

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, c/o Excalibur, room 111 Central Square. They must be double-spaced, typed and limited to 250 words. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for length and grammar. Name and address must be included for legal purposes but the name will be withheld upon request. Deadline: Mon. 4 p.m.

## Student flabbergasted over fees

I am writing in response to the letter of our BOG student representative on the February 10, 1977 Excalibur. Our dear student representative who didn't vote along with all the evil corporate barons to raise tuition fees for foreign students seems to have been too confident in the 'frankness, concern and honesty' of our BOG — the so called 'greedy capitalist pigs' in the BOG meeting.

Without any hesitation, I do believe that our men and women on the Board are, as what Jay said, 'frank, concerned and honest'. However, this description does not necessarily imply that they understand the real situation of the case they are discussing, know exactly what they are doing, and make wise and remarkable decisions. In fact, I reason that the only way to decide something, is, first, to learn of what the situation and its significance are. Presently, the differential fee for foreign students does little harm to foreign students already enrolled in a programme in an Ontario university or community college except in the case of the graduating students who want to pursue another degree course in Ontario after their graduation.

Those going to be affected are foreign students who begin their study in Ontario universities or community colleges after this January. As most of our Ontario universities have decided to increase the tuition fee for foreign students, those students who want to come to study in Ontario universities are going to show higher financial capability before the Canadian commissioners overseas prior to their study in Ontario.

In the year 1976, for example, a prospective foreign student was required to make a \$4000 deposit (which is supposed to be the expense for one calendar

year) in a Canadian bank before getting his student visa. Or course, with an increase in tuition fee, the amount should approximately be \$5000 or more. Who, especially in developing countries, can make a deposit of \$5000 or more yearly for their son's and daughter's education? As most of the foreign students come from 'developing', or better say 'underdeveloped' and 'poor' countries, it is not difficult to come to the conclusion that the foreign tuition fee hike rules out the possibility for anyone who does not belong to the comparatively 'rich' families to come to study in our aristocratic universities.

Honestly speaking, I personally appreciate the difficulties facing the university and perhaps those facing the BOG in approving the recommendation of the Senate as not to increase the tuition fee for foreign students.

But I should like to ask the question what the purposes are for the Ontario and Canadian

universities to provide education for foreign students. I suppose one of the most important reasons is to bridge the gap between the poor and the rich in developing countries where chances of being educated in the post secondary level and leaving the rich again to monopolize higher education both at home and at in Ontario or Canada.

By the way, I would like to listen to the reply from our dear student representative in BOG to the question that if we have benefitted in the past from corporate generosity and other grants from those people, what are the sources of their generous financial support to us? Don't these sources of money come indirectly from we consumers who assist them to make profit, to accumulate their already 'massive' capital, and to make greater profit again?

John Keung  
Founders College

## Ceramic club clarifies continued clay catastrophe

As treasurer of the Ceramics Club I would like to clarify a few points brought up in an unsigned letter published in Excalibur on Thursday, February 3, 1977.

The 'resident tutor of Vanier' is stated to have received considerable amounts of clay from the club. I'm sorry for any inconvenience suffered by Professor Eric Willis as a result of this statement. Actually the Vanier Tutorial Secretary sometimes requests clay for a course given by Beck Breland and this is paid for by Vanier in a proper manner and credited to the Ceramics Club Account (there was no transfer of clay 1976-77).

It is the duty of the Treasurer to see that the members' interests are taken care of and when the bank balance is suddenly considerably reduced it is obvious an investigation must be made to ascertain if this is in order.

Whilst it is true the lock was changed on the kiln room it was still accessible for glazing when requested, but in order to protect members it seemed imperative when a bisque firing was done (which involves accounts being debited with appropriate amounts) that the people doing this chore be restricted at least until such time as the bank balance reached a reasonable level again.

Audrey Robinson

## Putrefying products

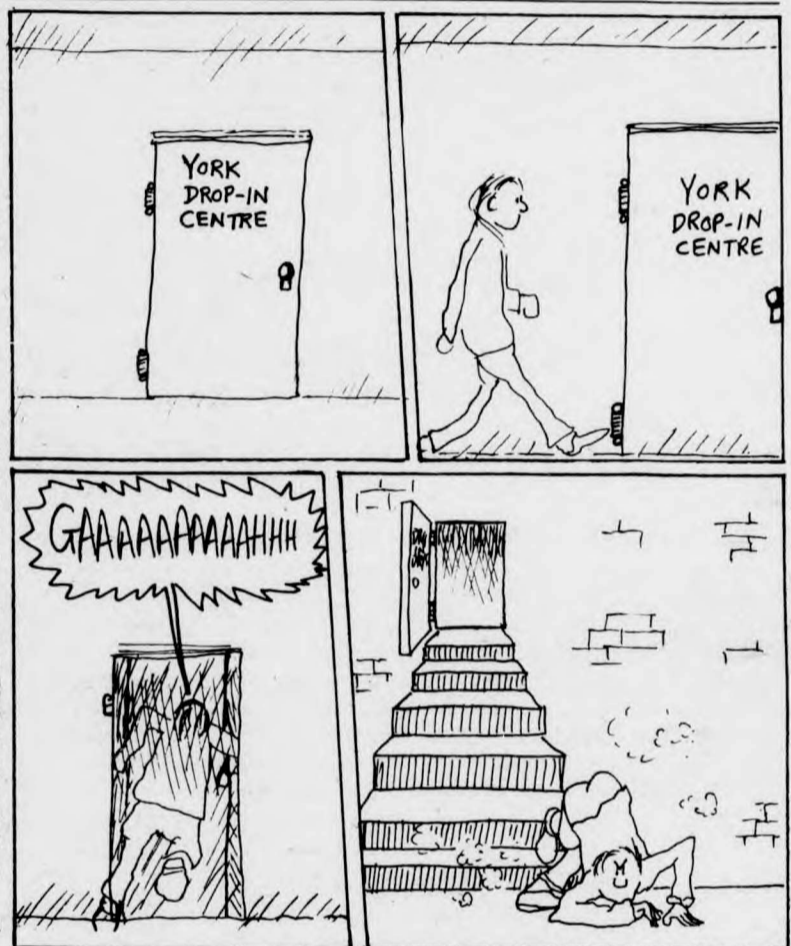
The sufferers of abuse and humiliation at the Central Square Coffee Shop are grateful for the letter from your correspondent, M. Mazaheri (3-2-77). Nobody really likes to eat rotten things — I mean, they smell unpleasant, and then there's always the worry over whether you are going to get sick and die. So ordinarily if someone (your mother, for instance) serves you putrefying food, you give it back, saying something like "um... do you have anything that's not putrefying??" And the person is usually very, very sorry to find that he/she has asked you to eat the sort of thing that dogs roll in the spring.

