

# Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity  
—Lord Acton

Excalibur is the York University weekly and is independent politically. Opinions expressed are the writer's. Unsigned editorials on this page are decided upon by staff vote and do not necessarily reflect the views of individual editors. Excalibur attempts to be an agent of social change and a forum of democratic debate. Typography by Fotoset, printed at Delta Web. Excalibur is published by Excalibur publications, a body incorporated under the laws of Ontario.

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## The strike is worth the trouble

Nobody likes a strike. With the shutdown of the university services, the glutting up of campus entrances, and the occasional tempers flaring in the past few days, everyone's patience has been tested.

It is most unfortunate that the administration has left the York University Staff Association no choice but to take the picket lines.

Although the strike has left many students confused and frustrated, particularly the new arrivals to York, we think a case can be made that the union's cause and the students' cause are one and the same.

YUSA is asking for a 10.3 per cent salary increase and a further .6 per cent increase in fringe benefits.

Inflation is currently rising at over nine per cent annually. Staff members will thus suffer a real loss in income if they do not receive close to the hike they are requesting.

After years of being held down by the Anti-Inflation Board, YUSA has, this year, been offered a four per cent total compensation package. According to the administration, it would be cutting its own throat if it offered any more. It should be noted here that Ontario universities get a 5.8 per cent increase in provincial grants in 78/79.

On to the bigger picture.

The provincial government (and the federal government wants to cut back in the "uneconomical" areas of the economy (i.e. the social services and education), to wipe out its budgetary deficit.

Fair enough. We are in a time of recession, so money must be saved somehow. Unfortunately government priorities, both in saving and raising revenue, are out to lunch.

In raising money, governments, both federal and provincial, have shifted the burden of taxation to individual working people, away from the corporations.

In 1962/63 corporate taxation provided 9.4 per cent of the entire provincial budget for Ontario, while in 1974/75 it provided only 5.5 per cent.

Personal income tax made up 8.5 per cent in the same budget for 1962 and rose dramatically to 21.1 per cent in 1974/75. (Figures collected by Tony Woolfson from the Ontario budget.)

So when the government says we must save the taxpayers' money by cutting back on social services and education they are really saying: in the interest of higher corporate profit, we will cut back on social services to those in need.

At the top of the totem pole at York sits the Board of Governors, made up of men such as chancellor John Roberts, former premier of Ontario; John Turner, former federal justice minister who has directorships in leading Canadian corporations such as Canadian Pacific and MacMillan Bloedel; Roy Bennett, president of the Ford Motor Company of Canada, Conrad Black, partial controller of Argus, one of the largest holding companies in Canada (Argus controls Steinbergs and Massey Ferguson); H. Jackman, chairman of the Empire Life Insurance Company; and Fred Eaton, president of Eaton.

On the face of it, who better could convince the government to investigate alternative taxation sources to the personal income tax?

But these men are not going to encourage the government to take action if it is contrary to their corporate interests.

And President Macdonald, who



enforces the cutbacks at York, is not one to prod the BOG into action. No matter what happens to the university academically, or how low paid the staff is, there will always be jobs for administrators, after all.

Thus, when the administration says we have to make workers accept lower increases than even the hard-pressed Ontario universities, it is simply saying that their priority is to run the place like an efficient machine, no matter what the cost in human terms.

It is very well for administrators to say "we have no money for equitable wage hikes," but... would they ever pressure the government into getting the money necessary to give workers and students a fair shake?

It comes down to a question of values: who is to bear the brunt of

cutbacks, ordinary people (which at a university means students, faculty and staff) or big business? For most of us there is no choice.

If the university prefers to administer the buildings and balance sheets and let the community limp along under cutbacks, then the community has to act on its own.

That is what the staff is doing now.

Perhaps the York administrators need a little help in making up their minds as to where their priorities should lie.

Here is what you can do:

- If you're unsure of your opinion of the strike, why not go out and talk to the picketers?
- Boycott your classes in support of the strike and inform your profs of your reasons for doing so;
- Raise the staff strike issue for discussion in class;
- Pay a visit to the ninth floor and inform the administrators you oppose the university's stand;
- Let your student council reps know your views;
- Contact your local MPP and make your feelings about the administration's stand known to him (York's MPP is NDPer Fred Young, 630-2300). It's up to you.

