

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.

Toronto City, Undress

Toronto City,
you look better
naked
just before the dawn.
You excite me more
that way.

Toronto City,
you are a whore
disguised in a bawdy coat
of cosmopolitan fun-fur.
You paint your faceless
streets of nite
with neon powdered lights.

The tricks,
they come easy.
Your politicians
are hot for you.
They buy you trinkets
and fine concrete towers.
Horny-eyed, they dress you
in the finest American
clothes.

You are spoiled rotten
but the insects who crawl along
your soft-paved veins
don't care.
They spoil you more.

Vancouver hates you.
Montreal belittles you.
Winnipeg envies you.
New York ignores you.

But you stick your fat ass
straight out
back at them.
You and your Bay Street
crack
have much work to do.

Toronto City,
undress.
You excite me more
that way.

I remember once
when your cheap smells
were real.
Hogtown
we called you.
Farm girl,
hick,
awkward, and naive.

But now you've made it big
Hooker of Ontario.
Hustler of Canada.
You won't quit
until every pair of pants in this country
have been inside your
Bay Street parlor.
Then,
you'll move south
and get a piece of the real
action. . .

Toronto City,
undress.
You excite me more
that way.

Lee Michael Biderman

The calibre of Excalibur

Sir:
Considering you had written an editorial about the problems of Nat. Sci. 176B a few weeks earlier, I was slightly surprised that your front page article, entitled "Nat. Sci. Students Protest", was so poorly written. The simple truth is that was no factual content in last Thursday's article. The word "students" is used no fewer than six times in the story, yet there is not one name of any student directly connected with this handout. It appears as if somebody on your staff picked up a flyer off the floor at 3 pm following the lecture and brought it in to be used as front page filler. Surely that must have been the case or else you, feeling the story was newsworthy would have delayed your deadline and attended the 4 pm meeting with Dr. Katz. The only other alternative is that you, seeing a chance for sensational news wrote the article from a copy of the protest letter received earlier in the day from one of the students directly involved, yet still no names.

More EXCALIBUR fact: You stated that the students propose a series of lectures on the reasons for and effects of pollution. Judging from my copious notes, I would



say that this is one of the few things that has been presented in the course.

Your story seems to give credence to somebody's blatant attempts to politicize a Nat. Sci. course. References to Prof. MacFarland's "air-conditioned" car and bringing in a "Marxist" speaker seem to point this out.

Perhaps if you had pursued your story further you would have learned that Dr. Katz does indeed plan to cooperate with the "students", specifically myself, to bring in speakers and films on the social aspects of pollution during the duration of the course.

Your slipshod reporting points out the need of a university board of communications!

Allan Sheps
Winters

EXCALIBUR received a copy of the protest flyer Tuesday night and wrote up the story about 2 am Wednesday morning. Our final copy deadline for printing is 4 pm Wednesday, and consequently we could not report what happened at Wednesday afternoon's meeting at 4 with course director M. Katz. We thought it important enough then to rate front page space — and still do.

EXCALIBUR knew only one student involved in the protest — Bryan James, a first year Vanier student. His name was not mentioned because all our information for the story was received in the flyer he gave to us. As he was not the only student involved, we did not feel we should credit the handout to him. Other than the omission of James' name, we used all the facts we had available to us in the story.

You say that you have already heard lectures on the reasons for and effects of pollution, but we find it hard to understand your sarcasm. All we reported was that "the students propose a series of lectures on the reasons for and effects of pollution, including one lecture on what the individual can do about the problem." That is still true. That's what the flyer asked for.

The references to McFarland's air-conditioned car and bringing in a Marxist speaker are direct quotes from the flyer. If by mentioning the ideas the flyer (and EXCALIBUR) makes students in the course think a little more about their course and what they are learning, that can only be good. Explaining something through the use of examples surely isn't wrong.

In the last paragraph of our story we say: "The students were to confront course director M. Katz with their proposal yesterday afternoon." Your biggest complaint seems to be that our printing deadlines are not late enough to get that part of the story in.

If we had missed or left out the story we did carry you would have had a legitimate complaint. You'll find it hard to argue, though, that we did not include the happy end to the story because of physical limitations. — ed.

