

LETTERS

HAPPIER TO PARTICIPATE THAN TO COMPETE

I have been an active participant in Inter-college sports for four years now as an athlete, organizer, and athletic representative. Although I have competed over the years in almost every sport offered at York, I have never been on a championship team. When I study some of the colleges that are close contenders for the York Torch, I am glad that Winters College is not.

Obtaining the York Torch has become an obsession to many colleges. I have found that participants at colleges such as Winters, which struggle just to get a full team out, seem to enjoy the game a great deal more. There is no pressure to win the sport, "because we won it last year and have to keep the trophy." It is a really big success for us to be the "most improved team" or to get a team together when we did not enter a team the year before.

What many colleges fail to understand, however, is that for some teams only enough people sign up to have a single line-up. In this case, I try to get the Winters games arranged so that everyone on the team can participate in order not to default. I seem to be getting a great deal of opposition to rescheduling games. I could partially understand this if Winters were close to winning the Torch, and I were attempting to manipulate times for our best players in the interests of victory. This is not the case, however. All I want to do is arrange times when Winters can field a team. I do not expect my participants to miss classes in order to play.

Where there is competition, however, there are arguments and complaints. It is part of my job as athletic representative at Winters to voice the opinions of my athletes and lodge any complaints of unfair treatment to Winters. Unfortunately, other athletic representatives take these complaints personally and organizers get their feelings hurt. Such is the cost of improving the programme for the fairness of all.

Winters college may not be a close contender for the York Torch, but the heart of every participant at Winters is in the sport he or she is playing. We are

proud of Winters and proud to be participating in Inter-college sports. Our goals at Winters may be lower, but in my opinion, our athletes are happier.

Christine Bass
Athletic Representative
Winters College

MAN OH MANPOWER

I would like to bring to your attention a situation at York University that I feel is both extremely unfair and improper. My problem involves the staff and services of the Canada Manpower Centre at York University.

I am a resident married student in graduate studies at the university and my wife has recently begun to seek a part-time job in order to defray some of our expenses. Upon her first visit to the Manpower Centre, she made the error of taking our four-month-old son, thus suggesting her non-student status. After consulting with the job counsellor, the receptionist informed my wife that since she was not a York student she could not avail herself of the office's services.

On one instance I was able to obtain job information from the office for my wife, since this seemed to be our only alternative, but on subsequent visits I too was denied information.

The reason given was that the office is partially funded by York University, only York students could be served! Her being married to a registered student, a resident of the York University Community and a federal taxpayer notwithstanding, she was denied access to this federal-York service.

That my wife should be denied access to what is essentially a federal service is totally unacceptable to us and I would appreciate it if your office would investigate this situation and provide a more reasonable explanation than the "non-student" one offered by the Manpower staff.

Dennis Fletcher

Letters to the editor should be sent to 111 Central Square.

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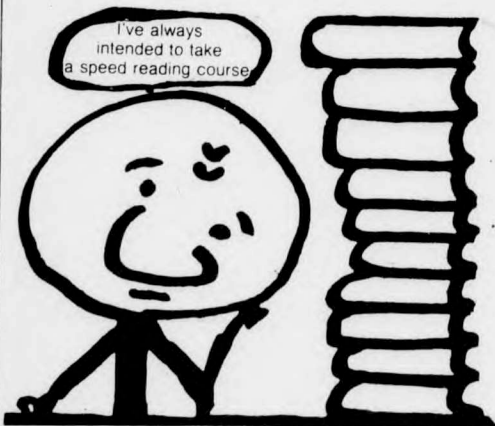
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