

# Excalibur

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



Don't pay any attention to them... They're just a bunch of crazy racists who think they should control their own country.

## Senate suffers moral turpitude

Last Thursday the university senate voted to suppress information on the citizenship and educational background of faculty and graduate students at York on the grounds the information is "confidential".

Technically, as well as morally, the senate is completely wrong.

First of all, technically, citizenship (as opposed to nationality, race, creed, color) is not a private matter but a matter of legal status and public record. The Ontario government, itself, asks for citizenship on its job application forms and, in fact, the federal government makes Canadian citizenship a prerequisite for some of its civil service positions.

Morally, the senate is taking the position that Canadians do not have a right to control their own institutions and do not have a right to jobs in their own country. To even imply that citizenship should not be one criterion for employment is to suggest that non-

Canadian faculty are just as able to teach Canadian students about Canada as are Canadian faculty, who were raised in this country.

To believe that non-Canadians can understand the Canadian heritage, culture and history better than Canadians is a reflection of the kind of colonial mentality that we have allowed to persist in this country for far too long.

That is not to say a Canadian, simply because he is a Canadian, should be hired. Other criteria must also be looked at.

A Canadian, for instance, who has spent the last 3 years doing graduate work in the United States may be less responsive to Canadian issues than an American who has spent a few years here, tried earnestly to learn about Canada and has made all possible attempts to put Canadian content into his courses.

But the senate's response to this

educational debate has been to ignore it — worse, to try to stop it. Citizenship and educational background (where one did his graduate work) are important considerations when hiring new faculty.

In addition, if we don't start admitting more Canadian students into our graduate programmes we will never have Canadian professors.

But let us understand why the senate has deliberately attempted to stifle discussion of this issue.

Why is it that they are now trying to make information confidential that was only last year public?

After years of being open, these statistics suddenly become "confidential" and "a matter of individual privacy."

Surely the senate does not expect students to swallow this contradiction. Or are we to believe that students' concern over the lack of Canadian content used by American professors last year — and the challenging of that lack of content right in the classroom — has nothing to do with this year's suppression of the data?

Perhaps the senate thought we would uphold the Canadian tradition of timidity and quiet diplomacy and do nothing to counteract such a blatant attempt to crush the legitimate aspirations of Canadian students.

But the time for passivity is ended. As Mel Watkins has said: to act is to assume a moral risk; but act we must the present is intolerable.

## Save days - close that transportation gap

Did you spend three hours on the bus today in order to get to York?

Did it occur to you that this works out to fifteen hours a week or two and a half days a month?

In fact, if you go to York every day of the school year from downtown Toronto you are likely to spend over 18 days on the T.T.C.

Who is to blame for this insanity?

Would you stop reading if we told you it was capitalism!

Capitalism makes land values so insanely high that its politicians are forced to build gigantic universities miles from where people actually live.

At the root of this same capitalist system is the need for individual ownership of automobiles to be the basis of its transportation system. Public transportation MUST be peripheral, inconvenient, and generally useless or people wouldn't buy cars.

For the last two years, some students and faculty had found their way out of this maze. They had taken the T.T.C. up to Glendon College and then hopped on the York University inter-campus bus.

This bus took about half an hour to get to Keele and Steeles.

Clearly, the only thing to do would be to make the inter-campus bus unusable for commuters.

How? Cut the daytime service in half. Instead of running a bus hourly; run them every two hours. If most of the people rode the bus at nine in the morning from Glendon to York, make sure the new bus runs at eight and ten. If most of the people returned from York on the five o'clock bus, make sure that the new bus runs at four and six.

Why? Tell them that you have to save money because you have not been given as much this year for operating expenses by the government. This is a one hundred per cent true statement. Do not however, stress

the point that the total saving is \$7,000 and that your total budget is over four million tons.

It probably isn't very wise to emphasize that you are spending a further \$11,000 a year for a night and weekend service so that the residence students at York don't have to take the T.T.C. downtown to go to a movie. Neglect completely the point that the day service has been used to capacity for the last two years while the use of the night service has been minimal.

EXCALIBUR believes that it's about time the administration at York started to get off the pot and take some EFFECTIVE steps to fill the gap in transporting students up to this northern mistake.

At the very minimum, the full bus service should be re-instituted in the daytime.

Why not take account of the fact that the inter-campus bus is used mainly by commuting students and run at least one bus directly from Eglinton subway station. The other bus could continue as a shuttle between the two campuses.

The administration argues that pressure should be placed on the T.T.C. to run an express bus directly to York from downtown, and that it is not their responsibility to supplement the T.T.C.

This is nothing but a complete cop-out on their part.

First, they admit a responsibility to provide an alternative to the T.T.C. to residence students who want to get downtown — but they refuse to take responsibility for day students who want to get to their classes.

At the very least the university could surely afford the money to provide a demonstration to the T.T.C. that an express bus system would be a feasible operation.

Come on guys, for a piddling \$7,000 you could put back some of those eighteen days in the lives of hundreds of students.

## Excalibur

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Staff Meeting

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## Paranoia Translated

New faculty appointments are, and should be, based only on academic merit.

Translation: unfamiliarity with the Canadian context and an inability to teach students about Canadian problems and issues is a sign of academic merit.

Talk of Canadian nationalism is reactionary and chauvinistic. Nationalism is out of date.

Translation: any manifestation of a people's desire for self-determination is reactionary and chauvinistic. Any national structure (the nation state) which hinders the free movement of multinational corporations in their attempt to create an "international" economy is out of date.

Foreign scholars enrich Canadian society.

Translation: Canadian scholars do not enrich Canadian society so we should turn control of our universities over to foreign scholars and allow Canadians to play a secondary role.

Departure from present practices in hiring would weaken academic freedom.

Translation: professors should be free to ignore Canadian issues and obscure the real nature of American power in Canada while at the same time drawing salaries paid for by the Canadian taxpayer.

Canadianization is a danger to university autonomy in that it invites government intervention.

Translation: a university that ignores the problems of the Canadian people and allows American content and methodology to run rampant on campus should not be interfered with.

Nationalists who complain about the dominance of American professors in Canadian universities are racists and fascists.

Translation: Canadians who have the gall to think they should control their own institutions and prevent them from falling into the hands of representatives of a foreign power are racists. People who demand that professors teach Canadian content and help Canadians to understand the nature of their society are fascists.