

Tales of Terminal Tenant

by Immanuel Labour

I'd contemplated resigning from my cacographical pursuits with the helpful assistance of the *Gazette* subscribers who enthusiastically endorsed that decision. Some of the comments I'd made concerning rotund joggers, and poor housing facilities were not met with the humour I'd intended. For two weeks I've been narrowly dodging speeding cars driven by irate landlords, one of whom happens to own the house I live in.

I'd merely described his various real estate holdings as being decorated in "late seventies Woolco".

After the heat and water were mysteriously turned off in my flat, I realized that any prior notions that I'd entertained concerning a working relationship between the landlord and myself had, through the magic of the written word—vanished. No decent individual turns the water off while someone's hair (mine) is in full lather. I think it's safe to say that my landlord has been called many things over the years, none of which could be construed as 'decent'. It was at that moment, with hair

dripping Breck Formula 1, that the words of a famous rabbit (Bugs Bunny) came to mind—"of course you know that means war!"

Retaliation is an inherent Upper Canadian quality, so in terms of fighting dirty, I like to think I come by it naturally. The gloves are off and I'd prefer to use the Upper Canadian scoring system—blows below the belt scoring highest.

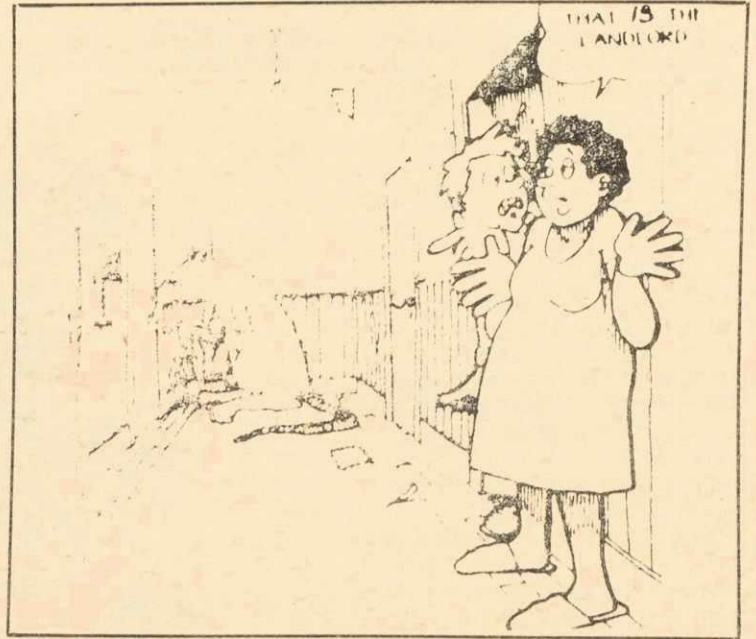
I should probably begin with the stairs leading up to my 2nd storey flat which incidentally, do not exist. Use your imagination, or simply take a stroll down the south end of Henry Street to see what I mean. Thus far the rope ladder has been somewhat adequate, but recently it nearly strangled a woman friend I love dearly. Lately it's become increasingly difficult to entertain.

In retrospect I should have suspected something was amiss from the very beginning. I'd phoned for directions to see the place and the location was given as "the grey house on the corner with the cross burning on the front lawn".

My landlord has been widely accused of being cheap. He isn't really cheap, although he's the only person I know who scrapes the droplets of Crest toothpaste off the wash-room basin and serves them as after-dinner mints. It's to be expected of a man who wears white vinyl shoes and Purina checker board pants.

It isn't often that I have the opportunity to write about a fellow with the IQ of a gerbil, least of all have him as my landlord. Apparently he's able to sleep comfortably while his overcharged tenants are forced to subsist on Alpo. I would moralize for pages extolling the virtues of good tenant / landlord relations, but I won't. This case certainly doesn't warrant such a pedestrian attitude, so I'll treat it in the true National Enquirer tradition—slander, libel and gossip.

The way I see it though, as long as the water is turned off and my brother-in-law is the current Deputy Treasurer of the Tenant's Board, I've still got him by the thighs, or thereabouts.



CUP Briefs

U. of T. against merger

TORONTO (CUP)—The University of Toronto's student union has voiced its opposition to a proposed merger of the provincial education and colleges and universities ministries to Ontario legislators.

"We fear that a merger of the ministries will not adequately confront these (student) issues: indeed swamped in a larger ministry, the problems of universities may well be obscured and not overcome," said David Jones, U of T Students' Administrative Council (SAC) president.

Jones outlined students' objections to the merger to the standing administration of justice committee of the Ontario legislature on September 8.

Jones said he doubted that the combined ministry could effectively deal with the problem of student accessibility to post-secondary education.

SAC used the hearings as a springboard to outline the problems caused by financial constraints at the U of T.

"The quality of education is suffering because of severe underfunding," Jones said. "Class sizes are increasing; course selection is decreasing; research opportunities are dwindling and top rate faculty are being wooed away by universities outside the province."

U of T Graduate Students' Union president Lee Walker charged at the hearing that the government had already decided to merge the ministries and that the hearings were meaningless.

"The fact that the merger is already in effect, yet there are still hearings, is a reflection on the government's treatment of education," she said. "The problems that we face today are all related to money—that's the only reason for the merger."

The hearings, which have been on for three weeks, will continue for another month. The committee will then report back to Bette Stephenson, who is currently both education and colleges and universities minister, and the bill merging the ministries will be presented for third and final reading.

