

# letters & comment

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, Excalibur, room III, Central Square. Please type letters, triple or double spaced, and keep them to around 250 words. Name, address and phone number must be included, but name will be withheld on request. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for grammar and length. Deadline Monday 4pm.

## Scuttle the cutbacks

### Criteria, please!

We the undersigned are currently enrolled in the Social Science course 161.6, "Men and Women".

It has come to our understanding that this course is to be dropped next year because of the cutbacks. Did you know that this course was overenrolled this year, and at least 30 students were turned away? Or is student enthusiasm and desire for a course not a criterion considered when certain courses are dropped?

This should be the most important criterion! This university is here to support us and serve our needs so that we, the future generation, can have a full and rich and very human understanding of life, and with this hopefully improve the quality of human existence.

The study of human relations, especially within the context of this course, serves a very real and important function. It helps to open us to the awareness that beneath the surface differences of males and females, there is a very human person who needs to love and be loved, to grow and express that growth through various channels.

We are not directly affected if this course is dropped because we have already received the benefits of it, but we are indirectly affected by those who come after us - because they will be a little more apt to judge others by their sex, a little less aware of the forces that shape their lives, and perhaps they will be a little more apt to exploit will be little more apt to exploit others.

Mary Anne Boeckh  
and 97 others

### That's involvement

Students are not apathetic.

In our recent attempts at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute to make students aware of cutbacks proposed by the Zero Based Budgeting Committee (ZBB) we have received an enormous response. The students are genuinely concerned about threatening curfews, less part-time and sessional staff, larger classes, closing down pubs and dances, and less access to library services and equipment.

Ryerson students circulated a petition to oppose these cutbacks which we will take to the Ontario government. The response has been overwhelming.

The Student Union of Ryerson (SURPI) called an urgent meeting one day in advance to discuss the first cutback - curfews. The student president was floored by the turnout at the mass meeting. 250 agitated students showed up. Now that's involvement!

More than 300 interested students came to a symposium Tuesday to get answers. Some active ideas emerged. One is a demonstration at Queen's Park. Another is the setting up of an anti-cutbacks committee. This committee stems from a minimum number of thirty members.

York representatives came forth

offering to form a common front with Ryerson and U. of T. Thursday at noon York held their own rally resulting in an immense turnout of 1,000 people.

And another point proving students give a damn is the fact that thousands of them are reading this letter so they will be more informed.

Judi McMillan  
Ryerson Photo-Arts

Ed Note: The York turnout was more like 800.

### Culprit corporations

Each and everyone of us here at York, whether staff, student, or faculty, will be seriously affected by the Tory government's determination to decrease their commitment to education.

In real terms, the limiting of York's operating grant to only a 4.5% increase over 1977 means that student services such as Harbinger will be reduced and/or eliminated, our library hours will be shortened, support staff (technicians, library, etc.) will be laid off, certain courses will be abandoned or curtailed, out-dated and faulty equipment will not be replaced, students coming from overseas will find fewer places and higher fees, and a number of full and part-time teaching staff will find themselves on the sidewalks in search of jobs.

All in all, it means that we're going to be shafted again, receive a poorer quality education though we'll be expected to pay more for it through higher tuition fees. In the words of Ryerson President Walter Pitman "students must expect a decline in education quality" (Nov. 17, 1977).

It is clear cutbacks hit all working people. We aren't the only ones in this situation. All students and working people in Ontario are suffering at the hands of the Tory hatchetmen at Queen's Park. The Ontario government has 'pledged' to balance its budget by 1981 and has made it clear that this will be done by cutting back in health, education and all other social services.

While 'balancing' its budget, the government has managed to shift the imbalance between corporate and personal income tax even more in favor of the corporate sector. In 1967-68 the corporations paid 11 cents in tax to every 16 cents paid in personal income tax. Now, corporations still pay 11 cents, but personal income tax has risen to 26 cents.

Obviously, the government's idea of balancing is to soak people while letting the corporations have the run of this province.

What can be done? The supporters at York of the Communist Party - not to be confused with the Maoist Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) - maintain that the only way to end the continuous erosion of our educational system is to force governments to shift their priorities and orientation away from their corporate buddies and in favor of the working people of this province.

Big business in Ontario must be



taxed according to their super profits, coupled with a programme of nationalization to ensure a sound financial basis for the basic needs of the people of Ontario, our health, education, and social services.

We think that the way to make this happen and to halt the cutbacks at York and all other post-secondary institutions in Ontario, is for all involved, students, staff and faculty, to get behind the fight against cutbacks. Demand that the administration refuse to cooperate with Queen's Park. Demand that your MPP call on the government to end its harassment of the people in Ontario. Support the hal fday off classes and the demonstration at Queen's Park in March.

Only united action can stop the cutbacks and move education forward, as a right for all of the people of Ontario.

Supporters at York of the  
Communist Party of Canada.

### What you can do to fight cutbacks

The readers of Excalibur are aware that York faces potential disaster. Next fall there will be a minimum of \$4,000,000 cut; and equally tragic cuts will occur for at least two more years. Although the government and daily papers insist that cutbacks are both necessary and inevitable, the York Anti-Cutbacks Rally was quite vocal in its disagreement. The 800 people present clearly agreed that the government is the source of our crisis.

Unfortunately, the present CYSF does not dispute the necessity of cutbacks; instead it wishes to minimize the disruption caused by cutbacks. Paul Hayden's suggestion to minimize the cutbacks by selling land which is not currently used fell flat. The only person booed by the audience before speaking was Hayden, President of CYSF, which indicates a great dissatisfaction with the ineffectiveness of CYSF.

