

LETTERS

A REAL EYE-OPENER

I was a willing on-looker at the recent session of the CYSF-sponsored coalition on proposed Ontario government cut-backs to post-secondary institutions (Feb. 11), and boy, what an eye-opener it was!

For one thing, the 15 minutes or so for which I was present dealt *exclusively* with measures that had *already* been initiated, by both the CYSF and its individual members. This sort of tomfoolery should not be tolerated, as it demonstrates an insulting lack of concern on the part of our so-called student leaders.

Just because they had the good fortune to know enough people to get themselves elected, does that mean they now have an monopoly on ideas or ways of dealing with issues like this? It should have been an open forum, designed to encourage input from the whole York community. Instead, it was a propaganda session for and from the CYSF.

so that they could make it look like they had a handle on the situation.

As if this weren't bad enough, most of the ideas presented were so flimsy that I began to wonder if we wouldn't in fact have been better off without them. For example, we were told from "on high" that one measure to be taken is a Bearpit Informational session.

I have serious doubts about the effectiveness of such steps. It seems to me the most useful and practical events in the Bearpit have been the musical interludes that have blessed it from time to time. For the most part, and as far as I can see, the only people who stop by the information-type set-ups will be heard. I don't want to come off sounding like an ad for open revolt. But I do think that *now* is the time for action. Now. Before it's too late.

Larry Till
Criticisms 125.6

WE'RE GETTING SCREWED

There are within these halls the future of our country; we as students have or should have a vested interest in what is happening. We must become more involved with the aspects of just what is going on in the university system.

The massive cuts that are happening, and will continue to happen in government funding of post-secondary education systems will eventually cut the throats not only of those who would like to attend institutions of higher education, but also those of us who will be graduating in the next three to five years.

Those cuts will affect us, don't think they won't. They'll cut into the number of classes and the remaining classes will get even larger. We'll lose our tutorials, the much-needed interaction of smaller personal groups. Plus a herd of other related ills.

We'll be crammed and pushed into educational meat grinders which will process and produce

nothing more than non-thinking thinkers. A herd of semi-brained boning intellectually constipated people who will continue in a blindly stumbling way to totally annihilate the fields of higher education.

We are gradually being destroyed by our government. It's time we took a stand, got our fingers out and let them know that they can't do this to their and our future.

We should be madder than hell, and we shouldn't have to take it any more.

Students of Canada unite we have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Douglas Napier
Yes, it's me again

DROPPING A BAUM

I am writing in response to the "Lighten Up, York" letter written by Joel Baum, President, the Committee for Setting Priorities Straight (C.S.P.S.), published in the Jan. 28th issue of the *Excalbur*.

In his letter "President" Baum criticized members of the York community who are politically aware and actively involved in groups such as the York El Salvador Support Committee (Y.E.S.S.C.). Since he is so concerned with getting his priorities straight, I wish to inform him that these people do not believe they are "so god-damn smart", but are intelligent and educated enough to realize and understand what is going on in El Salvador and other Third World countries.

Obviously "President" Baum is unaware of the political situation in any country other than Canada, otherwise he would not be criticizing the work of these groups, and accusing them of failing to accomplish anything.

