

LETTERS

Holmes speaks out

Dear *Excalibur*,

I would like to thank *Excalibur* for the continuing coverage and editorials on the Strange Case of Professor Z. Dr. Holmes' struggle for academic freedom at York University. I would like however to take issue with some of the comments made about my work, and the likelihood of my making some kind of 'professional contribution.'

When I was being dismissed in 1984, supposedly because of my academic incompetence and lack of professional contribution, there were nine reviews of a 600-page book which I had printed entitled "Man's Psychological Illusions: Adventures in Psychology and Mysticism." Five of these reviews were highly favourable. Charles Tart, an internationally known psychologist, wrote:

I consider it excellent... I would have no hesitation voting strongly for a tenure position if he were on the faculty here (Davis, California).

Retired York Professor Ted Mann, a prominent Canadian sociologist, wrote:

This is a most interesting piece of work... The author evinces a good command of esoteric and occult thought... This study represents a serious, thoughtful and valuable scholarly effort.

A third reviewer commented:

MPI is a most unusual and important work... a courageous attempt to grapple with basic problems of ultimate importance... The most remarkable thing about it is its breadth: a remarkable, courageous, fascinating and important book. I consider York University most fortunate to have a thinker of Dr. Holmes' calibre and range of interests on its faculty. If given tenure, he will provide an invaluable antidote to the conservative positivistic view of psychology which is all that is available to most students: if rejected I imagine he will be lost eventually to some broad-minded institution.

Another wrote:

MPI is a profoundly impressive work, and stands at the very forefront of research in the behavioral sciences.

Negative reviews were by individuals known for their opposition to psychical and mystical studies. Otherwise,

there were outstanding commentaries on my writings recognized as exploring controversial areas likely to be important within the next decade. My latter works are even more important on "the heart Doctrine," comparative studies of mystical and scientific views of creation, physics and metaphysics, and much more.

I am too inspired by Albert Einstein's remark:

I want to know how God created the world. I am not interested in this or that phenomena in the spectrum of this or that element. I want to know His thoughts, the rest are details.

My problem is that I should have focused, not on the enigmas of human consciousness and the mysteries of creation, but instead, on some little bit of experimental research on why rats turn left, how to remember nonsense syllables, or how to distribute tests and correlate personal variables. Instead, my writings challenge the whole paradigm of modern psychology and science.

I would not be so sure that X-Professor Holmes is not going to make any scientific or professional contribution, even though it is very hard when most of the time I am unemployed or else struggling to preserve my academic freedom. Let me tell you what science is one day, and what science is not. I have not been dismissed on the basis of academic, scholarly or scientific grounds, but on the basis of pseudo-scientific fears and intolerance. Certainly your editorial was right on one point: "Holmes does little to advance York's Psychology Department's name in the academic community." York's psychology department is becoming known for something, but not for academic freedom or fair collegial review. This is unfortunate, as most of the professors in the department know nothing about my work and have in no way been instrument in my dismissals. At the same time, there is a level of intimidation and threat within the department which would make it very unwise politically for anyone to stand up on my behalf or to inquire as to what I teach.

Anyway, we may be heading for a grievance hearing over this dispute, and the opportunity to see how scientifically the psychology committee members evaluated my work. The last grievance committee concluded: "... there is substantial reason to suspect that bias did enter the process (of evaluation)" and they

recommended a reevaluation, noting that "... there must be no question as to the academic integrity of ... York University." (A recommendation ignored by the administration.) The evidences now on file are even more shocking than before.

I challenge any members of either committee of my psychology x-colleagues to debate the scientific value of my teaching/writings or to debate why explorations of psychical, mystical and spiritual are not considered to be relevant to psychology. Madame Blavatsky (1888), occultist, understood far more clearly:

To make of Science an integral whole necessitates, indeed, the study of spiritual and psychic, as well as physical Nature... Without metaphysics, real science is inadmissible.

