

Editorial

The return of the Rhinos

Rising from the ashes like the proverbial Phoenix, the Rhinoceros Party of Canada is reborn.

And borrowing from an inane plotline of *Dallas*, the Rhinos have announced that their demise 18 months ago was just a bad dream.

It was a sad day for all fun-loving Canadians who abhor people that take themselves too seriously, when the Rhino Party officially interred itself following the death of founder Jacques Ferron.

Formed in 1963 by the committed *separatiste*, the Rhinos have always been a beacon of fresh air in the arena of politics. Their original raison d'être was to satirize Quebec politics but they soon expanded into the federal realm.

Their ideas smacked of brilliance. They pledged to pay off the national deficit—with American Express; repeal the law of gravity; offer patronage judgeships for \$15; and eliminate unemployment by hiring people to knock down the Rockies—then put them up again.

During one election run, the Rhinos began an illiteracy campaign with the *Toronto Sun* as their training manual and promised to improve our climate by superimposing Canada over the map of the United States. The Rhinos were so dedicated to world change that they vowed to have the globe rotated in the opposite direction if elected.

With their "Sex, Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll" slogan of the last election, the Rhinos reached their irreverent zenith. Sex, because sexually satisfied people are more productive, and the more productive people are, the healthier the economy; drugs, because it's a multi-billion dollar business, and the Government might as well get in on the action; and rock 'n' roll because there's nothing the Russians fear more, except blue jeans.

In April 1985, though, the Rhino party folded its flag for the last time in order to avoid the ultimate humiliation—being elected.

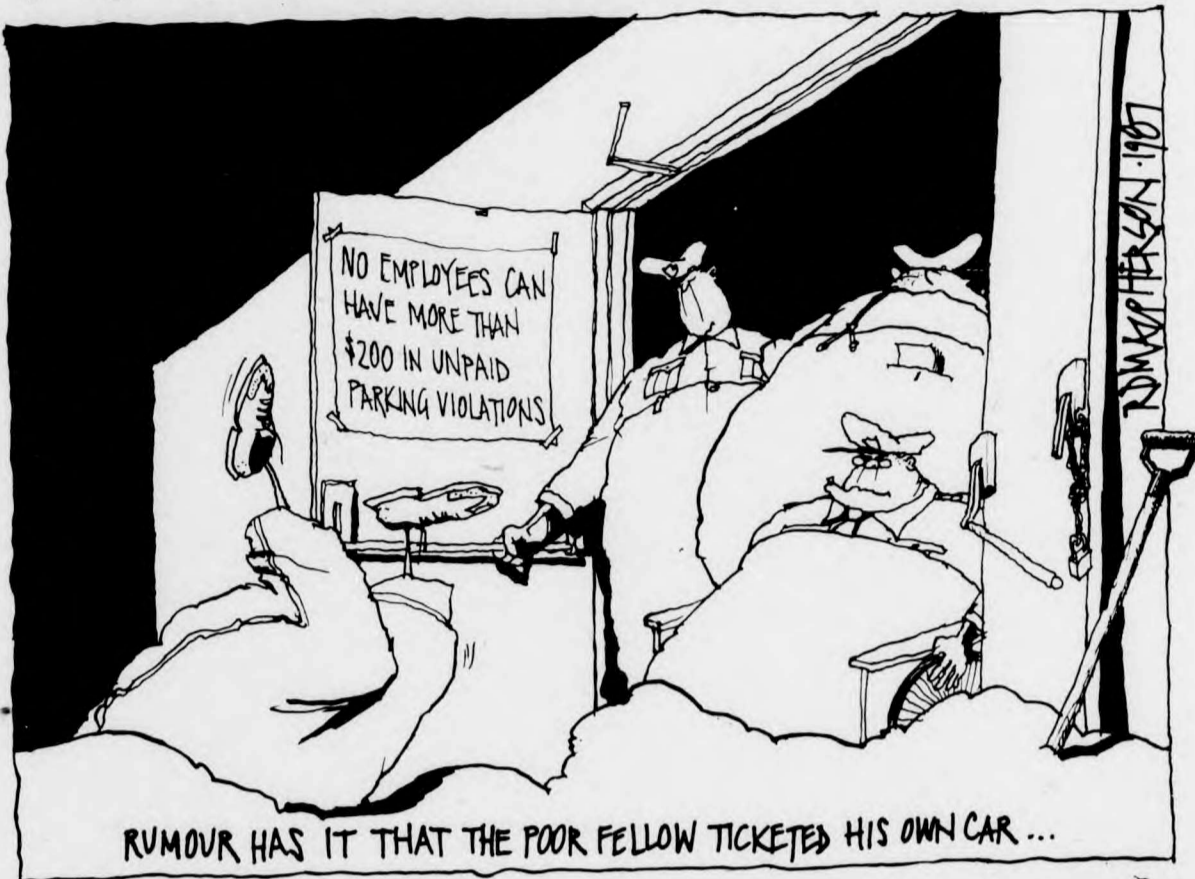
This catastrophe nearly happened in 1980 when two Rhinos in Quebec finished second in their ridings behind the Liberals. In 1984, the Party ran 88 candidates across the country, winning more than 100,000 votes, and party headquarters soon decided to call it quits.

But the Rhinos are lumbering out of the mud and into the fray once again. This bold move should spark the York community into action. In these days of Gilmor reports, financial liaison officers and student centres, a little levity is just what York politics needs, although most of you probably think student government is already a big joke.

