

Excalibur

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

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Question time

Questions from an editor's diary.

The administration is getting nervous about food on campus. Food service administrators have had a flyer printed up and distributed to every resident student. The purpose is to "explain" food services.

Why wasn't this done at the beginning of the term, and why does anything have to be explained? Obviously, we're getting the wrong impression about it all, aren't we?

Also, while on the subject, let's not blame Versa Food for all the problems. Versa is thoroughly capable of preparing edible food, and they've proven it in other locations at other times.

Library workers are apparently asking the university for tenure, a prospect that boggles the mind.

Think of the possibilities. Next it could be administrative assistants, or cleaners or gardeners, maybe even permanent students, guaranteed positions regardless of economic or social cost. What do the librarians think this place is anyway, the federal government?

Sound of Muzak

Good evening, this is Barry Softone, and you're listening to Radio York. I'll be with you for the next hour, with time out for our special York newscast as soon as Bill finishes listening to the CHUM hourly report.

A lot of you have been asking why we went off the air at 8 p.m. last night. Well, a man from our equipment installation firm has just entered the room with a pair of pliers to check out the problem, and it looks like he's going to...

Good morning, this is Jocelyn Pumpkin on CKRY-FM. We apologize for going off the air so early last night, but somebody stole our microphone, and unscheduled technical interruptions...

...hello? Oh good, it's working. As I was saying, we're ready to bring you another day of sparkling York news and local public affairs. But before we get into our news report on the sterility of Peruvian garter snakes, we will play two hours of rock music.

Not just any rock music, though. Music chosen by York students in the confines of a student-run radio station, as an alternative to the rock music played by Toronto stations.

And if the Canadian Radio and Television Commission is listening, remember that spring mails are often fouled up by the post office, and that FM licence should be mailed off in plenty of time, before our staff rips off the remaining records in our library.

Radio York now goes off the air. All staff members who have not walked out, been called to exams, undergone emotional traumas during staff elections or been driven mad by equipment installation would like to wish you good night. Both of them.

The time now is noon.

Scrip disgrace must end now

The present food mess at York demonstrates the university food administrators' policy of trying to do whatever they think the community will let them get away with. After ramming through the price increase they continue to ignore student pleas for refunds of excess scrip. Food services, through spokesman Norm Crandles, have shown that they simply don't give a damn what the student says. Students are worried about the hundreds of dollars worth of scrip they're being stuck with now, but Crandles and Knox tell them to wait until next year.

Is this what they call listening to students?

Food services justify elitist policies with misleading information. Witness their flyer, "Some facts about Food services." The comparison of York food prices with those of "comparable products sold locally" is a deliberate attempt to mislead students.

The restaurants used for comparison are the Colony Steakhouse and Tavern and the York-Finch Steak-

house, where service and food is of a much higher quality than we receive at York. If food services had sincerely wished to give a fair comparison of York food prices they should have compared them with those of other institutional cafeterias.

Another "fact" in this flyer is that students who use scrip get a discount. Nonsense! A marginal discount was given only on the most expensive meal plans and even this discount was completely wiped out by the 10 per cent price increase.

A food plan that gives resident students no discount is worthless and a meal plan that allows them no choice in the quality of food they eat and which allows the administration to alter the value of the vouchers at will, is outrageous. It succeeds only in guaranteeing that a certain amount of food will be eaten, no matter how bad it is. The York community can show its disgust with its mistreatment by supporting the cash boycott.

Michael Lawrence

What's more dangerous than disgusting?

While the Exorcist continues to smash box office records with its presentation of every human excrement and orifice known to man, Av Issacs awaits his second trial in as many years for "displaying a disgusting object in a public place."

The exhibition of sculpture the morality squad found so offensive is the work of Mark Prent, the young, and certainly by now famous, Canadian artist. The same exhibition opened this week in the Fine Arts building, by invitation from that faculty's council. Whether the police will find this exhibit as "disgusting" as the one downtown remains a mystery at the time of this writing. Inspector John Wilson of the Metropolitan morality squad would only reply that such a decision could only be reached after judging "the merits of the situation."

What Inspector Wilson's cryptic comment meant is beyond my speculation, but it seems curious that after assuring Dean Joseph Green he would be present for a panel discussion Tuesday, the inspector "reversed his decision without the politeness of informing those who were expecting him. He told me he was busy with another appointment and, furthermore, he felt his presence at the exhibition would be pre-

judicial in the Isaacs' case which has yet to reach court.

Before Wilson originally agreed to come, the dean assured him that the Isaacs case would not be discussed.

To be fair to the police, the antiquated law concerning such exhibits is not of their making. Particular statutes within the Criminal Code leave the police no choice but to enforce a law after receiving a complaint from an anonymous citizen. Unlike regular citizen charges against another party, this case allows the "disgusted" citizen to remain anonymous, never having to explain to the court or the defendant what he or she finds disgusting.

If such an anonymous person really exists (and I have my doubts), was he dragged into the Isaacs Gallery without consent and confronted with these "disgusting objects?" Certainly not, and yet this righteous person is so ready to forcibly deny my right and yours to view the exhibition for ourselves.

Isaacs successfully defended the last charge of "displaying a disgusting object in a public place" caused by another exhibition of Prent's last year, but only after a legal battle running into the thousands of dollars.

Letters of disgust and dismay were received after the latest arrest, letters of support from art curators and artists around the world. As for the artist himself, Prent reserved comment, preferring to play eager audience to this latest ruckus.

Though Isaacs and Dean Green explained their desire for Prent's exhibition as an artistic mandate, there remains no doubt that both gentlemen were also anxious for the expected publicity, and well they should be. They are both salesmen of sorts and the free press is a great blessing.

As for the exhibition itself, to this writer anyway, it is without a doubt disgusting. My congratulations to Prent for succeeding in his original concept. The artist's message is still lost to me, but never would I use my own naivete to disqualify any fellow from viewing this exhibition.

Prent's nightmares are frightening; to watch students exhibit a gleeful grin as they throw the switch on the electric chair is even more frightening. Yet the power of a single disgruntled individual to deny us all this exhibition is the grossest fear of all.

Solzhenitsyn would find this state of affairs familiar.

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