Your editorial comments on the psychology department's "quest to be regarded as a science." Isn't this funny: York's psychology department after 20 years is still so insecure — there must be something very fundamental that is missing.

Christopher Holmes, Ph.D.  
incompetent mystic psychologist

Coalition criticized

Editor,

Re: Liberty Coalition

This isn't one of those nasty slanderous leftist attacks that regularly appear in *Excalibur*. This is a legitimate criticism, not of your political/economic/social viewpoints, but of your tactics. What do you guys do? I mean, besides setting up a table irregularly at that) and either defending your club or attacking others with letters.

In the Feb. 11/88 *Excalibur*, your letter criticized York New Democrats for opposing Free Trade. They tried to do this by properly informing (or misinforming) the public with detailed pamphlets stating party policy. They raised money for the NDP by selling posters, t-shirts, and buttons. They also (presumably) voted NDP on election day. What did the LCers do?

In the Jan. 21/88 edition of *Excalibur*, you wrote a letter condemning the Soviet Jewry Committee of the Jewish Student Federation for being too selective of the refuseniks they try to free from the Soviet Union. Contrary to your erroneous insinuations Jews and Israelis, directly or indirectly, help non-Jewish refuseniks escape with Israeli documents. To give you an example, last October 519 non-Jews fled. To quote the *News From Student Struggle for*

*Soviet Jewry* (Se. 6/88) it was "an act of quiet Israeli compassion and humanity not to have publicized its efforts to rescue Christian believers from the USSR... under such severe world criticism." At any rate your club's in no position to be judgemental. The SJC of JSF signed and issued petitions, held hunger strikes, organized and set up Soviet Jewry Week, went to rallies, marched, wrote letters, and did everything else possible (short of smuggling them out) to help free as many refuseniks as possible. 7,776 refuseniks emigrated in '87. Your club, on the other hand, seemingly did nothing. To paraphrase Hopper, by not lobbying for the rights of Soviets LC implicitly sanctions the "enslavement" of Soviet citizens (Jewish or non Jewish).

Every club on campus, except yours, creates activities that meet the needs of the club members. If your purpose is to make Canada (or at least York) less socialist and more capitalist then why not do it in an educational, political, or financial way? Educationally speaking your table doesn't do shit! Most people pass by your table without noticing it. Some people pick up your pamphlets. Those who do throw them out without reading or dismiss them as unoriginal, brief, lacking sources. How many editions of "The Reagan Years" have you sold this month? This year? A more effective approach would be to invite guest speakers, hold forums, lectures, symposiums, or debates. Last year you showed a movie "exposing" the myth about ANC called *The ANC Method: Violence*. Why haven't you shown it again? Why not show other "relevant" films? Why not get people to sign petitions or write letters to change the socialist laws that the US Congress and Canadian Parliament pass? Why not raise money for organizations that you feel are helping to protect and preserve democracy such as the Republicans, the Contras or the Toronto area skin heads?

I challenge LC to prove me wrong and show that they're worthy of being recognized as a real club of this university. You can't use the excuse of not having constructive ideas because I've just given you some. By not changing your "agenda" you show indifference towards your members and the York community. Nah, you'll probably just write *Excalibur* a letter "discrediting" me, saying I'm a socialist/communist/fascist/leftist/anti-business liberal trying to undermine your reputation because you're "the ultimate freedom-loving club."

Sincerely  
Steve B.

Yours truly  
S.L. Jones

Recycling not enough

Editor,

The panel discussion on garbage held in the Faculty of Environmental Studies as part of Environmental Action Day on January 26, was well executed. Unlike many forums held for the general public, many of the key issues of solid waste were debated. Of special note is the amount of praise often given to recycling. Although recycling is sometimes seen as the panacea for Metro's garbage crisis, it is limited and often too far from the real problem. What needs to be recognized is actually two sets of criteria for alternative solid waste approaches — one was mentioned during the panel discussion, the other was not.

