

Opinion page

The views expressed on this page are those of the authors and not necessarily those of Excalibur. Submissions should be signed and typed on a 64-stroke line. Pieces may be edited for style, length and grammar. Deadline is Monday noon.

Steve Hain

Human self-interest buries Christmas spirit

As a result of CHUM's incentive to increase student support of the United Appeal, my alma mater found itself receiving a renovated Steppenwolf as the reward for being the school that raised the most amount of money per number of students enrolled. A friend's brother was responsible for arranging and promoting the dance, and for trying to meet the conditions of the band's eight page contract.

By the day of the dance, Steppenwolf had made it known that they would play for no less than 1,000 people; on their arrival, they changed their booze requirement from beer to demon rum. Then they played for about an hour, finishing off their set on the note of "there's your money's worth".

After the show the roadies took over where the band had left off, by flexing their muscles on the furniture and glassware of the rented hall. The riff-raff were seen leaving, pocketing their \$10,000 fee, in two black, rented limousines.

I could understand and tolerate such behavior from a drunken hockey team or small tired children; but not from a rejuvenated band trying to recapture the limelight it so long ago lost. How soon they forget their modest beginnings.

This incident started me thinking about how ego-centric our lifestyles have become. If something is convenient for us to do, if it doesn't put us out of our way, then we'll most likely do it. Otherwise we just won't

get involved.

It seems as though individuals extend themselves only if there is something to be gained. Think about some of the doctors who admit dying people into intensive care wards. It is here that physicians become mad scientists, involved in a macabre competition to see who can keep his patient alive the greatest length of time.

These practitioners hold life in front of their patients in much the same way that a farmer dangles a carrot out of the reach of his donkey; they make it appear that medicine is concerned more with prolonging life

than with sustaining it, as they proceed to collect unnecessary fees.

Even more shocking is the fact that this concept of self-interest extends beyond the individual level to include the castration by larger nations of those who are not in a position to maintain themselves. We need look no further than the recent World Food Conference.

It was here that a food mismanagement was recognized and that something should be done about it, with Canada the only country to offer aid. Possibly to atone for the millions of eggs that were left to rot

while nations were left to starve?

But why should I worry about these problems, because after all, this is the Christmas season! You know — peace on earth, good will towards men. The time to forgive grudges and catch colds when buying presents for loved ones.

And if my conscience should emerge through all the mirth, there is always the corner Santa waiting to collect my loose change; one month a year, year after year.

So to you and yours, a pleasant and relaxing holiday season. And try not to choke on the Christmas bird if it happens to be crow.



Academic on ice delivers chilling story of dismissal

By DAVID URMAN

(REUTERS - Siberia) The following piece takes an in-depth look at the Ex-Professor, an academician who, through circumstances seemingly beyond his control, was bodily evicted from the faculty of his university.

The interview with Mr. X (not his real name) was conducted over a period of nine minutes in a small Siberian fishing village with a population of one — Mr. X.

INTERVIEWER: Mr. X, let me be blunt. What's a nice guy like you doing in a place like this?

MR. X: It all began on February 6, 1971. The president of the university called me into his office and said, "The board of governors, the student union, the liaison officer, the faculty, the students, the custodial staff and the community are very unhappy with your performance here. So I guess we'll have to call it quits."

I stood up to him and repeated the word "no" emphatically. "Then I guess we'll have to call it fired," he replied.

He walked toward three doors at the far end of his office and said, "X, you may be leaving us, but you're not walking away empty-handed. (pointing) Which door will it be? Door number one, door number two or door number three?"

I choose door number two. The president walked over to the door, pulled it off its hinges, and handed it to me.

INTERVIEWER: Just a door?

MR. X: No. He said the door was just a souvenir. He walked over to his bureau saying he had a better surprise for me. I couldn't walk over with him because the door weighed a ton.

"X," he said, "you're going on a trip. The faculty has graciously chipped in to buy two tickets. Which will it be: the ticket to the Arctic in a one-winged plane or a one-way ticket to Siberia?"

INTERVIEWER: You took the ticket to Siberia.

MR. X: Not at first. But he started pushing me toward an open window with that door in my hands. It was at that point I decided to take the trip here.

INTERVIEWER: How did it go?

MR. X: Everything went fine until the pilot and I ran into a bit of trouble with the Siberian bears.

INTERVIEWER: What kind of trouble?

MR. X: They ate the pilot.

INTERVIEWER: That's terrible. So you've been here all alone?

MR. X: No. The bears...

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh. How could this happen to such a distinguished professor?

MR. X: I guess they found out I couldn't teach.

INTERVIEWER: Then how — ?

MR. X: I gave a course on the Mating Habits of the Eastern Tern for three years, wrote an article on it for the university gazette, and was given tenure two days later. It was only later that they found out the reason none of my students protested was because nobody had enrolled in my course for any of the three years.

INTERVIEWER: That's terrible. So why did you keep at it for so long? And write an article to boot?

MR. X: Well, one good term deserves an author.

Apathetes issue timely greeting

The Supreme Insipid's message: Greetings fellow Apathetes, and welcome back to another hopefully unproductive year at York.

Holding to tradition, our Annual General Meeting took place a few months ago, on the 15th. I am afraid that I forgot to announce the date, time, or place of the meeting, but I'm sure no one is interested in that anyway. To all those that were able to not attend, my most hearty congratulations.

The annual recurrence of my activophobia forced me to be absent, but rumour has it that our "all time high record attendance" was smashed for the second year in a row. Apparently two janitors inadvertently walked into the otherwise vacant meeting room. I could have sworn that I locked the doors hours before the meeting.

Last year, our guest speaker, Ian Macdonald, now president of York, appeared before 347 empty seats to give a lecture on The Great Achievements of York Students. This year our scheduled guest speaker was Anne Scotton, CYSF president. She assured me before the meeting that with all her prior commitments she was sure to be absent.

The special surprise attraction this year was the disappearance of the famed Ralph Ashford, Excalibur columnist. Ralph phoned me the night before the meeting and asked if he could suddenly drop from sight at the meeting as an added attraction for the members.

Incidentally, we are currently hav-

ing a membership drive. I would like to take this opportunity to invite all those not interested in joining our ranks not to come out.

In closing, I would remind you of our motto, "Indifference is the key to happiness".

Uninspiringly Yours,
P.T. Puhl.

Discriminatory telephone policy alleged by Memorial U. council

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) - The Newfoundland Telephone Company is discriminating against students at Memorial University by charging as much as \$75 deposit when installing a telephone.

The Council of the Students' Union at Memorial has demanded that the installation cost of phones in new student residences be standardized at the regular \$6.00, with no additional deposit.

Some students were not charged any deposit, but those who were handed over amounts ranging from \$25 to \$75.

The deposit fee is left entirely to

the discretion of the individual sales representative of the company. More than one salesman handled business at the new residences.

The Council has requested that the company give a consistent statement of its policy, and stressed that any compulsory deposit fee for students is discriminatory.

On Campus
will return
on January 9

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Motel Room, 5 min. from hills 6 days skiing (5 day pass included) Charter Bus Toronto - Ste. Anne Breakfast & Dinner daily Transfers & Parties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brand new "Loves" hotel in Downtown Quebec (deluxe) all rooms with Color TV, bar Outdoor Swimming Pool (heated) Breakfast daily 5 days tows included Charter Bus, etc.
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