Nonetheless, we at *Excalibur* are forming the York wing of the Rhino Party and are seriously considering running a candidate in the upcoming CYSF elections.

Dr. Ferron named the Party after the rhinoceros because, like a Quebec MP in Ottawa, it is "a thick-skinned, clumsy, stupid animal which loves to wallow in the mire but can move fast when it senses danger."

Wouldn't you say that this description bears remarkable resemblance to the politicians at York?



Letters

Baptiste disciple of dead senile man

Editor:

I find it nauseating that *Excalibur* would dignify to publish the views of one paranoid individual, Paul Baptiste, who dares to criticize: our fine athletes and their major accomplishments; *Excalibur* for exposing a bigot who used to run our Safety and Security department; CYSF's successful multicultural week (who cares if he got indigestion), which brought together different culture during one fine evening.

It seems to me that this individual is one of the victims of an old, senile, Herbert H. Armstrong, who before he passed away (thank God) have a nihilistic view of the world. Through the word of Christ, Mr. Armstrong preached a fascist view of life, where the chosen few, his church, would survive an atomic holocaust. Good Luck Paul.

Well Paul and dear readers, I am my own mind. I believe that we should fight for nuclear disarmament and peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Mr. Baptiste, if you want to read the views of a dead senile old man and their disciples, go ahead. But don't force upon us that view of life. Life is to be lived to the fullest of our capabilities. If you, Mr. Baptiste want to wait for Armageddon, that is your choice. Make sure that you have enough copies of the *Plain Truth* to pass the days and weeks. But let the great majority of us continue enjoying life.

—Jorge Garretton

Excalibur is true student paper

Editor:

On behalf of the newly formed student chapter of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs at York, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to you, Ms. Zena McBride and the *Excalibur* staff. It is heartening to know that the *Excalibur* is truly a paper for the students. Without your interest in our organization, and the timely and quality coverage you gave the CIIA, our efforts may never have been realized.

I was a member of the student government at the University of Waterloo for three years and one of my greatest frustrations was accepting the antagonistic relationship the

Feds had with the school paper, the *Imprint*.

To obtain general coverage of student events and organizations involved a major confrontation between the government and the press. The result, more often than not, was a slanderous editorial about the Feds and no coverage of a good student activity. We could only buy 'uncritical' space in the *Imprint* in which to publicize events.

It was hard to believe that both agencies held the same objective of serving the students. I developed little respect for the school paper which was more a vehicle of self-interest and expression for *Imprint* staff than an informative, news-worthy student paper.

Since coming to York I have been consistently impressed with the range of coverage and the quality of the *Excalibur*. When the student chapter of CIIA was forming I hesitated (with residue wariness of the press) in seeking some coverage from the *Excalibur*. My concerns evaporated quickly after entering the *Excalibur* office.

I was received in a professional manner, was questioned in brief about the CIIA concept, and, one day later, was contacted by a reporter for a full interview. The resultant article appeared in the subsequent issue of *Excalibur* and, again, I was impressed by how effectively and accurately the information was relayed. Many students have since read the article and have contacted the CIIA-York group for information and membership.

I find myself truly moved by the spirit which is evoked when groups and people cooperate for a common and worthy goal. I wanted to convey this sentiment and my sincere gratitude to the *Excalibur*.

—Kathryn Seymour
Canadian Institute of International Affairs-York

Reader celebrates Dr. King's legacy

Editor:

January 19 marks the second official celebration of the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Although he died almost 20 years ago his light as a champion of human rights still shines on. His quests and victories for social and economic justice continue to brighten the horizons for millions of oppressed people.

As students we should be proud to know that it was the students of the

1960's who filled the streets during freedom marches, sang the songs of social change, and wrote letters and petitions voicing support for the advancement of human rights legislation. As Jewish students, we remember Dr. King's acute perception of political conflict. In 1968, at an address at Harvard University just before his assassination he proclaimed that, "When people criticize Zionism, they mean Jews . . . You are talking anti-semitism."

Then, as now, few express such honesty and clarity in the face of an overwhelming Arab propaganda and military campaign attacking Israel's very right to exist. Yet, we dream as did King for a better world. His vision has moved us all to do more.

This week Jewish students join hands with all of God's children in celebrating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

—Mimi Estrin

Chairman, Jewish Students' Network

Silver's claims are poorly thought out

Editor:

All that Daniel Silver's letter of last Thursday served to do was remind me that Thursday is sanitation collection day. Anyone who knows me well knows that I cannot resist a good argument . . . but alas I'll have to settle for Silver's.

First, it is beyond my comprehension how Silver could have read the November 18 edition of the *Excalibur* and come away with the idea that Jews for Judaism is a missionary group. Yet that is exactly what he has done although nowhere does the article in question say/infer/imply this. Silver must be dipping into the ol' hallucinogens. I sincerely recommend that he take an ESL course.

Second, let's assume for one minute that the *Excalibur* did indeed erroneously portray the group Jews for Judaism as a missionary group (which it did not). Silver argues that since his letter of November 27 is based on that newspaper coverage, he is absolved of any responsibility for his letter should it be proven groundless since it is, after all, based on the *Excalibur's* reporting. States Silver ". . . if there is any distortion of truths, the fault lies with its author and/or editor." How utterly convenient! (I'm sure such a self-serving attitude must win him many friends). Of course, the response to such

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	(We hope you have enjoyed Famous People with the Letter X In Their Name Week; Coming soon: Game Show Hosts and T.V. Evangelists)
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