

EXCALIBUR

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

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More — about those pigeons

Birds are beings that just about anybody can empathize with.

We saw them at a young and tender age when we dreamed of their freedom. We might not have their powers, but then again man's talents are somewhat different and somewhat more efficient than what nature ever meant us to have.

Man's superb efficiency to kill not only himself but other creatures is matched only in his efficiency to produce a superb technology. It's not much wonder, however, that he's substantially less efficient at either saving himself or other living beings.

York is an efficient product of man. Its superb and oppressive concrete structure alienates the vast majority of its inhabitants. Perhaps it is with surprise, therefore, that one witnessed the eternal purveyors of youth and life — pigeons — come to nest at the infinite number of nooks and crannies in the most inhumane blob of York concrete — the Ross Building. The perfect irony to the man's technology.

What is it that leads anybody to go to any end to save what appears to many as a universal pest? Perhaps, is it not the symbolic life that those birds represent — something every living thing clings to from its day of birth?

Man is strange. At the same time we get worked up about pigeons, we're not so sure about the human species and when it's right to kill them. It's absurd but it's life.

The official reason for the pigeon slaughter is that they are a health hazard and that they cause a gradual deterioration of concrete — all through their dung. That might be all very well but then it could always be cleaned off. European cities have dealt with this very situation for centuries and have not yet seen fit to get rid of them in one foul swoop that York seems to have done.

No doubt, the citizens of York appreciate a clean, sterile building — so representative of the administration's present mentality. But again, the European citizens seem to have coped rather well for the past few centuries.

Excalibur has asked that its readers send a letter to "Save the Pigeons" and we ask that you keep on doing so. They'll be forwarded in one big batch to York president David Slater's office. They'll be a token gesture of some people's concern.

He says he didn't know about it. He says he hasn't made up his mind, one way or another. So we plan to help him a little.



This ought to take care of those pigeons, eh Ed? . . . Ed? . . . Ed. . . .

Atkinson student may sue board member for \$10

WITHOUT PREJUDICE

On Feb. 7, 1972, a member of York's board of governors, Leonard G. Lumbers, parked his Lincoln Continental in the middle of the road at the Glendon campus thereby preventing four other drivers from leaving the campus until Lumbers saw fit to permit their exit.

The position of his car, even with the most generous interpretation, indicated an attitude on the part of Lumbers of complete and total disregard for other drivers. Because of my delay, I was forced to cancel my plans for the evening (I had left the class early for that purpose) and he wasted over one hour of my time.

The security guard on duty who knew the owner was a board member in understandable fear, refused to tag his car or tow it away. He was obviously intimidated by wealth and status.

In frustration I finally interrupted the board meeting (the guard refused to enter the chambers), apologized for my entry and asked Lumbers to remove his vehicle. Lumbers smirked as he rose in the chamber. Indeed he saw no reason to apologize for his lack of consideration. When no apology was forthcoming, my anger increased in proportion to his arrogance — an anger justified by the circumstances, I believe — and I suggested that I felt like suing him for wasting my time. His response was "Do that! I'll show you what you're worth!"

Now if Lumbers' criteria of net worth is based on wealth then it is clear that he is worth more than me. Lumbers is, after all, chairman of the board of Canada Wire and Cable, Noranda Aluminium Inc., Noranda Metal Industries Ltd., vice-chairman of Coulter Manufacturing Ltd., Comco Metal Products Ltd., vice-president of Noranda Mines Ltd., Wire Rope Industries of Canada Ltd., director of Noranda Sales Corp. Ltd., Canadian Copper Refineries, Ltd., Abitibi Paper Co. Ltd., Toronto Argonauts and there are others. Lumbers' smirk was perhaps justified. He is after all, a symbol of the resource industries — industries that are widely acknowledged to be free-loading on other Canadian individual and corporate taxpayers.

Tom Halitt of the Toronto Star pointed out on May 8 last year, that "Canadian taxpayers are subsidizing the owners of mines, gas and oil wells to the tune of more than \$300 million annually. . . ."

The mining industry receives this tax break at the expense of individuals and the service and manufacturing industries which produce far more employment. The companies that get such tax concessions (the companies that Lumbers largely represents) attract investment which otherwise would go into other sectors of the Canadian economy.

"The 'missing' \$300 million in special tax help

represents slightly more than the entire annual federal public works program. . . the money excused in federal taxes is in effect diverted into an industry which employs less than two percent of the working population and is predominantly owned by U.S. and other foreign investors."

However, I fail to accept his balance sheet concept of net worth. I intend to respond to this babbler in order to indicate that his disdain for a student's time is unacceptable — that the university community has alternative criteria for assessing individual net worth. As a matter of principle, I have forwarded an action against Lumbers to the Twelfth Division Small Claims Court for \$10 for general damages for inconvenience, loss of time and costs. The action will come into effect Feb. 22, 1972, unless Mr. Lumbers settles with me out of court before that date.

I suppose the question that students at York should be asking is how an individual with such a limited perspective got on the board in the first place. Perhaps the answer goes without saying. The question then is how to get him off.

I invite Mr. Lumbers to respond to my letter in this paper.

Gar Mahood.