

Correspondence

Speakeasy

The January 22 *Excalibur* describes its "Free Speech" page as having been "granted to members of the York Community after ratification by staff vote."

Things have come to a sorry pass when it is a matter of debate whether one page in a student newspaper shall be allotted to "free speech". Surely this is not a right which ever need to be "granted" to the students—whose fees you may remember, finance the paper.

Paul Truster

Ah, Shucks

Just a note to say how much I liked and appreciated your article on the Faculty of Education. I particularly appreciated how substantive the article was and how effectively you were able to convey some complex material.

Many thanks.

Andy Effrat

Ad hoc reply

It is sad to note the level of appeal *Excalibur* advertising has descended to: "Enjoy Dining, Concerts, Resorts, Chalets, Equestrian and Sporting Events at No Cost" proclaims the Alternative Liaison Service in a large ad on page 3 of the January 22, 1981 issue of *Excalibur*. And who is being sought by this "exclusive liaison service"? Considering the location of the ad, we would have to conclude it's the women at York University—students, staff and faculty—who are the object of such an enticing, solicitous, reassuring and finally degrading appeal, expressed in thinly disguised innuendos, played off against explicit reassurances of the service's high class, its concern for and its protectiveness of its "ladies" reputation.

Step right up, women of York—if you are "single" and "unattached" (we don't want husbands or angry boyfriends calling us up or banging on our Suite 4 door), "liberated" (so you won't be shocked by any ideas for fun and games the service or its clients—"distinguished and professional gentlemen in Toronto" might propose), if you're not too old or too young, you'll be considered for a membership (you can't be older than 45 or younger than 18—Lolita's need not apply). And why is Alternative Liaison being so generous, so philanthropic in bringing for "absolutely no charge" a little excitement into the lives of York women? (We can't help noting there is no allusion to money being paid for "work"—no! payment is in trips to "exotic places", fine restaurant meals, theatre or sports events tickets, always with escorts who are referred to as "new friends"). To show "respect and appreciation" these women will receive "small gifts" (whatever that might be) from Alternative Liaison itself. But money will pass hands—from the client's to Alternative Liaison Service.

The implications of this come-on to women seems to require reassurances about "strict confidentiality and absolute discretion" as the service promises to all women. It appears the service means to cover the spectrum: from the sophisticated lover of good food, the cultured lover of theatre and the arts to the sport aficionado ("chalets, equestrian, international tennis and sporting events"). What will women be expected to do for these delightful evidences of appreciation? The ad as written is ambiguous—you may "form an attachment" with the Service's clients—those "distinguished and professional gentlemen in Toronto"; you may attend "all

expense-paid, frequent, private group trips to...many exotic locations". No mention of sight-seeing or other activities; nobody gets anything for nothing these days.

The implication of the ad could be commented on, but we would like to note just one more revealing characteristic: the striking discrepancy between what Alternative Liaison says and what it implies about its attitude towards women who will be accepted for membership. Presumably women are to be protected from any crude, vulgar, dangerous men because the Service's clients are carefully screened and committee-approved (the makeup of this committee or its standards we are not informed about).

And how are the women described in the ad? In paragraph one they are "liberated" women; in paragraph 3 these women are addressed directly as "you"—"if, as a member, you form an attachment..." and if "you wish you may attend all expense-paid...private group trips"; in paragraph 5 the women who were "you" become "our ladies"—in a sense the property of the Service; finally the ad declares, "There is absolutely no charge for females who qualify for this membership" (italics supplied). The sex is ultimately what it is all about.

We find the ad itself pernicious and the fact that *Excalibur* accepted it lamentable. Are there no guidelines established for the rejection of advertising which blatantly presents women as objects for hire? Is money the final arbiter of taste and value? Does the Board of Directors for *Excalibur* (Excalibur Publications, Inc.) address itself to such questions? If not, should it not? Does CYSF's limited financial support of *Excalibur* necessitate—or excuse—the acceptance of such an ad because it brings in a goodly sum of money? WE THINK NOT!

The York Women's Centre prefers to think that truly "liberated" women would never consider answering this type of ad, and truly "professional and distinguished" mature gentlemen would not have the necessity for "hiring" an evening's companion.

Virginia Rock
Maureen Buchanan
Ruby Rochman
York Women's Centre

Be it ever so humble

I was, to say the least, appalled when I read the article on Pro Tem in you January 29 issue.

