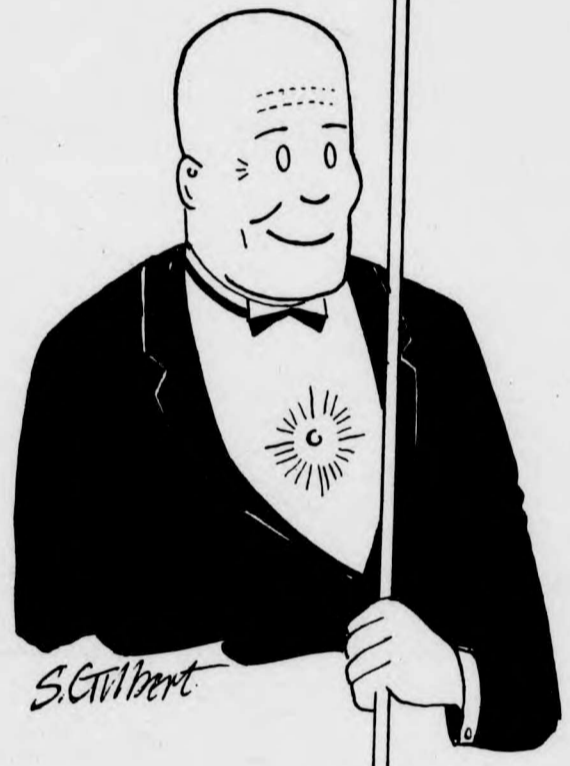


# Letters to the Editor

Address letters to the Editor, EXCALIBUR, York University. Those typed (double-spaced) are appreciated. Letters must be signed for legal reasons. A pseudonym will be used if you have a good reason.

**PEACE IS NOT HEALTHY FOR BOEING AND OTHER GROWING INDUSTRIES**



## Social change and yahoos

Sir:  
The course referred to by "Professor B (sociology)", EXCALIBUR Jan. 8, p. 12 is Social Science 177 of which I am course director. The title of the course is Social Differences and Social Change. I wish I could invite anyone who thinks or suspects that we may be serving "Captain America" to sit in on the course, but as it is we fill Lecture Hall D. For their benefit, however, let me describe the course.

The first third deals with problems of poverty and inequality. We gave special attention this year to the concept of "intelligence" and how it relates to a class system. Because the Black population in the U.S. is such an extreme and unambiguous example of how inequality begets inequality, we used it as an illustration of more general principles. Canadian students are not provincial yahoos. Judging from their reaction to this section of the course, they clearly recognized that the Black problem in the U.S. is a problem for all mankind, not an American problem.

The second third of the course takes up three case histories of large scale social change: The Reformation, the Russian Revolution, and modernization in a non-Western country, e.g. Japan. We hoped that Canadian students would have a better understanding of their own tradition which stems from the Reformation (What could be better proof of this than Mr. Williams own anal fixation with the word "shit".) We hoped, also, that they would begin to understand that the Third World is considering a range of alternatives of which this is only one.

Finally, in the last third we consider strategies of social change; that is, ideas, theories and philosophies of violence, non-violence, passive resistance, etc. which Canadians must confront intellectually if they are not to dissipate their passion for social justice by stumbling ahead in ignorance.

This is preparing Canadian students to be functionaries in a branch plant economy?

Thelma McCormack,  
Sociology

Canadian students are not provincial yahoos — their American professors are.

How else can you explain them teaching this course in exactly the same way as they would teach it in Rhode Island?

How else can you explain the course being concerned with the American blacks and not with how Canadian native peoples have been treated by Canadian whites. . . or maybe this is not a "problem for all mankind."

How else can you explain no attempt by the directors of the course to examine the nature and history of social change in Canada?

Without an understanding of the Canadian perspective on social change, students who take this course will be powerless to deal with social change in their own society.

To hell with American scholastic "universalism." — Ed.

## Applause for Eli Mandel

Sir:  
Which comes first: Canadian literature or Eli Mandel?

People in his English 245 are finding the two almost synonymous, but that's not what I want to talk about. I'm trying to say everything at once.

Take Canadian literature for instance, it's so funny — hilarious — at least it seems enjoyable when Dr. Mandel reads passages from MacLennan. Yes, Hugh MacLennan. Strangely, I never found that writer as interesting before, so what is happening? That's what everyone who is sharing this experience should ask. He just reads passages and we break up and then sometimes he reads passages and he breaks up instead.

