

Correspondence

More on Meyer

I'd like to dispel any misconceptions received by *Excalibur* readers from the Feb. 12th article on my Russ Meyer Film Festival.

I organized this festival because as a film student I believe Russ Meyer to be an important cinematic talent, whose virtuosity as a director, cameraman, writer, and editor go far beyond the subject matter that is his particular obsession. As for that subject matter, he deals with the North American mania for large-breasted women by turning the characters and situations in his films into cartoons, with the corresponding exaggerations of the sex drive and violence that are found in cartoons. It's these exaggerations which make his films both interesting to watch from a film student's point of view, and a lot of fun for those who want to have a good time. I hoped through the Russ Meyer Film Festival to expose as many people to the pleasure of these movies as possible.

Anyway, the article on the festival implies wrongly that, 1) the films I am showing are not of high quality, 2) I'm out to make a profit by showing these films, and nothing more, and 3) that I am despondent over the lack of attendance. I want to correct these impressions.

Firstly, what I actually said was that with the high quality double bills shown by CYSF and Bethune for \$2.75 and \$2.00 respectively, it is difficult to compete when I can only afford to show one film for \$2.50. I made no reference to my films being of a lesser quality than those shown by the others.

As for the second point, considering that of the three series mine is the most expensive, and the most specialized in its content, then to have expected any profit would have been unrealistic. I had hoped only to make my money back, and knew even before I started that I would probably take a loss. Yet I wanted to show these films, which I have been doing, in spite of the cost.

Finally, I won't deny I'm a little disappointed at the turnout for the films, but again, considering what these films are about, the cost of competing with prosperous, established series on campus, and Russ Meyer's anonymity to the general public, I am pleased with

the fact that eighty people came to see *Vixen*, and that the thirty people who saw the other two films had a good time, which was the sole purpose of the festival to begin with.

I just want to make one more correction to the article. The film I am showing on Feb. 27th with *Supervixens* is not a Jane Russell movie, but rather a film called *The Girl Can't Help It*, which stars Jayne Mansfield. This film, a Rock 'n' Roll movie made in 1956, is the direct ancestor of Meyer's films in the way its director, Frank Tashlin, treats the mammary obsession of our society, and as such it is the perfect movie to show with Russ Meyer's most successful, most personal, and most popular film.

Mark Lewis

Thank you York U.

As a long-impecunious student at York I would like to thank it for having such a generous system of bursaries and fees deferments for the financially uneasy.

We can all agree that tuition fees increase seem uncivilized at the best of times, especially considering they occur nearly as often as Conservative governments or air-craft disasters. Yet I will defend our system, because in Canada we are quite well off.

I would never recommend complacency because there are a lot of improvements we could make. But having lived in other countries, (and not just looking at European countrysides out of a train window) I would guess that

York U. and the system which created it. Thank you.

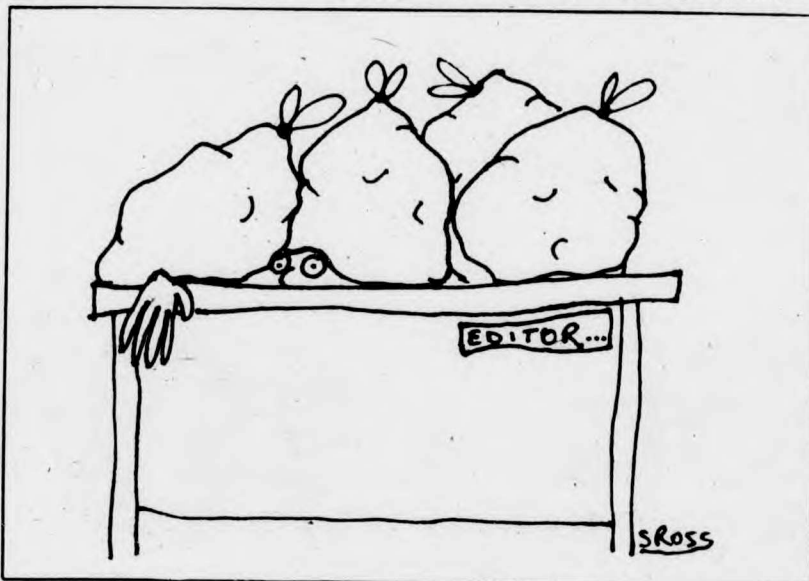
Rene Schmidt

Mundane matter

I don't customarily write angry letters about such mundane matters as food, but I decided to make an exception due to the severity of the situation at York University. Because of the scarcity of reasonably-priced living accommodations in Downsview, I, and I presume many others, are obliged to endure living at the residences. Since the only eating places within walking distance from the residences are run by the university, or at least by companies hired by the university, there exists practically no competition to provide good food to students.

The result is a very interesting case of monopoly-at-work for economics students, and indigestion for the rest. The food costs more than much better food at outside restaurants, while its quality is a good incentive to go on a weight-reducing diet. The ingredients are apparently stored either improperly or for too long; the colour of some of the foods served have on a number of occasions forced me to leave expensive food untouched—more bluntly, it looked too disgusting—while the word I would use for the taste would be "sickening." In fact one of my friends came down with a serious case of food poisoning from eating university food. If we are what we eat at the university cafeterias, then we are a very sorry lot indeed.

Mohammad Sheikholeslami
Winters Residence



Kudos for Stong

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Richard Linley and his Stong singers on their fine effort in staging H.M.S. Pinafore this week. I enjoyed the performance, those around me enjoyed it, and the cast clearly had a good time.

It is gratifying to see this kind of thing happening; that is, a production by people who are not professionals, taking place in a friendly college space that is not primarily designed for such activity. Keep it up, Stong, and keep offering opportunities like this for those many talented students, faculty and others in the community who would otherwise get no opportunity to perform.

Ceri Stephens

Canadian universities are more accessible and less expensive, all things considered, than anywhere else in the world. There are countries where idealist philosophies are extant, or where per-capita income or productivity is slightly higher, but there is always a catch; you must pass rigid entrance exams and score in the top percentage, or the fees are outrageous, or "simple" matters like the cost of housing is prohibitive, or your father has to be a party member... In Canada we have a great deal of freedom, more than we realize.

I have spent the last five years earning my degrees and living on a shoestring and loving it; supporting myself and my habits and even my trusty little car. I thank

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