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Tuesday, February 28, 1978

 **Metropolitan Life**
Where the future is now

Body Politic

Gay Alliance at York would like to commend the *Excalibur* for its coverage of Anita Bryant's visit to Toronto and the police raid on the *Body Politic* offices. Though other major Toronto publications covered these events they were unwilling to appreciate the seriousness of these unprecedented provocations against gay citizens of Toronto.

Anita Bryant is not a joke. She stands in opposition to basic human rights; the right of gay men and lesbians to express their sexuality openly and freely; the right of youths to determine their own sexuality; and the right of women to establish themselves as full and equal human beings.

To gay people Anita Bryant represents the threat of blackmail, police harassment, verbal and physical abuse, the continuation of false and destructive stereotyping and the loss of job security and housing.

It is not generally recognized that Anita Bryant, in addition to her crusade of homophobia, is also committed to the continued oppression of women. The clamour surrounding her anti-gay views has obscured her activities directed against the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in the United States. To Anita Bryant gays should be in the closet and women in their kitchens. For these reasons the *Excalibur's* subjective reporting in their featured articles is justified.

Anita Bryant has come and gone, for the moment. The more pressing issue facing the gay community and the Toronto community at large is that of the totally unwarranted and almost fascist attack against the

letters

Body Politic, reputedly the best gay liberation journal in North America. The midnight police raid on New Year's Eve, the seizure of mailing lists, names of contributors and advertisers, business records and copy for future issues smack of Gestapo tactics.

The article may have been controversial, but it was informative, well written and responsible. It most certainly was not obscene. If freedom of the press is to mean something in our 'democracy' it must not be abandoned in time of controversy. The *Excalibur* is not alone in recognizing this: such prominent Canadians as June Callwood, Pierre Berton, Charles Templeton, editor Earl Beattie, Professor Fred Zemans of York U.'s Osgoode Hall Law School and a group of members of the Toronto City Council among others, have expressed their concern in letters and petitions to Ontario Attorney-General Roy McMurtry.

Here at York University, activities are under way to publicize the "Body Politic Free the Press" Defense Fund. At Osgoode Hall and Central Square copies of the *Body Politic* are being sold, Osgoode Hall will be holding a public forum sometime next week and an "All People's Dance" has been organized. This dance is being sponsored by the Gay Alliance At York (G.A.Y.) along with *Excalibur*, the Women's Centre, Harbinger, Gays at the U of T and the Osgoode Gay Caucus and demonstrates the concern and outrage felt by the York Community at large. The dance is to take place at the Fine Arts building for Friday February 10th 8:00 p.m. and we appeal to York students to demonstrate their support by attending our dance, the proceeds of which will go to the "Body Politic Free the Press Fund".

Gay Alliance at York

members of a team. They were true amateurs who, like many College groups, have managed over the years to turn a two-dimensional architects' folly into a more fully human community. I hope the members of the College have as much satisfaction in their achievement as I had from watching the performance.

Meanwhile, in the real world of F.A., the complex mills of empire grind away. The voices of the professionals confidently babble of "the natural growth of York University," in the dead language I have come to expect from certain kinds of power: "To implement the building project a process of group decision-making begins" (*York Gazette* January 27 p. 123). Phase III - the moon!

However, I should be grateful for some bright new shoots springing from seasonable pruning. The Dean of Fine Arts has recently indicated to the President (January 26) that the McLaughlin Hall is to close as a performance and exhibition space. Bravo! The gloomy corridor between Winters College and McLaughlin College may regain some of the light it had before the spokesman for the well-known "ambience" pronounced it dull; the students of McLaughlin College might be able to use their hall for what it was primarily intended, (relaxing over a meal); and, above all, we may see the hall put to such exemplary and communal use as I saw in Vanier College on Saturday.

Maurice S. Elliott,
Academic Advisor,
Winters College.

Where's my prof?

Thank you for your article on the creative writing department at York, featuring the voice of Frank Davey. It's wonderful to know that there are such genuinely enthusiastic and supportive teachers.

And it's a good opportunity to say thank you for being given the opportunity to study creative writing.

However, I disagree with Prof. Davey that it's difficult to have a rotation system for teachers as I believe other professors would welcome anyone who wants to work. His new course sounds very interesting and enjoyable. But my teacher Mrs. Pemberton hasn't appeared at classes and it's either due to ill health, which is unfortunate, or she's not being allowed to come which is also unfortunate.

Something should be done to inform the class so we can at least comfort her or she should be reinstated. If she is ill please give us another teacher.

Elaine Freeman

Bravo for "J.B."

I should like to record in your columns my appreciation of the Vanier College production of *J.B.* from Thursday to Saturday last week.

The combined efforts of many members of Vanier in preparing the performance, from the financing of the Council, the building of the stage, down to the smallest details of production (including the relevance of the play to the College Tutorial programme in Vanier College), all speak to an admirable vitality in the College which is much to be admired.

Doubtless the Director, Mr. Fred Thury, was able to get such a remarkable level of energy and performance from his cast partly because they all felt themselves

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