

Excalibur

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

Excalibur founded in 1966, is the York University weekly and is independent politically. Opinions expressed are the writer's and those unsigned are the responsibility of the editor. Excalibur is a member of Canadian University Press and attempts to be an agent of social change. Printed at Newsweb, Excalibur is published by Excalibur Publications.

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Opinions on this page are those of the editors

Universities do not live by bread alone

While the council of Ontario universities has been frantically writing briefs, filing reports and making recommendations to soften the brunt of the imminent cutbacks in university funding, it may have forgotten these two fundamental issues: Purpose and access.

But Stephen Lewis hasn't forgotten. And in a speech last week at York he criticized the Ontario government, the council of Ontario universities and, indeed, the students for addressing the future of Ontario universities in purely monetary terms.

According to Lewis, we may all be missing the point. And he is probably right. To begin with, there are no post-secondary education cutbacks — yet. Universities this year have received a 14 per cent increase in funding. That's what is called a restraint.

(On the other hand, health services in Ontario are being slashed by nearly 3,000 beds. Now, that's cutting back.)

But the cutbacks to universities will come. Increased tuition fees (how much, who knows?) will come. And it's no good reacting with reflexive cries of "No cutbacks!" Few people will listen: universities aren't exactly at the pinnacle of the government and public priorities these days.

In any case, it's no good talking about money when you don't know what it's for. And that is what Lewis means. What is a university? What is it trying to do? Whom does it serve? How?

Purpose and access.

MPP for Riverdale James Renwick has said that for immigrant and working class people in his riding, "the university is trespass." That is both saddening and unjust. The university should be trespass for no one.

Many Ontario universities have been characterized as mere academic shopping centres — they are floundering in the backwash of the explosions (both budgetary and political) of the 60s. Perhaps universities need some redirecting.

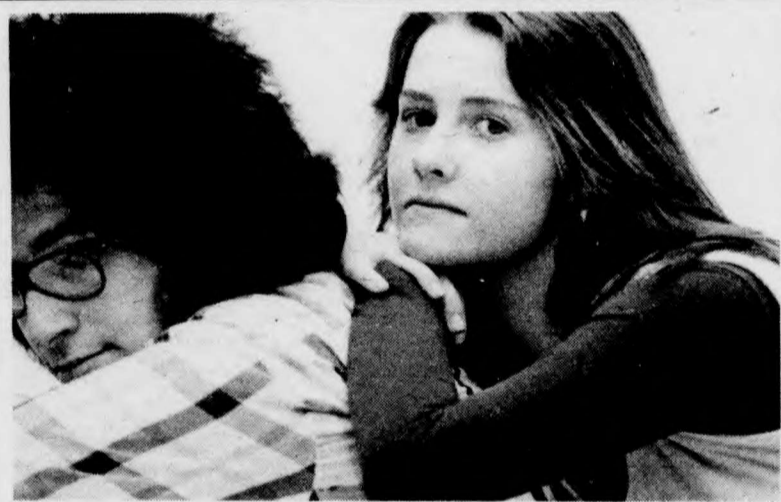
Purpose and access. These are the fundamental and the important questions. Mindlessly fighting the cutbacks isn't, on its own, going to have much effect.

That is not to say we shouldn't fight them — we should, so long as we keep the larger questions firmly in mind. In this respect, the commission on the goals and objectives of York can be especially valuable.

For, economic crisis or no, what we really need are good, accessible universities. And money alone isn't going to provide them.



Helpless patients sadly look as students cry, "McKeough's a crook!"



**If you've got the time
we've got the paper**

Excalibur staff meeting

(Constitution)

Today at 2 p.m.

Room 111 Central Square

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CUP editor

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YORK YOU, BUDDY

The following is a letter to the editor of Excalibur, received this week.

We take no interest in politicking, slandering or hate-mongering. In fact, neither of us even bothers to write letters. We prefer to keep our views between the two of us. But the occasion of the slogans painted on Bethune College moved us to express ourselves.

The question arises — why do we never see Black Power or Jewish Power or Death to Whites? The fact is that anyone who happens to say something favourable to white people or white civilization (no matter how inoffensive to other races) is condemned as a racist or hater of blacks and other minorities. When one dares to raise questions about the notion that six million Jews died in gas chambers, one is called a Nazi or an anti-semitic. When one ventures a favourable remark for Mussolini, one is cut down by angry sullen stares.

Those whose opinions and ways of thought (the freedom of which is guaranteed) are of the same sort, nevertheless, live in fear of expressing themselves to others of friends, unjustified labels, and

of friends, unjustified labels, and the displeasure of teachers.

Once in a high school history class, I maintained that the figure of six million for the number of Jewish people murdered during World War II was extremely exaggerated and merely a political football and that Israel uses it to extort money from West Germany, year after year.

My argument was well informed; I said nothing favourable about Hitler and carefully avoided anything anti-semitic. But I was fascinated to note that my teacher asked me to quit being anti-semitic!

The students in my class considered me a Nazi, as I was later to learn, and even my own friends asked me why I hated Jews! Instead of being upset I was fascinated.

A perfect example of conditioned thought. Whenever one says something unacceptable in that type of discussion, the listener unthinkingly and unconsciously draws a predetermined and pre-judged conclusion!

I can understand why those poor people would scribble those slogans on Bethune, or anywhere else for that matter. It is a case of

frustration grown out of fear — a fear to express oneself openly. It is a natural desire to express your ideas verbally, to voice your opinions and not to always have to swallow them when they rise in your throat.

You at York who pride yourself on your tolerance of different races and faiths; why don't you quit being hypocrites and learn to tolerate different opinions in a mature, upright manner?

It is not Nazi or anti-semitic to speak out and criticize Jews; they are not above it. It isn't blasphemy to say that many things written and thought about Hitler are lies and fabrications for there is good solid reliable proof of this. And certainly calling Mussolini one of this century's greatest leaders isn't a mortal sin.

If it is, you'll have to prove it to me instead of calling me a Fascist pig-bigot beneath contempt. If those who are right-wing and revisionist in thought weren't so afraid to express themselves you wouldn't have vandalism to worry about. Names withheld by request

Excalibur believes that information which is "well-informed" and based on "solid, reliable proof" should be worthy of a signature.