## Our Town

### Bethune

This week Bethune movies features *Close Encounters* Friday and Saturday night at 8:30 in Curtis Lecture Hall 'L' at the same time and place on Sunday come and see *The Fury*.

Don't forget Tap 'N Keg next Wednesday night at 8:30 in the Bethune dining hall....

Tomorrow at 5 pm, there's a Bethune council meeting in the JCR.

**Calumet** As we go to press Calumet College is still waiting for a response from university vice-president Bill Farr on whether or not the college is out of CYSF.

### McLaughlin

Due to administrative tie-ups, McLaughlin council has cancelled all activities. See *Our Town* next week for further developments.

### Osgoode

Today at 4 pm in the JCR pub the Law Union is holding a discussion on the McDonald commission and work on immigration laws. Guests include: Elizabeth Becket (Law Union Steering Committee), Paul Copelan (criminal lawyer),

Barbara Jackman (immigration lawyer), and Michael Mandel (law professor).

The Debating Club is also meeting today, at noon. See notice boards for details.

Monday the back room will be open once again for business.

Sauna memberships are now available. Contact Rick Battson at 667-6005....

Photo buffs... get your photo



Bethune orientation barbeques inspire unusual emotions in exotic settings.

### Stong

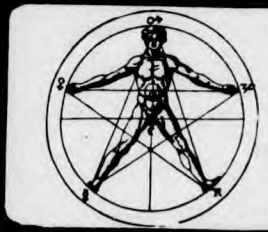
The newly - renovated front room of the Orange Snail is now open - and it's fully licenced. Drinking hours run from noon to 1 am Monday to Saturday.... and on

club memberships from Jim Agnelli at 667-6001....

And lastly, the Stong snooker club is now handing out memberships...see Steve Dranitsaris in Room 317.

## Harbinger's Column

by Sandra Mooney and Chuck Wheeler



At Harbinger Community Services Centre, trained peer counsellors work with you, giving you the support you need as you make the central decisions affecting your life. This process demands factual information and discussion, to identify alternative ways of using these facts in your life. Harbinger is a leader in providing accurate and current information on all aspects of its service areas. So, be it a question relating to birth control, pregnancy, child care, or abortion; V.D., drugs, gay and lesbian sexuality, or personal conflicts; legal information, school hassles, nutritional information, or a medical referral: whatever is your concern, we at Harbinger are here to talk it over with you.... because we care about you. If you feel that professional services are necessary, we have an extensive, verified referral system. We will help you secure the type of service you need, of a quality you deserve.

Today, we spend much of our time discussing aspects of inter-personal relationships: sexuality and sexual responsibilities, our bodies, and new ways of relating to others. As times change, people need to change. This seems to be the area of greatest concern to people coming to Harbinger today. At the same time, we continue to maintain an open and comprehensive service, dealing with whatever diverse problems or needs you have as you try to live in these changing times.

At Harbinger we have but one basic value: a respect for your individuality. We realize how hard it is to be your own person. We understand that this process is never aided by ready-made solutions handed to you, or by emotional coercion. We are committed to the belief that you and you alone have the right to make the central decisions which affect the course of your life. We are here to help you recognize the power you already have within you to make these decisions. We support you by providing a confidential, secure, and comfortable place where you can openly discuss your situation. As there are no fees or red tape at Harbinger, you will not feel pressured to come to any quick decisions. At Harbinger you will feel that you have enough time to come to grips with your life; that there is someone in this increasingly inhuman world who is honestly concerned with you, the way you are and the ways in which you choose to change and grow.

All volunteers at Harbinger receive extensive training in our service areas. We are in constant search of up-to-date and new information. We have a small reference library and a wealth of informative literature. We can assist you in conducting an educational, or in preparing a paper, in an area of our service. The varied backgrounds and areas of expertise of our volunteers may often give you a view onto your problem that will make it easier to see for yourself a solution to it.

All you have to do is come into Vanier Residence any Monday to Friday, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; find Room 214, and begin to relax. We're looking forward to meeting you.

Harbinger hopes that any of you who may be interested in working with us to drop by, or call us at (667) 3672. Many jobs need to be done this year. And new projects are limited only by the energy of the members of the collective.

We would also like to take a moment as the year starts to thank C.Y.S.F. and the various colleges and student associations at York who have given us the funds necessary to continue our vital services to the York community. Along with you, we're back at York in '78.... and we're here to stay!