

# Excalibur

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

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## The April Fools



Duane Anderson

(from left to right) Eric Walberg, Colin Smith, Stuart Ross, Kim Llewellyn, Pat Smiley, Greg Saville, Laura Brown, Elliot Lefko, Gord Graham, Evan Adelman, Hugh Westrup, Bruce Gates, Lydia Pawlenko, Gary Hershorn, Mark Monfette, Paul Stuart, Lawrence Knox, Rich Spiegelman, Bryon Johnson. Not pictured: Mike Korican, Evelyn Cook, Olga Graham, Tony Cheung, Marc Epprecht, Randy Bregman, David Saltmarsh, Brian

Gillett, Randy Noble, Andrew Cardozo, Mary Griffin, Jill Troyer, Jeff Carmichael, Lynn Tomlinson, Martin Tiidus, Rose Crawford, Paul Lantz, Wanda Paskowski, Micky Trigiani, David Shilman, Sheldon Schwartz, Leslie Wasserman, May Lau, Daniel Ma, B.J.R. Silberman, Andrew C. Rowsome, Ronald Ramage, Alina Gildiner. A goodly portion of the staff of this year's Xcal. Adios.

## COMMENT: More reason in cutbacks battle

Upon reading Robert Steadman's comment on cutbacks, I too decided to come out of the 'anti-cutbacks' closet. However, my admission takes another form.

After attending the first big rally in Curtis Lecture Hall last year's, I have had nothing but mild contempt for the whole movement. What looked initially like a strong show of strength, by students and employees of the university, quickly degenerated into something more akin to a circus. Theatrics and tempers held the day.

I recall hearing only one truly rational sentiment expressed at this somewhat emotional gathering. This was the comment that any student action must be perceived, by the public at large, in a good light. Unfortunately this opinion has been ignored or interpreted to mean "don't appear too greedy". Against this advice students have acted by making strictly monetary demands.

This type of action is not proper for people who are 'supposed' to be rational and well educated. It's not the tools these groups have used, such as the demonstrations at Queens Park, but rather the policies.

What group or institution in society is better equipped to examine the policies and practices of governments? What other group or institution has the expertise and diversity to look at the moods and desires of society and to integrate these into constructive suggestions?

Students (and others) interested in lobbying the 'no cutbacks' theme should stop to reflect. Their movement has lost a great deal of its early 'emotional steam' and now may be a good time to look for ideas from some of the social, political and economic analysts we have around us. Not a simple suggestion given the diverse opinions and interests of such a group of people. However, the problem is complex and no simple 'give me more' attitude is likely to help solve it. In fact such an attitude may backfire as society begins to doubt the value of higher education.

Examine the complexities and try to understand the whole problem of government spending. Only then will possible solutions begin to develop. Some simple questions to start with might be; what restraints are placed on committee and departmental

expenditure? How are they enforced? Why are government auditors not given any authority to act on their findings? Would 'sunset' clauses help in controlling the expenses of money granting agencies?

It has been suggested that the public service be overhauled. Why does the public service not attract competent executive and managerial staff, in competition with the private sector? A move to pay these people properly and to

remove the high degree of job security could possibly help to ensure that ineffectuals and incompetents would not run our country (a lofty hope I realize).

**Bradley Canivet**  
SYNAPSE Treasurer

P.S. Micheal Michie's response to Robert Steadman serves only to reinforce my disdain for the present policies of the anti-cutback groups. Michie's letter is full of condescending rhetoric, i.e. "your arrogant (and misleading) claim...., 'nice' to hear another side to the story...., you and

your Conservative buddies (are pained) to think of the swinish multitude becoming educated." This letter reflects attitudes and behaviour which has no place in rational discourse.

While he points out the magnitude of the problem, at York, and the reasons for more money, Michie fails to suggest where the money is to come from. This reflects the general failure of the 'anti-cutback groups to make a suggestion which does not simply shift the financial burden to some other segment of society.

B.C.

## Poe Treats

*Poetry is that Form -  
whatever the Communication -  
which achieves Maximum Imagery  
with Minimum Information.*

*Here, poetically wrought, a Thought  
I've tried various forms of Prose on:  
having sex without making Love  
is like taking a Bath with your clothes on.*

*A passionate Look was in their Eyes;  
romance was theirs to reap;  
they sang each other Lullabies...  
and both fell fast asleep!*

*A Bore is a Person who talks and talks  
when nobody's willing to listen....  
Till one day he never returns from a walk,  
and no one reports him as missin'.*

*She fired my imagination  
Until she started to talk.  
I could have had a better conversation  
with my Pet Rock.*

*Lakes and Rivers, great and small,  
they always are in motion.  
Their Names, however fond, are All  
Forgotten by the Ocean.*

by Wayne Woodman