At Central Square, however, you get screamed at, cursed at and spat upon until you wonder whether it might not have been better to get sick and die. Well, we can't change human nature; it's just rotten and that's that. But jeest, folks, a little quality control on the meat ought to be possible.

Merlin Homer  
Writing Workshop

## AS THE CAMPUS TURNS

WARREN CLEMENTS



## Opinion

## What happens when they sell our railroads?

By PAUL KELLOGG

Some good news and some bad news for Canada's rail travellers last month.

The good news was that the publicly-owned Canadian National Railway (CNR) made an overall profit in 1976 for the first time in 20 years.

The bad news announced by CN president Robert Bandeen in the same breath, was that the profit would not lead to cheaper train fares. "Since we have now reached the point where Canadian National can meet the challenge of operating on a profit-making basis consistently", "then the next logical step is to put it back into the private sector".

And "privatizing" CN is bad news for Canadian rail travellers.

According to Bandeen, CN can become a permanently profitable enterprise if four main burdens are lifted. Two of them are the losses incurred from the almost compulsory provision of rail passenger service, estimated at about \$50 million a year, and the losses from rail operations in Newfoundland, which are in the range of \$22 million a year.

## MONEY LOSERS

In other words, giving control of CN to the private sector would lead to cutbacks in rail passenger service and service to outlying regions such as Newfoundland, money-losers which are not profitable for private enterprise to maintain.

Federal NDP leader Ed Broadbent put the boots to Transport Minister Otto Lang for threatening to sell CN to the private sector "after countless decades of subsidy form the people of Canada."

"The CNR came into being just after World War One," said Broadbent, "because a number of private railways went broke and wanted the people of Canada to bail them out." He pointed out that CN's profit in 1976 is dependent on a \$200 million subsidy "from the people of Canada," part of \$646 million in subsidies paid to CN since 1967.

Lang and the Liberals were not persuaded, hanging on to their philosophy that government should involve itself in the conomy only where private enterprise can't make a buck.

The Railway Game, a recently published study of the economic problems facing the Canadian rail industry, seems to have gone unheeded in Liberal party circles.

## RECOMMENDS NATIONALIZATION

Written by Carleton professor Julius Lukasiewicz, the book maintains that Canada's railways are obsolete, unsafe, inefficient polluting, energy-wasting and lagging far behind most systems of the industrialized world.

It is no solution according to Lukasiewicz to abandon Canada's rail

industry to the whims of the free-market and the profit drive of the Canadian business community.

He argues for the nationalization of the now privately-owned Canadian Pacific Railways (CPR) to develop a fully nationalized and unified rail system in Canada.

And Lukasiewicz isn't even a socialist, being in most other areas a staunch supporter of private enterprise.

He arrives at his conclusion by a hard and honest look at the economic realities of the railroad business and concludes that private enterprise involvement in it is inefficient and a waste of money.

Not that this will persuade Bandeen and his Liberal supporters. Their privatization policy is not being implemented for its economic logic. The Liberal Government sees no greater good than the profit needs of capitalism. This includes opening up any and all profitable public enterprises to private investment, even when this means (and it usually does) cutbacks and a deterioration in the quantity and quality of the service provided to the Canadian people.

## PRIVATIZATION EQUALS AMERICANIZATION

Privatization also lessens what little control Canadians have left over our economic destiny. Most of the Canadian economy is already in the hands of foreign

interests, primarily US-based multinational corporations. And of the part still controlled in Canada, fully half of it is in the public sector.

This is the sector under attack in the government's privatization drive. Presumably, the US domination of our private sector will be reflected in public enterprises thrown onto the "free" market. In other words, privatization equals Americanization. A fine project for Liberal and Tory hypocrites who howl at Quebec separatism for opening the country to continentalism.

Last month it was the provincial Tories plan to "privatize" the public corporation Gray Coach. That was a crystal clear example of the Americanization involved, the big winner being what Ontario NDP leader Stephen Lewis called the "many-tentacled" US busline Greyhound.

This month it's Lang and the Grits moving to sell CNR to the private sector. Unloading public enterprises into the loving hands of "free" enterprise capitalism seems to be the thing to do.

Trouble is, everytime they parcel out some of these enterprises to our "private" sector, we lose a few miles of transportation. A few money-losing Gray Coach bus routes, the CN's rail passenger service.... You wonder where it's going to end.

Jogging anyone? They haven't yet privatized our feet.