

# editorial

"I don't like Frank Miller. I think he's got an image like a dead toad."  
—Christine Sequeira, 1985

## York plan must be some kind of joke

This may be the last *Excalibur* you ever read.

Yesterday, former York president H. Ian Macdonald came to the *Excalibur* office with the most important, and possibly the last, news we will ever print. Unfortunately, the people behind this news story, the wealthy corporate moguls that sit on the university's Board of Governor's, have already been informed of Macdonald's visit and are threatening to take away the newspaper's office space. Of course, with no office to work out of, there is no *Excalibur*.

The story Macdonald told us is staggering in its implications—almost unbelievable, in fact—but the former president has the documentation to back up his claims.

Simply put, Macdonald predicts that if the much-vaunted Lapp Report is brought to fruition, York University will be transformed over the next 10 years into a festering, polluted cesspool of factories, office buildings and sweat shops, an industrial playground for the capitalists of the aptly-named BOG.

The report, eagerly endorsed by current York president Harry Arthurs, the BOG, and the provincial government, purports to be a development plan to embellish the university with revenue-generating, non-academic buildings, but in reality it is the last stage of an operation designed to take the university out of the hands of students and faculty, and into those of York's wealthy 'benefactors.'

While the Lapp Report's authors claim they are open for bids to all Canadian and some international corporations, in reality the companies that will be leased land at York have already been chosen. And after seeing the confidential plans given to us by Macdonald, it comes as no surprise that every corporation chosen is represented by a member of the BOG.

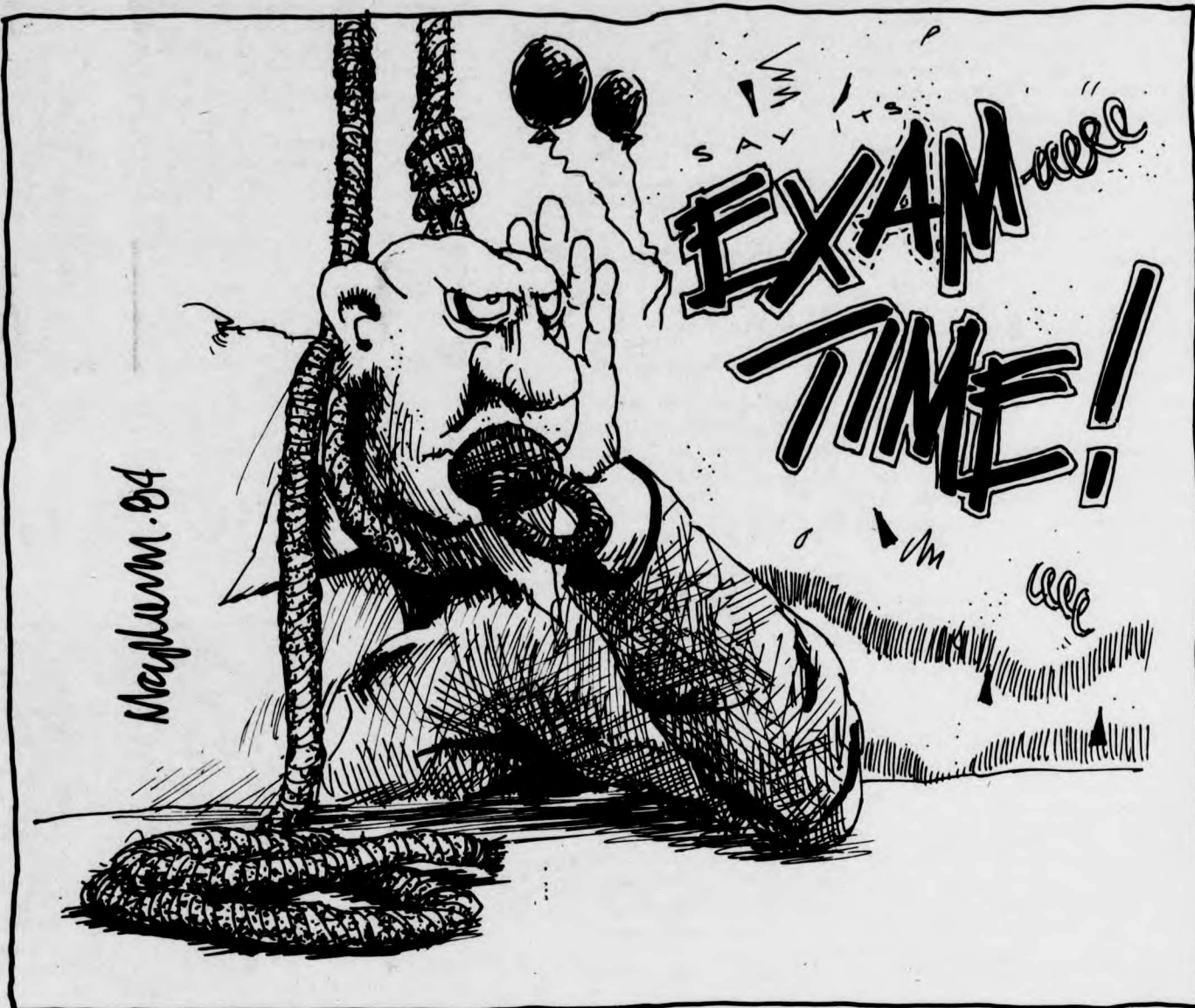
Sonja Bata sits on the Board, and the plans are already drawn up for a Bata Shoes production factory. Vice-President of Imperial Oil and Esso Chemical Canada, John Akitt, joined the Board last year, and will bring with him an extension of the Esso refinery that now defiles the land opposite the campus on Keele Street.