Is it all just fun, fun, fun? Well there is more to a course than his lectures and so far student grading hasn't begun although the enthusiasm score is high — about A plus all around as far as I hear. But that's not what I wanted to say either. Neither was I going to try to separate Canadian literature from Eli Mandel; that would be a pity.

So what's this all about? I just wanted you to know that there is a beautiful man who makes Canadian literature a celebration of almost idiot joy and carries his listeners along to enjoy with him a selection of literary treats served in the tastiest manner imaginable? That's all.

It's just that this is the first time such an event has ever happened to me and I must be losing my Canadian restraint because I think it's wonderful.

Name withheld  
by request

## David Chud raps on Chavez

Sir:  
Cesar Chavez, leader of the California Grape Boycott and founder of the National Farm Workers' Association spoke to a crowd of 250 people this week in Vancouver's Unitarian Church. Chavez was in Vancouver to help organize support for the international grape boycott in aid of members of the farm workers who have been on strike since 1965 against the grape growers of California.

The migrant farm workers — mostly Mexican-Americans, as well as Blacks, Filipinos, Chinese and East Indians — have been fighting for recognition of the farm workers as their union so they can achieve higher wages and better working conditions.

However, Chavez explained that

the strike means more than this. "Our strike is for recognition of the union, wages and working conditions, but we are also fighting the paternalism of the owners who seem to fear the loss of their manhood if they recognize the union."

There have been over 200 attempts to organize farm workers in California and all of them have been smashed by the owners.

Chavez explained that agriculture is a \$5-billion industry in California and that one out of three jobs is dependent on agriculture. In describing the power of the farm owners, Chavez said "They have for generations really decided the politics, and how California is going to go."

Chavez described the working conditions in California vineyards that he and thousands of others have had to live through.

"The average annual wage for a family unit is \$2000 which is \$1000 less than the government poverty level. Life expectancy is 49 years and the infant mortality rate is 125 per cent higher than the national average."

Chavez attributed these figures to working conditions (pickers have to work in temperatures up to 120 degrees) and high pesticide levels. "We did research which showed that 19 of 35 children we tested (all were under 12 years old) had 4 times the safe DDT levels in their bodies."

But Chavez said that the boycott is growing in strength. Grape sales are down 32 per cent in Toronto, 70 per cent in Chicago, 28 per cent in Vancouver, 55 per cent in New York and 27 per cent overall. The decrease in sales has forced prices down 35 per cent.

Chavez said the growers have an ally in the U.S. Defence Department. "The Defence Department has increased purchases of grapes for use in Vietnam by 800 per cent since the beginning of the strike in 1965. When we asked them why they suggests to their commanding officers that they should buy grapes they replied that in this way they remained 'neutral'."

Community opposition for the strike as well as racism is perpetuated in the schools. A Berkeley researcher spent four days in a Delano public school and observed that the teacher chose a white child every day to lead the students to the playground when 80 per cent of the class was light brown or black. When the researcher asked why the teacher only chose white kids he said: "Those white kids, they'll have to handle those Blacks and those Mexicans — they might as well learn now."

But Chavez and the grape workers keep struggling, and from all signs the grape boycott is gaining momentum. After 51 months Chavez says "some people ask us when we're going to give up. The answer to that is — we're not. To give up would be to go back to what we had, and we're not going to do that."

David Chud,  
5260 Windsor St.,  
Vancouver 15, B.C.

## Colsen replies to Morley K.

Sir:  
Reply to "Morley K. Robertson"  
In reply to your letter directed to me in last week's edition of EXCALIBUR, I have just this to say. The charges you made were untrue and certainly unfounded. Is this the reason you found it necessary to use a pseudonym? There are those of us who have the courage to sign our names to the things we do, and then there are people like you. If you've got the guts to back up what you say, I would be more than pleased to meet with you at any time.

I do take strenuous objection to your use of someone else's name in order to propagate your lies.

Robert Colson,  
Vanier Vando

# MIME!!!

Many people were disappointed this year because the Mime Series sold out so quickly. In order that everyone will be able to see at least one Mime this year, the Theatre Programme and College E have combined to sponsor two performances **TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT 4 and 8:30 P.M.** in Burton Auditorium of the highly-acclaimed **CANADIAN MIME THEATRE.**

**Tickets on sale now  
Burton Box Office  
\$1.00 and \$1.50**