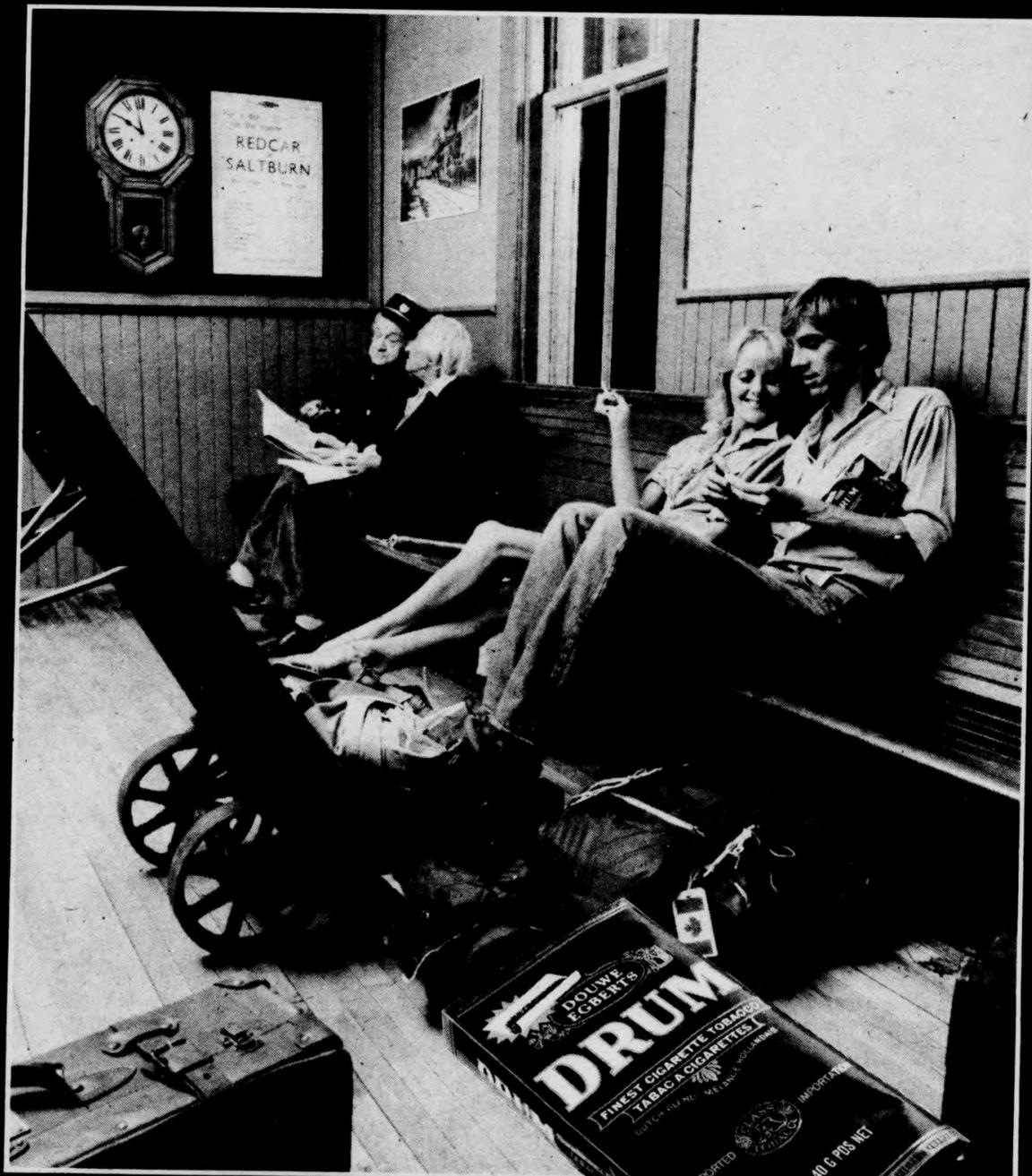
"President" Baum insinuates that the members of the politically oriented groups on campus are not aware of the problems within Canada, and are not doing anything to bring about their solution. However, their political awareness does extend to Canada and many of them are associated with organizations working towards solving Canadian problems.

"President" Baum is intelligent enough to realize that we are "all striving for the same thing...democracy, human rights, and dignity", so why is he criticizing those who are doing something constructive in the struggle for these things? He contradicts himself by asking "why do we want to help everybody anyway?" Obviously he has missed his own point. It is this type of attitude that promotes apathy in society and the dehumanization of mankind.

In closing I would like to apologize to "President" Baum if I have misinterpreted his letter, but it is so poorly written the sense of it is difficult to follow. Also, I want to ask this "President" what he is doing to solve the problems of Canada and the world, and exactly what are his solutions?

I only hope that he remembers that "actions speak louder than words", especially when those words are written in ignorance and apathy, with providing criticism their only intention.

Suzanne L. Fitzpatrick



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March 4, 1982 *Excalbur* 5