suggests should be a priority of the university.

It is surprising that Davis never spoke with anyone at Tennis Canada before

ceptable to both parties. We are also pursuing tournament relocation alternatives in other areas of Metro Toronto and Mississauga, which makes good business sense if we are unable to further develop at York.

York University in general and Davis in particular may not miss the tournament if it moves. However, the university administration may miss the \$200,000 plus it receives each year from parking revenues. And although it may not occur to Davis, many university students (25 to 30) may miss the part-time or permanent employment Tennis Canada offers during the tournament and throughout the academic year.

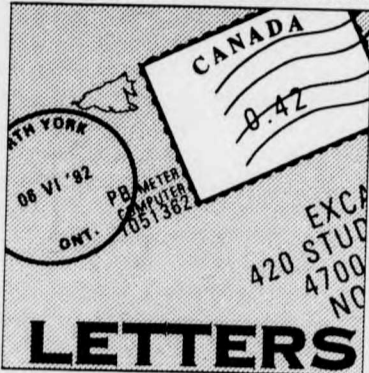
The facility is readily available for use by faculty and students alike throughout the year.

Tennis Canada is a not-for-profit national sports organization whose responsibilities include funding development programs throughout the country. Tournament revenues provide the means to accomplish this. We believe that by constructing new facilities we can provide tangible benefits to our provincial partners and York University in ways that might otherwise not be available.

We are hopeful that the university will be more accommodating than Davis, since his position does not leave much room for further discussion. As he says: "I hope the tournament does move somewhere else. Let someone else have Tennis Canada and their arrogance to deal with."

Let's cut the rhetoric, *Excalibur*, and seek ways to build a better university — in every respect. Next time, give us a call before you publish another "investigative" piece on Tennis Canada. After all, we live on campus too.

Sincerely Yours,  
Robert H. Moffat  
President, Tennis Canada



writing his ill-informed piece. He appears to prefer a stream of consciousness technique with little or no regard for elementary research, other than an admission that he had read a recent column in the *Financial Post* — which may have been, by the way, the first example of short fiction in that newspaper.

To set the record straight, we are not having a disagreement with York University over land use or any other matter that we are aware of. From time to time, we have disagreed over the arrangements for tournament parking; however, we recently completed a three year agreement settled by reasonable and amicable negotiations.

Tennis Canada is interested in acquiring more land at York University. And York University has expressed an interest in providing it, subject to negotiations over terms and conditions ac-

• To question campus officials, newspaper editors are better off using a fax machine rather than reporters. At least that's the message some York administrators have been sending us these past few weeks.

Last issue, vice-president Stephen Feinburg only responded to questions regarding his recent resignation after we faxed them to him. He responded by fax. This past week, security director Don MaGee asked that questions be faxed to him before an interview.

### BETWEEN THE LINES

This buffer between the campus press and York's administration is unacceptable. *Excalibur* is a training ground for new reporters eager to engage themselves with members of the community. Interviewing is a skill they learn. They use it to communicate and cull information from news sources. At *Excalibur*, this practice won't be replaced by fax machines.

Some administrators might not want to talk to reporters or plan to dictate the terms upon which they will grant an interview, but ultimately any obstacles they place between themselves and the press is a disservice to students at York.

York administrators should have the courtesy to respond to our questions. We are prepared to accommodate their time constraints. That's why some reporters will call people two or three times a week before reaching them. But we expect our phone calls returned. How else can we properly report the news to students on campus?

We will not exchange information by fax, unless there is a valid reason to do so. The electronic age may be upon us but it shouldn't put a barrier between the press and members of its community.

• Check out the new York student handbook. *Up York* editors Jim Hounslow and Cindy Reeves have put together a top-notch book that no student on campus should be without.

# excalibur

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## excalendar

**September 9 to 11**  
Become an Excaliburite at our table during registration week in Vari Hall  
**Thursday, September 10**  
Production meeting 4 pm  
Staff meeting 6 pm

### Quote of the issue:

"In Europe it doesn't matter if you are a man or a woman. We make love with anyone we find attractive." — Marlene Dietrich