Whether the article is accurate or not does not concern me; factual errors are your responsibility, and I do not wish to waste my time pointing them out—they are beneath me and not worthy of any effort I might expend.

What strikes me most, however, is the exceptionally amateurish job done by your 'reporter'. As the article was concerned primarily with myself and my paper, one would expect that the writer would at least take 60 seconds to ask me a question. Rather, he concerned himself with quoting several different persons, and not one of the paper's staff members (many of whom were in attendance myself).

That he so completely avoided addressing any questions my way seems to me directly attributable to the bias of the story.

Perhaps this is just one of the reasons why 3,000 more students at York main read *Pro Tem* this year, even though our home base is Glendon. Perhaps *Excalibur* can expect a comparable rise in readership when it adopts more professional attitudes.

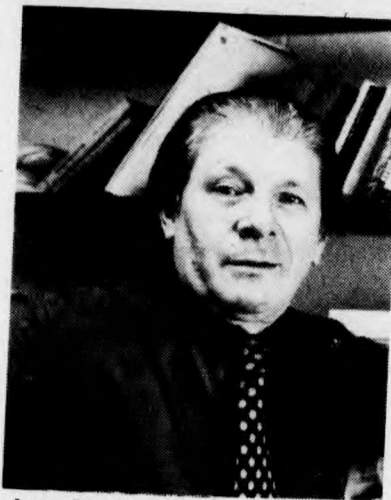
Joseph M. Holmes

Free Speech

Dr. Isaac Bar-Lewaw, a Ph.D. graduate from the National University of Mexico, is a specialist in Latin American affairs who published several books, articles and essays concerning the Spanish-speaking countries in Latin America.

Last year he published several articles in the *Globe and Mail* in reference to the violence, upheavals and terrorism in Central America and the Caribbean.

In addition to Canadian and U.S. universities, Prof. Bar-Lewaw has taught at the Central Universities of Chile and Ecuador, and lectured on Latin American topics in many parts of the world.



Isaac Bar-Lewaw

I thank *Excalibur* for giving me this opportunity to redress the imbalance caused by LACS (Latin American and Caribbean Studies), and other so-called "progressive" groups at York University, which espouse every cause favoured by the Soviet Union and its satellites.

The recent activity by LACS underlines my point. In an official memorandum to all LACS faculty, its coordinator asked us to announce in the classes the following film and slide shows "as part of the activities in a week which focusses on El Salvador."
1. Revolution or Death
2. The Controlling Interest
3. Stand up Grenada
4. A Case for El Salvador—a video presentation
5. Adelante Nicaragua—a sound and slide show

This memo speaks for itself. I do not see what Grenada or Nicaragua have to do with El Salvador unless it is a part of the white conspiracy to install another pro-communist regime in Central America.

In order to redress the imbalance I would like to suggest the following topics:

- 1) Cuba as an outpost of Russian imperialism in Latin America and Africa.
- 2) Cuba's and Nicaragua's dictatorships are respectively 22 and one and one-half years old. Is there a possibility of free elections in those countries?
- 3) Reflections on Manley's pro-communist defeat in recent elections in Jamaica.
- 4) Cuban refugees fleeing from Fidel Castro's communist "Paradise". (I have interviewed some of them last spring in Key West, Florida, and published an article about it in *The Globe and Mail*).
- 5) The Polish workers' struggle against Soviet imperialism and its impact on Latin American working classes.
- 6) Russia's cozy relations with

Civil Saville replies

I was, to say the least, vaguely amused when I read the letter from *Pro Tem* editor, Mr. J. Holmes, about the article I wrote concerning *Pro Tem*'s problems in the Jan. 29 issue.

I find it amusing, (from a journalist's point of view) that "whether the article is accurate or not" is of no concern to Mr. Holmes, especially since he comments about "amateurism". Certainly most rational readers would expect to know why Mr. Holmes considers the story amateurish. If it is truly due to inaccuracies of fact, as one suspects from this type of comment, unfortunately we'll never know since he states, "I do not wish to waste my time pointing them out—they are beneath me..."

I also find it amusing that Mr. Holmes fails to notice that the short nine inch article is essentially

Argentina's fascist regime (because of what the Argentinian military assassins sell to Moscow).
7) The communist threat to Costa Rica, an authentic democracy in Latin America.
8) Is there any difference between fascist right-wing and communist left-wing regimes in Latin America?

