

# editorial

## Join the fun, Pierre!

Now that Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau has announced his resignation as leader of the federal Liberals, it's a good time to speculate about his future.

Having paddled to Cuba in a canoe, having toured pre-war Nazi Germany, having called the halls of Harvard and the London School of Economics home in student days, having toured North America on motorcycle, and having been leader of the world's second biggest nation for 16 years, what more could one possibly expect from life?

Answer: to be appointed to York's Faculty of Administrative Studies.

Yes! Do not scoff! Only the senate in Ottawa can rival York's Administrative Studies department as Canada's rest home for discarded politicians. Administrative Studies is a living, breathing political museum, a veritable Faculty of Politicians Emeritus in mothballs dispensing wisdom like first-baby-cigars to eager political neophytes.

The York Collection includes such luminaries as former provincial NDP leader David Cassidy, CCF brain trust James Laxer, former Toronto mayor John Sewell, former PC prime ministerial adviser James Gillies, and—the latest jewel in the collection—former prime minister Joe Clark himself.

Yet, sadly, the Liberals lag behind, represented by just one character—lonely, balding Jim Coutts, former aide to Trudeau, and unsuccessful Liberal candidate in Toronto's Spadina riding. If this sorry situation is allowed to continue unchecked, York's hard-won reputation of "political neutrality" in the political retirees ghetto might be in danger of eroding.

And so, to preserve York's reputation (and to be fair), we ought to give Trudeau a chance at York. He may be retiring, but let's try to remember him.

And while we're at it, why not help the feds clean house in Ottawa? We could kill two birds by, say, abolishing the senate and shipping a busload or two down here to York so that they too can share their collective wisdom—we'd hate to exclude anyone. We can help speed political reform in the capital while finding a comfortable final resting place for political discards. And courses are free for Seniors!

Tendanta Via ("the way must be tried")!



Excalibur attempts to print as many letters as space allows. Please be brief—letters over 250 words are subject to editing for length. All letters must include the author's name, address, and phone number for verification purposes. Pseudonyms may be used upon request.

## letters

### Tear gas plea

Editor:

The tear gas incident in the Ross Building last Thursday resulted in over one hundred members of the York community, students, faculty, and staff, being taken to local hospitals for treatment, while a great many more were given first aid treatment at the scene.

Those responsible for this outrage can only be regarded with abhorrence. They have not yet been apprehended, and the cooperation of any member of the community who is able to give useful information to this end is most urgently requested.

It is difficult to believe that none of the very large number of persons in the vicinity of the Post Office in the Central Square area at the material time noticed anything of a suspicious nature, and all such persons are asked to consider seriously whether they saw anything, however trivial it may seem, which might indicate the perpetrator(s) of this senseless and dangerous act. If they did so, please contact me at 667-3767, or Geoff MacLeod, the Staff Supervisor, at Room A.9, Temporary Office Building, 667-2271.

—C.G. Dunn

Director of Safety and Security Services

### Appreciates job

Editor:

I appreciate the job you do and the fact that you had taken a photograph of my work in the bearpit. I do not appreciate the unintelligent bullshit which went underneath the photograph indicating that the man in the sculpture was "titillating" himself with the wondrous *Excalibur* columns. If you have nothing of worth to say about the piece, don't shoot or print the photograph.

I had intentionally placed the work in the bearpit, a public space, aware of the risk of having it removed or sat upon. I did not, however, expect the campus

newspaper to employ it for their deformed sense of advertising. If you are unable to comment appropriately—ask the artist or the public to comment.

—Kelly McKay

### Sharing thanks

Editor:

If you agree, I would like to use this means of conveying my utter thanks to the many members of the York community who expressed their concern and support to me and my family throughout recent months, and shared our joy in recent days. I am convinced that their spontaneous humanity served, indispensably, to sustain our stamina for devising what I sometimes came to think of as yet other ways of unveiling the miracle that we continued to seek.

—Lawrence R. Boulter

### Atkinson dirt

Editor:

This month's *Atkinsonian* editorial attacking *Excalibur* for printing a story that the member of the Board of Publications (I presume the editor was too ashamed to write it herself) called "worrysome" is the best example of the warped thinking that goes on at the *Atkinsonian* and in ACSA.

The paper isn't worried that the council morally, if not legally, misappropriated student funds to pay someone's mortgage. No, as long as it was done "democratically" then it's all right.

The editorial even tries to blame the Assembly and absolve the President. I did not once see anywhere in the story a plea by the President that the Assembly went against her wish.

And since it was Council that ordered the *Atkinsonian* not to print the story, the paper can hardly attack *Excalibur* for printing a story "belatedly." Better late than never.

The *Atkinsonian* should ask itself why it permitted this infringement on the basic freedoms of the press instead of

whether the *Excalibur* is a little belated at times.

—Berel Weinstein

### Beat by bouncers

Editor:

I lack the time, and lately the talent, to truly express my rage, but a few weeks ago a friend and I suffered a terrible indignity: we were beaten up by bouncers from the Cock & Bull.

To give a detailed description of the events would be tedious and pointless. I will not venture to say we were totally innocent—we weren't, but I know our actions in no way justify the treatment we received. Neither of us threw a punch. One would think that on a university campus with supposedly intelligent students as bouncers, one could appeal to reason and argument to settle a dispute, but my torn clothing and now healed cuts and bruises reveal that this is not the opinion of all.

My complaint is against the authorities (however feeble), so a complaint to the authorities is of little use. An interview with the pub manager brought me little satisfaction. I told her her underlings used unnecessary violence; she said: "no, no; they would not." I said: "yes, they have."

I am sure my friend and I are not the only ones who have been ill treated by these roughnecks; I suspect we will not be the last. Someone must police the police; it is our university, our colleges and our pubs; we do not pay to have our rights and bodies violated. We must make ourselves aware of injustice and the dangerous elements in our community—we must question authority.

I ask only one thing: if you suffer abuse from pub staff, let it be known. Tell the manager, tell the master, tell your friends.

We pay for a service, not to be treated like dogs by animals who have yet to learn the wonders of speech and the wastefulness of violence.

—Rob Edelmann

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## excalibur

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