# Group recycles gripes

Encouraged by your squib of October 25, we would like to resume last term's dialog concerning the ecological and educational implications of The Varsity, a dialog interrupted by your refusal to publish our letter of March 15.

To refresh the memories of your readers, our letter of February 22 argued (rather persuasively, we might add) that in these days of environmental crisis, The Varsity isn't worth the paper it's printed on. A well-intentioned (if ill-conceived) reply by one Hugh A. Wilkinson (March 13) contained two major comments: first, that computer scientists, known to waste phenomenal amounts of paper, should clean their own environmental house before criticizing others; second, that The Varsity serves the fundamental purpose of educating its staffers in the ways and means of journalism, and should therefore be published more, rather than less, often.

In regard to the first comment, we should like to point out that thanks to a conscientiously-applied recycling program, we in Computer Science generate very little scrap. Virtually the only waste is "chad" — those tiny rectangles punched from cards. We note parenthetically, and with considerable dismay, that the substantive content of a typical Varsity would fit nicely on one of these little chips.

We find Mr. Wilkinson's second comment equally absurd, even conceding him the rather dubious claim that practice makes perfect. Perhaps an analogy would be appropriate. Suppose that the Faculty of Music were to press 20,000 recordings of each practice session and leave them in little piles all over campus. Any ecology-conscious individual would be justifiably incensed. We certainly do not contend that Varsity staffers needn't practice; their obvious inability to grasp the fundamentals of either journalistic responsibility or the English language speaks for itself. We do, however, question their right to inflict the fruits of their labours upon us.

We hope that all concerned will accept these comments as graciously as they are offered.

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(Varsity journalists do their practicing at home: the paper represents perfection — ed.)