There are others as well: An Eaton's warehouse-wholesaling outlet from BOG member John Eaton; an auto parts factory brought in by Roy Bennett, former president of Ford Canada, and even a processing plant for McDonald's Restaurants of Canada, the brainchild of George A. Cohon, President and Director of the Canadian Big Mac Empire.

The instigators of this bizarre corporate scheme must be stopped if York is to remain a viable academic institution, and it is up to the students and faculty to do so. We urge you to organize, to protest, and above all, call CYSF President Chris Summerhayes at 667-2515 to let them know of your concerns. CYSF must play an active, aggressive role in the fight against this ridiculous and dangerous conspiracy.

Forget the Bovey Commission, forget underfunding; the real battle for university autonomy will be fought here, at York.

Oh, by the way, you've been had. Happy April Fool's!



## letters

### Gomme clarifies course outline

Editor:

I would like to offer a response to your publication last week of a letter to Professor Turriffin (Chair, Sociology) in which some criticism is levelled at the course description which I wrote for AS/SOC 1221.06C (Conformity and Deviance) and which appears in the Sociology department's supplemental calendar for 1985-1986.

First and foremost, given the contents of the petition, I would like to state unequivocally my personal commitment to the reduction of inequality in society and to the elimination of discrimination against disadvantaged social segments.

My course description for Conformity and Deviance is lengthy (52 lines of text) and detailed. Its purpose is to permit students to make more informed choices from among the several sections of this course to be offered in 1985-1986.

The petition addressed to Professor Turriffin and published by your paper contains a brief quote from my calendar description. However, about 45 lines of text are omitted. Further, the first two sentences quote an entire paragraph (20 lines of text). These 20 lines contain a discussion of the substance of the lectures and seminars to be conducted next year in my section of Conformity and Deviance. In this omitted paragraph, I point out that stress fails 1) upon defining deviance, 2) upon methods of data collection, 3) upon major social correlates of deviance, 4) upon major sociological theories, and finally 5) upon specific theories of deviance. To better establish context, I think it is useful to quote, in their entirety, both the last sentence of this "theory and methods" paragraph and paragraph following it which contains the words "the stuff of which scintillating party conversations are made."

*Throughout discussions of research on deviance, methodological topics including levels of measurement, reliability and validity, criteria of causality, use of control groups and statistical controls, sampling, data analysis (tabular, correlation, and regression), etc., will be introduced and explained.*

*While all of this may sound quite technical, and is in a way, it is the stuff of which scintillating party conversations*

*are made. It is my contention that a knowledge of these theoretical orientations and methodological techniques will leave you in a position to think more logically and hence more critically about a variety of social issues and behaviors.*

*The "stuff of which scintillating party conversations are made" was meant to refer to the paragraph on theory and methods which immediately precedes it and not to the "unique" and the "unusual" as is suggested in the edited quotation appearing in the letter to Professor Turriffin.*

*The terms used in the first sentence quoted in the petition are not intended to be pejorative. Placement of the words "unique" and "unusual" in parentheses is meant to signal the fact that the social worlds of so called deviants are not really exotic as individual preconceptions often might suggest. The course is designed to, among other things, point this out.*

*I am hopeful that my response provides some clarification of the meaning intended in my outline. I was not contacted by those organizing the petition nor was I made aware in advance of its submission for publication to a variety of media sources. I thank Excalibur for the effort to contact me and for the opportunity to submit this note.*

—Ian M. Gomme  
Assistant Professor

### No terrorism in Toronto

Editor:

On April 2, 1984, I witnessed a terrorist attack in the heart of downtown Jerusalem. Like the other three attacks that occurred while I spent the year studying in Jerusalem, the victims were always innocent citizens, often tourists.

It is truly disheartening that only a year later the personal security and existence of fellow citizens are again being threatened by terrorists. The insecurity that is being experienced by fellow Torontonians is all too common in Israel.

From an early age children are trained to be suspicious of any object that has been left alone in a public place. The phenomenon of being sent out of a bus station or a shopping mall because an unaccompanied object had to be checked is a common feature of life in Israel.

The differences between the event I experienced a year ago and what is presently occurring in Toronto are crucial, but it is the similarities which I wish to briefly discuss. First and foremost, the innocent victims of these attacks are usually ignorant of all the facts surrounding the plight of the peoples of whom these terrorists claim to be liberators.

Though the Armenian plight has recently been given a fairly large share of Canadian news, it is my belief that Canadians will object to Canadian interference into a situation that, in fact, has true legitimacy, only because of their insistence that Canada should not be coerced into any action as a result of violence.

In Israel, the same position is largely held by the Jewish population; once the leadership of the Palestinian Arab refugees shows its willingness to negotiate with Israeli leaders and cease violent attacks on innocent citizens, the population will feel compelled to deal with the refugee problem.

Another common denominator between these two events is the dissension among the two peoples that is caused by these events. A year ago, Yasser Arafat, the so-called 'moderate' Palestinian leader, gave his unqualified support to the attack. Yet, some of my fellow students from the Arab community were quick to denounce the terrorist action. The Canadian Armenian community at large does not support the actions of their terrorist brothers.

The loss of innocent lives for a dilemma is inexcusable. When the Palestinian and Armenian "liberators" discover that their *modus operandi* is primitive and ineffective in the Western world, a major step will be made toward a negotiated peace.

Lenny Baranek

### Stuart Scott hits the spot

Editor:

I am writing in response to Stuart Scott Goldberg's column entitled "In My Humble Opinion," March 28. If you will Mr. Goldberg, please allow me to share your opinion regarding making a career decision based on desire rather than strictly on financial security. I know many people who are unhappy with their chosen career simply because they

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