

## PAGE 5

A forum for comment and reaction, PAGE FIVE does not necessarily reflect the editorial position of EXCALIBUR. Columns, comments, and cartoons are welcomed, from any organization at York.

# People are starving in Biafra - what are you doing about it ?

By Larry Goldstein  
and Stuart P. Hertzog

Your Age of Innocence is over. Soon you are to be confronted with the agony of knowledge. You're going to be responsible for your own sins. They don't belong to your fathers any more. That is what learning is all about.

By the time you read this, some men will have been on campus and will have talked at length and most earnestly about the situation in Biafra. They will have proved irrefutably that a policy of genocide is being pursued by the Nigerian government. They will have been sincere, quiet and competent. The

students will have listened respectfully. Perhaps some money will have been raised. Perhaps a campus committee will have been formed to End the Slaughter in Viet Nam . . . oops, sorry, Biafra.

Now you will have felt better. You've done your bit. You will have sat and drunk tea while children were being starved to death. But you'll have done something. You'll have been "talking" about the situation and that's the first step towards a solution. That's the correct way.

But you should know that there's a real solution.

Our external affairs minister, Mitchell Sharp, when questioned about the situation referred to it 2 or 3 times as "a terrible trag-

edy". We can intellectually understand how he feels.

When hundreds of human beings are being starved to death daily, is it not a "terrible tragedy"? Therefore no one can deny that our government leaders don't know a terrible tragedy when they see one.

That brings us to the question of what's he doing about it.

The answer of course is just about nothing. He sent a letter to U Thant asking what Canada could do. Beautiful. We are, after all, civilized animals.

We could, as a sovereign state, do certain things. We could at the very least send a stiff note of protest to Britain expressing our disgust; that in the face of all the evidence of genocide, she

continues to supply the murderers with arms. Not that it would do any good, mind, but it would be a first step.

The second step is even more positive. We would serve notice to the federal govt. of Nigeria that tomorrow at 6:00 a.m. Canadian Forces planes will begin flying foodstuffs into the beleaguered areas. The men, the planes and the money are there and available.

If the Nigerians start shooting, we will defend ourselves. It is very simple and clean. It would earn the enmity of the Federal govt. and maybe other African states. But it would save lives.

When people, human beings, women and men, boys and girls

are being methodically starved to death, there is almost no political consideration that can outweigh their relief. Western civilization has intervened countless times to protect interests when profit was to be gained. Surely it is not too much to ask our govt. to intervene to save lives.

Sorry, I lost my head for a moment. Of course we won't intervene. I think I'll write a letter anyway and beg to get some positive action going. But the officials will look at it as if it is a piece of shit. One distinguishing feature of officialdom is that they have a strange sense of what's obscene.

Ah yes, my friends, our Age of Innocence is truly over. Our Age of Shame is fully upon us.

## Really ?

York's chief of police got a parking ticket. Last week some dauntless campus cop ticketed security chief C. M. Becksted for not having a parking sticker on his windshield.

Justice is blind after all. Tuesday some hapless faculty member had his 1965 Parisienne impounded and towed away by campus cops for not paying last year's parking tickets.

## More letters

### EXCALIBUR MISDIRECTED

Dear Sirs;

In reference to your editorial of September 19 -

It is comforting to know that the student newspaper of York University can afford to adopt as blase and superior an attitude as was shown on your editorial page.

Excalibur, while continually berating York students for their lack of concern about anything, half-heartedly condemns as "not so silly" Glendon student leaders' attempt at academic reform, because, according to Excalibur, they failed.

You reproach the Ad-hoc Committee for the YSC because they tried to explain an issue to first year students who are, after all, too confused, too backward and too inexperienced to understand any issue (but who, however, constitute close to half the readers of Excalibur).

The Ad-hoc Committee was not supporting the present members of YSC, but the concept of a campus-wide student union, (the existence of which they felt was threatened by the decision of the Board of Governors to channel YSC money through the colleges)

The Ad-hoc Committee would hope that perhaps some day the YSC would be an instrument of change in the university. To reinforce the YSC's bargaining position with the Board, the Committee tried to inform students of what was happening, to get signatures in support of direct taxation for YSC (as had been previously decided by students), and perhaps to dissuade some students from paying full fees.

One would expect Excalibur to show a more constructive interest in the attempts of concerned students who were trying to inform other students of what they

felt to be an arbitrary action.

Yes, Excalibur, criticize. But find out first what you are criticizing and try to offer your "apathetic" readers, even those in first year, some positive directive for action.