'Save our Silverfish'

VANCOUVER (CUP)—A buggy University of B.C. student has failed in a campaign, which drew on tactics used in Greenpeace's Save the Seals fight, to stop the extermination of insect pests in residence.

Ken Koebke launched a "Save Our Silverfish" campaign aimed at stopping plans to spray the insects out of existence in residence apartments at UBC.

"Now a UBC tragedy—will you stand by and let the silverfish be slaughtered?" asked one sign Koebke posted in the residence lobby. The poster also urged students to "smash the state... not the silverfish."

Concerned residents were asked to submit protest letters to Koebke's mailbox but the campaign failed when exterminators came in, spraying closets, garbage area and washrooms.

Koebke said that although the campaign was a joke, he was disappointed that no one replied to his plea. He added that he thought the spraying was really a plot to enable the RCMP to get into the rooms of students.

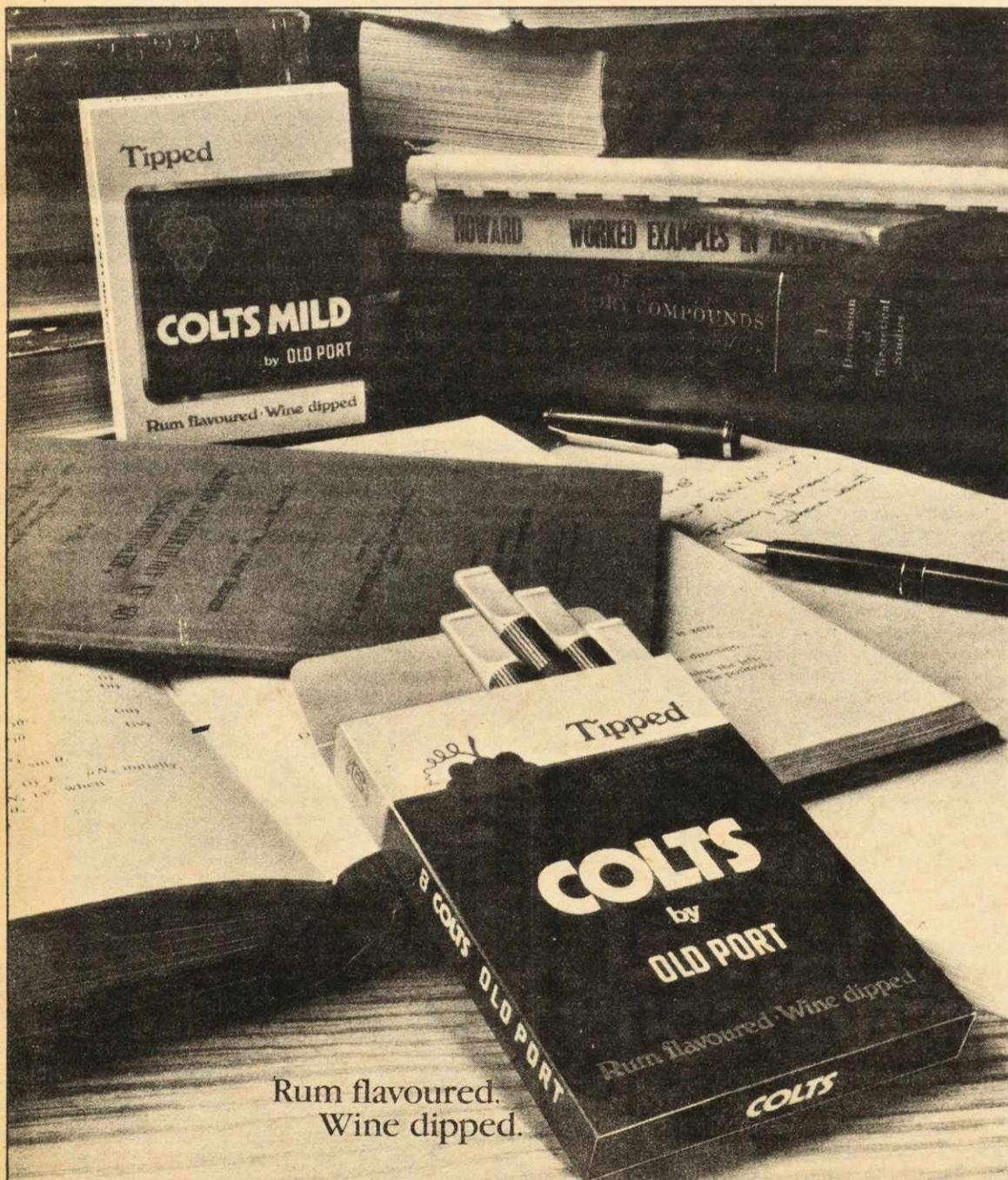
U. of W. suffering setbacks

WINNIPEG (CUP)—Declining enrolment and budgetary cutbacks have combined to cause numerous course cancellations this year at the University of Winnipeg.

Arts and science dean Donald Kydon attributes course cancellations to a 6.5 per cent drop in enrolment at U of W this year. Kydon said that although courses have been cancelled as a "last resort," he believes no programs have been affected by this move.

English professor Walter Swayze says a combination of compatible courses is one solution, "perhaps at some sacrifice." Both Swayze and Kydon say students and faculty are going to have to become more flexible in dealing with the situation.

Swayze said he foresees professors who have expertise in a particular field or who have taught a particular course for many years being forced to teach unfamiliar courses in response to cutbacks of staff.



Rum flavoured.
Wine dipped.

Crack a pack of Colts along with the books.