

## Ghost Essay Writer Leaves Faint Impression At Ryerson

TORONTO (CUP) A ghost writer of student essays "failed" an essay he wrote for the Editor-in-Chief of Ryerson student paper, The Ryersonian.

Ray Biggart paid \$40 to have an evaluation of Milton's Paradise Lost researched and written but three different Ryerson English instructors failed it. Their marks ranged from 38 to 42 per cent.

### RELIABLE SERVICE

In a copyright in The Ryersonian, Biggart said he called a man answering to the name of Bill Bernard, in response to an ad claiming "fast reliable typing service . . . Work done by professional free-lance writer."

The man contacted Biggart at the Ryersonian offices and told him he could handle the assignment but that it would cost "certainly more than \$10, probably around \$15 or \$20."

The man returned a week later with the essay and a bill for \$46.10. He lowered his price to \$40, says Biggart, but he claimed he would have to justify his action to his nephews, whom he had "set up in business."

Ryerson instructors termed the essay "smart-alecky and shallow" and "complete nonsense."

The three instructors were not told the essay had been ghost written before they marked.

Following are some excerpts from the essay:

"John Milton; who wrote Paradise Lost, is considered to be one of the classicists of English Literature; was a pornographic writer who sole the

plot for his tale Paradise Lost without being aware that he had committed plagiarism .

"During his life he carried on an almost continuous controversy with considerable loudness against prelates and royalty."

"In the annals of English literature he (Milton) ranks second only to Shakespeare, which serves to illustrate how destitute the English speaking people are of creative genius."

### EVE'S ADULTERY

"Milton's moral; and stories carried a moral in his day; was that with the loss of Eve's virtue and her act of adultery Adam and the whole human race for all time was sliding down a great greased hill straight into a fire-belching, sulphurous hell. Only those who underwent sterilization or

unichism could hope to eat that 'pie in the sky'."

"Whoever wrote it had heard that Milton was a puritan, and figured he was a puritan about sex. He wasn't," said a Ryerson English instructor.

Another Ryerson instructor said much of the essay was cribbed, and whenever the writer departed from the source material he had been cribbing from the writing deteriorated.

"The incorrect punctuation, including obvious misuses of semicolons, would make any instructor suspicious. The whole essay is pretty fishy," he said.

Ryerson principal H. H. Kerr said he "had no idea" ghost writing was going on at Ryerson.

Students who don't write their essays themselves are subject to disciplinary action and can be suspended or expelled, he said.



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