The first has been termed the "three Rs" (and sometimes the four Rs). These, as you may know are: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle — in a descending order of priority. No matter how extensive recycling becomes, reducing the production of solid waste will always be more environmentally sound.

The second set of criteria, that unfortunately was not mentioned during the discussion, is often stated as a set of objectives without any attempt at comparative appraisal. It is the objectives for recycling, but probably could be applied to all solid waste reduction approaches. It includes: the conservation of natural resources (or preferably 'natural ecosystems'), a reduction in pollution, a reduction in energy consumption, and the conservation of landfill space. What municipal governments seem to do is give priority to the latter. This is understandable due to their limited jurisdiction and their main responsibility concerning solid waste — to dispose of it in a supposedly safe manner.

This is where I find a problem. Without giving priority to more conservative forms of resources use, on a global basis, many solid waste management approaches that only addresses the short term problem of large solid waste volumes may be adopted, such as energy from waste and biodegradable plastics. Action at all levels of higher government is required in order for the much larger problem of wasteful and environmentally detrimental practises involved with the production and consumption of goods to be resolved, i.e., the need for sustainable development. This would clearly be more approving than a deceptive disappearing act.

Education Deduction Certificates (T2202A) 1988 Calendar Year

Education Deduction Certificates (T2202A) for the 1988 calendar year will be mailed to eligible students beginning the week of February 13, 1989. For information concerning eligibility and entitlement, as well as other aspects of income tax requirements, consult Revenue Canada's brochure *Income Tax And The Student*, Revenue Canada's interpretation bulletin #IT224R, or contact your local Revenue Canada Office.

As these certificates will be computer-produced, and mailed, individual requests prior to that date will not be processed. Personal pickup is not possible. Please ensure that York University has your current address, INCLUDING the correct postal code.

Effective September 1, 1988, duplicate Education Deduction Certificates, regardless of the calendar year in question, may be obtained through the Registration Office, Suite C130, West Office Building, telephone 736-5155, at a cost of \$3.00 per copy.

Enquiries with regard to eligibility and entitlement for 1988 T2202A's received will be accepted only after March 6, 1989, and should be directed to the Registration Office, C130, West Office Building, telephone 736-5155.

Office of the Registrar  
C130, West Office Building

PREPARE FOR:

LSAT GMAT  
MCAT SAT  
GRE DAT

SPEEDREADING

ADVANCED  
MEDICAL  
BOARDS

KAPLAN  
STANLEY H. KAPLAN EDUCATIONAL CENTER  
OF CANADA LTD.

(416) 967-4733

Announcement

Change in Reporting Tuition Fees to Revenue Canada

As a result of a change in Revenue Canada regulations, 1988 Tuition Fee Income Tax Receipts will be based on the calendar year (January 1, 1988 to December 31, 1988). Receipts will be mailed to eligible students in late February, 1989.

Effective the 1988 tax year, eligible individuals will receive a tax credit for tuition paid for the year in which the academic session began.

For example, a student registered in the Fall/Winter 1988/89 Session who paid fees in 1988 would be eligible for a tuition tax credit applicable to the 1988 tax year.

A student paying a second instalment of academic fees after December 31, 1988 for the same Fall/Winter 1988/89 Session would be issued a tuition tax credit for the 1989 tax year.

Questions regarding the change in regulations pertaining to the reporting of tuition for tax purposes should be directed to a local office of Revenue Canada.

Please note that Revenue Canada regulations stipulate that only direct tuition fees are eligible for tuition tax credit. Ancillary fees and any course material fees you pay are not eligible and will not be included in your Tuition Fee Income Tax Receipt.

Finally, please be advised that the 1989 tax year will feature a new form entitled **Tuition and Education Credit Certificate (T2202A Rev88)**. This form will reflect the academic fees payment and/or education benefits for eligible students, and will be issued in February, 1990. Student Accounts Office February 9, 1988 736-5111