As chairperson of the meeting I reminded the audience of "our" government's plans to lend \$300,000,000 interest free, to two mining companies so they can sell uranium to the government-run Ontario Hydro at a guaranteed minimum profit of \$5 per pound. This will amount to a profit of \$2.2 billion after total production and tax costs of \$5.2 billion.

In view of the multi-millions which the Tories continue giving to private business, it is hilarious for them to claim that they "can't afford more for education and hospitals."

If you agree that cutbacks should be fought at every turn, in every way possible, and if you think CYSF should be in the forefront of organizing opposition to cutbacks, OSAP changes, tuition hikes, and the deterioration of education, then come to a meeting tomorrow, Friday the 24th, at 11:00 in Curtis 110. We will be discussing just what can be done in the upcoming elections in order to make next year's CYSF an active body which defends our best interests in a forceful manner.

Harvey Pinder  
Student member  
Board of Governors

### Harbinger poll

This update is to note that the printed article on the Excalibur poll on Harbinger had a typographical error in one of the reported statistics. The reported 58 per cent of the sample group which highly favoured Harbinger should have in fact been 56 per cent. Other than this one type-error, all the other reported statistics were correct as representing the frequency of answer responses from the sample group of fifty York students, who were interviewed through the use of questionnaires.

At this time it should also be realized that the tone of the Excalibur editorial two weeks ago about this Harbinger poll was biased pro-Harbinger and slightly incorrect. This seemed to result because the tone of the editorial seemed to inadvertently misinterpret the poll results to be representative of overall student opinion - of which it necessarily wasn't. Instead the poll results, as reported in the article, only indicated a sample of student opinion here at York, and it did not necessarily represent the opinion of the entire student body, as suggested in the editorial.

The Excalibur staff should be commended however, on their attempts to find out what student opinion really is in regards to an important an issue as whether students want Harbinger or not. In this respect, the study has been one of the most authoritative and comprehensive attempts made thus far into this area.

The question of the very existence of Harbinger and how it should exist is a vital one to many. Harbinger is a social service agency on campus which provides referrals, information and peer counselling into a particular field of health care, and as such it is important to know just what the students feel about it.

Lorne Wasser

### Unite or divide

I read your editorial entitled "If this is 'progressive' and 'democratic' . . ." just for "something to do" on my lunch hour, and was disturbed by its contents. If what you reveal in the editorial is true, then I must congratulate you for exposing such contemptible behaviour. I normally do not take sides politically, and believe in a live-and-let-live policy as long as no one is threatened or hurt by the actions of others.

In this case, however, I wonder just who the "Hitlerite-Fascists" are. The Jewish (Zionist) and Arab people both (even with their differing political views) are welcome in my democratic and progressive community, but the CPC-ML certainly are not. Our purpose in life should be to unite with tolerance and understanding, not divide with bigotry and ignorance.

J. Degabriele  
Staff

### Winter of discontent

Once again it is winter, that wonderful season that envelopes York for the major portion of the academic year. This is an undeniable fact and we must learn to cope. So, why do some make it difficult? May I present a few illustrations.

#### 1) Parking Lots and Plowing

As I arrived this morning (Wednesday, January 25, 1978) at 9:15 a.m. in Parking Lot C, two plows were inefficiently clearing the lot. In effect they were re-arranging the snow while dodging cars that were already parked. What a waste of time and money, for by 9:15 or 9:00 students are already in class; 10:00 students are arriving, making plowing almost impossible. Cars were strewn about the lot in various positions and making navigation difficult. Why can't plowing be

done before classes begin? Then the entire lot could be plowed rather than choice sections only. Accomplishing the above may solve another problem that winter parking brings.

#### 2) Ability of Persons to Park

The Parking Lots provide, for our convenience long narrow lines within which our vehicles are to be carefully placed. Contrary to popular opinion, we are to park between the lines, not on them. In the wonderful months ahead, it will be colder and more snow will fall. No-one, I repeat, no-one relishes the thought of the long trek into campus from their spot in the NW corner of the lot. One suggestion, park straight. If you have to try twice, please do. One day it may be you on the long hike in, cursing the vehicle that has taken two spots (closest to campus of course).

So in the future, it would be nice if, they could plow before we get here so, that we could see the lines, so that we can park straight.

Sandra Wilson

### House of horrors

It is no secret that graduate housing is in short supply at York. It is no secret that the Housing Office has been assigned a difficult responsibility in evaluating the competing needs of students for subsidized housing. It is no secret that many students have grave doubts as to the efficiency, effectiveness, and reasonableness of the Housing Office. What are the specific allegations of administrative incompetence?

Firstly, the Housing Office has failed to develop a technique to predict the likely date of an apartment becoming available. Surely it is not an impossible task to review the length of current leases and the expected duration of a student's program. At present the Housing Office seems surprised that an Osgoode student will be leaving Downsview after three years. A little administrative initiative would surely be welcomed by the student who is uncertain whether to sign a lease at University City.

Secondly, the Housing Office has shown inflexibility in accommodating the tenant whose housing needs have changed. Such inflexibility results in either overcrowding or under utilization.

Thirdly, the Housing Office has failed to develop an adequate allocative system. At present, points are awarded if one is over 23 years old, married or a graduate student. Consideration of financial need is excluded as is academic performance and distance from home. Why should one be penalized for being young? Why should married students be favoured over those who choose to cohabit? A more encompassing allocative system that is reflective of student opinion is long overdue.

Finally, the employee attitudes should be changed. Admittedly the present staff possesses much improved personality skills compared to the staff of three years ago. However, if you are looking for a few encouraging words forget the Housing Office. Claiming that University rules support their every action (which is indisputable because the tablets have not been seen lately), the Housing Office muddles through giving wide berth to anything that hints of innovation.

Gary Gillam  
Osgoode Hall

