

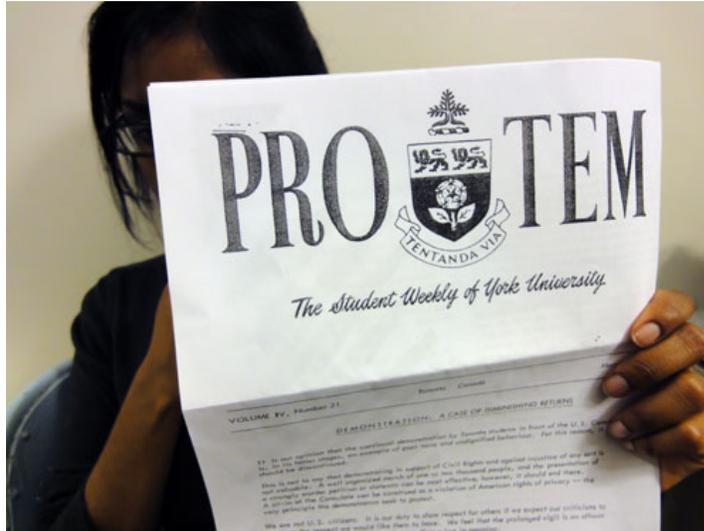
What did the postman bring today?

Is there ever anything inspiring to be found in the piles of mail, which are always destined for the trash?

posted by Koko - January 17th, 2011.

Like any other workplace, we* get a lot of "admail." I am including exhibition invitations in this category, because we get stacks of it weekly, from galleries all over the country, and obviously it's not targeted. Which is fine. (Who has the resources to do that?) Of course, 99% of it goes into the blue bin.

Last week, our ED glanced over one such mail item, and then handed it to me.



I skimmed over what seemed to be a photocopied newsletter, my eyes landing on sentences such as:

"Though the protest continues, its emphasis and dignity is fast disappearing, yet it continues. The demonstration has become an end in itself. The protestors are losing the respect of others and are becoming a nuisance."

and

"A sit-in at the Consulate can be construed as a violation of American rights of privacy [...]"

My brain was having a serious what-the-fuck moment. For a split second I wondered (self-centeredly) if there were still Tamil demonstrators outside the US consulate, and then, whether I'd seen anything on recent No One Is Illegal Facebook correspondances. Inexplicably, I felt a tad angry and indignant.

I flipped it over, and read a line or two aloud, (*"The sit-in and its unintelligence ..."* / *"The protest must eventually die ..."*) before Haema said, "What year is that from?"

I read the header.

1965.

"Oh, it must be for Deanna's show!" she said.

Indeed, this brilliant/bizarre photocopied mailout—a statement in York's student newspaper, criticizing Toronto students' demonstrations in support of Civil Rights—is one of the many parts of Deanna Bowen's work for [The Centre for Incidental Activisms \(CIA\)](#) (one of the AGYU's upcoming exhibitions).

I made myself a photocopy, to share with my friends and family, and to witness similar, incredulous reactions.

At a time when we're debating the end of the printed anything, I must say, more of this, please! To come across something that causes such a response, and which you hold in your hands and *read and think about* for more than 5 minutes, is quite wonderful.

*We being my work at SAVAC (South Asian Visual Arts Centre).

Opening on 19 January at the Art Gallery of York University, **The Centre for Incidental Activisms** proposes an entirely new way of working with artists. This experimental project involves the Toronto artists **Deanna Bowen, Eugenio Salas, and Eshrat Erfanian + Elle Flanders + Tamira Sawatzky** and acknowledges the back-stories to artistic production: the production of art can be a form of activism above and beyond the objects that artists make. [More»](#)

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