Marilynne Glick  
Political Science II

### COOTIE HALL

As found on a faculty notice-board

Re: Temporary Office Building, Butler Building, Cootie Hall, Cow Palace, Johnny-On-The-Spot, etc.

In regards to Mr. Small's letter of August 8, 1968, concerning the various facetious names which have been applied to the Temporary Office Building, I would request that all personnel comply with his request that correspondence be clearly designated as destined for such.

However, staff members are also requested to add to such designation the facetious name of their choice, in order to make clear the fact that the Cow Barn is an eyesore, does not conform to the high standard of architecture which has in other instances been attained on York Campus, is inconveniently located and in general is a monument of the lack of co-ordinated planning for adequate office space. This form of protest is considered a healthy outlet for Staff Frustrations and has been approved by the Department of Psychological Services.

A generous sample of appropriate facetious names is located at the top of the page for your convenience, but creativity is encouraged and there will be a prize at the end of the month for the Department which comes up with the most appropriate "facetious name."

A. S. Smell, Vice-President  
(Appropriate Names for Buildings and Staff Morale).

## CUS' Loney - Salvation or Damnation?

by George B. Orr

Being good university students, and having paid your fees, chances are pretty good that you, along with all other York-types, are members of the Canadian Union of Students.

Now, CUS, at its latest conference to keep the masses informed, elected one Martin Loney to become your next president.

From public, corporate, and student reaction, his election could be either the best of all possible worlds to the student, or it could signal a nation-wide crack-down on the expressions and realizations of student aims, for a long time to come. Martin Loney is a radical with a cause, one for which he is willing to fight on our behalf.

Loney, president-elect of CUS, received his Bachelor's degree in England, at Durham.

He confesses, in his press release, to be "very active as a student and as a stimulus for other students in the National Union of Students in England, and various labor organizations there."

Since he has come to Canada, he has engaged himself in much the same endeavors, and has earned quite a name for himself.

To listen to him talk, it becomes immediately apparent that he is one of these types who wants to change the world of the student overnight, and the world outside the campus within the next month and a half.

He is, as you might have guessed, a rebel.

Originally, his cry was in aid of the poor students of Simon Fraser University, but in his wisdom, he has perceived that all we toilers carry too heavy a load.

Therefore, he has risen right to the top, and is now the most vocal, and perhaps the most articulate student activist in Canada.

According to him, we are the oppressed, and they, those filthy capitalists, are the oppressors. Something like students being niggers in a northern atmosphere.

Governments go out of their way to cheat him. "(In B.C.) we spend 25 of our provincial budget on education and the rest apparently on building hydro-dams to sell cheap electricity to the United States."

This obviously results from the fact that those big mean men who have the imagination and time to build universities are "exclusively representatives of the legal profession and big business." Therefore they are out to train the student in their nasty fields.

One basic tenet of his philosophy is the differentiation between the 'people' and the 'big businessmen' in university affairs.

In the new setup he envisages for university education, those tycoons will be completely eliminated from the picture, and will thus be forced back to their moneybags to leave the students alone.

Then, to administer the affairs of the university, a truly competent board of governors will be chosen, made up so that "a faculty of students have the majority control, in which the people . . . are represented by the people, and not by the big businessmen."

As well, he wants representatives from local teachers' federations and labor groups.

Loney raves on about people-oriented courses, with the usual verbiage about the demands and rigors of standardized courses with technical discipline inherent in them. He feels that courses should only concern those things of immediate interest to the majority of students.

Unfortunately, Loney has failed to ask the most obvious of questions:

Who will hire highly imaginative but highly untrained students in today's world?

What corporations will continue to endow institutions that run counter to these corporations' ideals?

In other words, how can a non-capitalist educational institution seek to serve a capitalist society?

Mind you, there are alternatives that Loney choose to ignore in his discussions. Non-degree colleges are filled to overflow; look at Rochdale College. And those hard-nosed tycoon types even pay out to keep Rochdale going.

But they won't hire the average Rochdale grad, simply because there is no assurance implicit in his degree that this student is willing to submit to any discipline.

Whether you appreciate his ideals and ambitious or not, you have little say in what he does now.

Unless he is in one way or another prevented from taking office, he could very possibly drag the university process through the mud behind him until he is stopped.

And how does one go about stopping this kind of fanatic? In fact, why should one be concerned about him at all?

Well, if you don't care, chances are he will at least try to close every university in Canada this year. That could mean no degrees granted. It could mean a lot of other surprises for you in addition.