The "good-doers" at York did not protest Cuba's involvement in the internal affairs of Angola, South Yemen and Ethiopia, where she keeps large military forces, doing the dirty job of intervention in those countries on behalf of Russia's imperial designs of world communist domination.

To illustrate my point I would like to bring some examples from the not so distant past. During the Indochina war, demonstrations were organized in favour of communist Viet Nam and against the U.S. intervention in that part of the world. Now, Vietnam has become an occupying power herself, keeping troops in Cambodia and in Laos. Do those groups protest against the new occupier? Not on your life!

Closer to home, they demonstrated in favour of Cuba, Nicaragua and now they are for a Marxist takeover in El Salvador. The issue is not land reform; it's a matter of power and political influence.

After the defeat of the pro-Marxist Manley government in the recent elections of Jamaica, the focus switched to El Salvador. If El Salvador goes Marxist, together with Nicaragua, it would extend Russia's influence in the Central American region, giving Cuba another base to subvert Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama and eventually Mexico with its newly discovered gas and oil deposits. This is Fidel Castro's political dream, and he acts as Russia's proxy in Latin America and in Africa.

a report of the Glendon Student Council Union meeting with attitudes of and quotes from people at that meeting, (including a quote from Mr. Holmes himself, which he fails to mention in his letter).

Whether or not this approach "appeals" to Mr. Holmes or not, it is the approach the *Excalibur* news desk has adopted over the years.

Perhaps this is just one of the reasons *Excalibur*'s 12,000 circulation has been climbing to the tune of 15,000, thanks to the thousands of York students who read this paper weekly, including hundreds from Glendon, the home base of *Pro Tem*.

Greg Saville

Dramage

To repeat the cliched attack opener, I truly wonder if Michael Monastyskyj and I saw the same play.

Russia and its satellites are morally, economically, socially and politically bankrupt. The troubles in Poland—where millions of workers unmasked the Marxist lie of progress and rosy future of their corrupt regimes—are proof of what I just stated. But let's not have any illusions about another important factor: they have the military power to do it. The Bolsheviks may not have enough bread and meat to feed their people, but they have more than enough guns and ammunition for subversion, terrorism and outright conquests. Afghanistan is living proof of that assumption.

Did LACS and its affiliates protest the invasion of Afghanistan in 1979? Of course not!

Several terrible events took place in 1980.

1. More than 10,000 Cubans fled to the Peruvian Embassy in Havana, Cuba, during three days, after the gates were open and free of Cuba's police "protection". They lived for more than three weeks in sub-human conditions, without toilets, water and food on the roof of the embassy and its gardens and sub-basements—wherever they could find a place. Fidel Castro and his henchmen labelled all of them homosexuals or prostitutes. Of course, it was a vicious and cruel lie. Foreign diplomats in Havana joked about it, and were amazed that Havana—after 21 years of the glorious "socialist" revolution—had that many prostitutes and homosexuals.

2. When he finally let them go, Castro emptied his prisons of minor and major criminals, rapists, robbers and assassins among them, and forced them to go to the USA.

3. Moreover, what is even more criminal: Castro emptied his psychiatric institutions, exiling mentally ill patients to "Yanquilandia" (as Castro calls the USA).

This is how Cuba and its "progressive" regime deals with his underprivileged and sick citizens.

These are facts which could be easily verified if somebody of our LACS and other "liberal" professors could care to do so.

Some members of the York community feel they can take advantage of the free Canadian democratic system and cynically abuse the right of speech, demonstrations and protests in order to subvert society and preach "revolutionary" struggle, terror, violence and blood in other countries.

I do not criticize the comrades at York. With their nice academic salaries they can afford communist theories and dreams. The working people cannot.

It takes little critical appreciation to sense the missed opportunities in the production of *A Resounding Tinkle*. The play could have had the audience constantly helpless with laughter, instead of only occasionally.

While the cast displayed exceptional energy, they were given little opportunity for "impressive acting". The directors, Glen Nichols and Heather Sherman, conventionally held as ultimately responsible for the success or failure of a show, or in case, mild success, are not even named as such in the review. Poor Glen, though featured in the accompanying photo, is not named at all.

And lastly, quotes should be accurate. Middie (Jackie Wray) actually observed with mild surprise "Why Uncle Ted, you've changed your sex."

Ronald Ramage