Relevance is issue, not Americanization

Sir:

It seems that the entire Americanization problem is just a sheep in wolf's clothing, or perhaps more correctly, a goat — a scapegoat.

The major problem with the courses is not that they are full of pertinent material that, alas and alack, pertains to our southern neighbours and not our fair Dominion. The content of the courses is irrelevant in any event, and that is the problem.

For years in high school, students are constantly told that the subjects in high schools are designed to teach them how to learn, but not actually to teach anything of relevance to their lives. By omission, we gathered that university is somewhat different, that in university we would learn something of importance. Obviously, this is not the case. University is only the means to a BA, which is in itself only the means to another end.

Perhaps Canadian courses would have pragmatic relevance to our lives if they were introduced. But there is always the possibility that even courses on Canada could be made totally irrelevant, as were the three Nat Sci 176 courses which deal with the very vital contemporary issue of pollution, and yet which were made so spacious as to be absurd. But perhaps there is hope.

In any event, the anti-Americanization issue that EXCALIBUR has introduced is definitely a red herring. The American influences in Canada are not the problem itself — they are only a very small part of it. Even the existing Canadian courses are not of pragmatic value.

In the meantime, I am afraid I have to sit back and watch this latest attempt at course relevance fail. And fail it must because EXCALIBUR just isn't playing it straight. Americanization isn't the issue. The relevance of university is.

Dan Merkur
Excalibur Staff

Don't destroy court; it's base of rights

Sir:

For the past year I have been the representative for McLaughlin College on both the President's Advisory Committee and the University Court. In carrying out my duties on the one active committee I have come into close contact with the discussions concerning the Court.

In those discussions, which involved members of all facets of the university community, I have become firmly convinced that any stand against making the University Court operable, is in direct conflict with the interests of every student and faculty member at York University. To take a stand on principle on such an important issue as this, is an abrogation of the responsibilities of each of the councils on campus. Especially, to take this stand

on the principle that the various councils have not been consulted on the implementation of the Court is a poor excuse for inefficiency.

The Court system was originally outlined in this outline distributed to all councils, approximately one year ago. Along with this outline was a request for a nominee. This request was subsequently filled by all councils on campus. In November of this year, the Laskin Report, which contained an enlarged, more detailed version of this court was distributed throughout the university. In January again, another distribution of the report was made.

It amazes me that now, over a year since the original court proposal was made, and over three months since the Laskin Report was released, that there is such a public outcry of indignation, because finally this most valuable facet of the Laskin Report, this most valuable facet of every student's rights in this university, is being made operative. It seems to me that this outcry, more than anything else shows a lack of responsibility by some of the councils at York University.

If you have studied the basic outline of the Court and its responsibilities within the university, there can only be one conclusion on its intent. It is there solely for the protection of the rights of all members of York University. To withdraw from it now would help destroy the base of those rights.

Alan Shefman

Being called a broad is just not my bag

Sir:

To Mr. E.C. Smith, Social Science.

Thank you for the encouragement to the cause of the university secretaries given by you in your letter "A reply to the 'invisible woman'," along with the extolment of our skills, appreciation of our worth, and sympathy for our "lot."

I would like to set the record straight, however, by pointing out that as the majority of us have spent our working lives associated with cultured people of high intelligence, which presupposes good manners, exception is taken to the assumption by you that we are referred to as "dum broads" by all bosses, albeit with undertones of jocular humor.

The connotations of that particular term of reference conjure up visions to this particular square of a slob depicted in true Hollywood style, referring to his companion of doubtful repute. In defence of the bosses for whom I have worked, I have never heard this particular description used in terms of reference to either myself or to my colleagues.

There do exist sections of organizational structures which believe in an individual (to wit, secretaries) having a sense of her own value as a human being, and thus wisely increasing the efficiency of her efforts and a sense of dignity as a person, and I think that we would all like to see that approach widespread. So, Mr. Smith, a little of the latter, please, as your term of reference is just not my bag.

Freda Johnson,
Sociology

Excalibur Advertising

only two more issues to go —

March 19
March 26

Deadline: Mondays 5pm Sharp

Telephone 635-3800