

# 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.

## Osgoode professor decries foreigners

Sir:  
In the Jan. 8th version of the EXCALIBUR there was an excellent story about the problems of the Americanization of the Canadian university. I for one would like to add my voice to those who question the recent influx of American and undesirable foreigners into Canada.

The EXCALIBUR article did not mention the Osgoode Hall Law School, but this one venerable Canadian institution is also being besieged by foreigners. Academic freedom is one thing, but ideas are another. It is time to act.

However the target must be chosen carefully. It is not the foreigners who now teach that are the problem for they are small in number. Rather, it is the great number of foreigners who have flocked to our Canadian university as students.

Only one day last year I was sitting and fraternizing with students, as is my duty, and one of them mentioned in a foreign tone that he was just becoming a Canadian citizen. To my horror almost half the students then sitting at the table said that they were not Canadian citizens.

I did not talk anymore, but hastily retreated to my office to look at my class lists. Again, imagine my horror when I found that well over 50 per cent of my students had non-Canadian names. This was based on a rough analysis of the sound and length of various names, but then anyone knows that Garafolo, Wyzanski, and Cohen are not Canadian names.

These foreign students may be interested in the problems of Canada and Toronto, they may want to become citizens, they may be criminals in their own lands, but what of the Canadian identity? Do we want Canada to become a land of immigrants?

Let me repeat: in the leading Canadian law school, I was able to discover that a full 50 per cent of the parents of the law students were not born in Canada, that a full 30 per cent of the law students had not started their grammar school education in Canada, and that 90 per cent of the students had some ancestral linkage to a country other than Canada.

This must stop! Percentages must be made for the foreign born, those with foreign ancestors, and for those with foreign names.

Let me also suggest an end to other foreign influences. Down with Kensington Market! Let's not have our Canadian women tempted by foreign salamis and cheeses. Down with Chinese restaurants and Kosher kitchens! Let's ban all American-made and designed cars. There's nothing so Canadian as a horse. Also, let's do away with all those foreign ideas: civil rights and due process and student power and... "non-negotiable" demands. "Non-negotiable" demands, now there's something as American as raisin pie.

Mark Gidell Aron,  
Professor of Law

## Misplaced priorities: and a modest proposal

Two issues on York campus concern us. First and foremost is the situation facing the library and the attrition rate of books; rumour has it that annual losses from the library are running to 10 per cent of the total inventory of literature. This is a serious problem.

Second is the increasing hysteria over parking control on campus. A Gestapo-like hard line is being adopted by the parking control people who appear to be unable to face the fact that most York community members properly regard parking as an inalienable right.

It seems to us that if as much effort were spent in solving the library problem as has been directed toward The Final Solution of the Parking Question we would have fewer problems in the library.

Surely this is a serious misplacement of priorities for who would question that the university's major concern ought to be with its major resource — the library?

It must be acknowledged that those who use the parking facilities of York belong to the university community. Those who wish to park cars are not housewives from Etobicoke who then scuttle over to Keele and Finch to do their shopping. Those who park have legitimate business at the university and, for the most part, have no other alternative but to drive here. Therefore, it seems reasonable to provide parking space.

The enormous expenditure of money and

time to collect 25 cents from non-permit holders must be far greater than the cost of vopos and 'automated' control systems which do not work.

Let's scrap all the effort (permits, passes, tickets et al) completely except to designate which areas are strictly 'No Parking' — determined by some rational procedure related to fire access routes, etc., and tow away and destroy any car which is illegally parked in those areas. Overnight, that problem will be solved and all the tension eliminated.

Then, let us take the effort formerly directed to parking and apply it to the library problem. Here is our Modest Proposal:

1. Beef up the computer control system by applying the coded-impulse system being adopted by some department stores. With this system an impulse can be implanted on an item, in this case books, which, if not cleared by the computer will activate a warning when the book is taken out of the library. Tied into the student card system this should be an effective counter-measure.

2. Microfilm all journals and periodicals, combine the microfilm system with a Xerox system similar to the pay-as-you-print system which now exists. Deny everybody take-out privileges for journals and periodicals.

3. After cutting off the right hand, expel forever from the university anyone who steals a book from the library. This goes for deans, professors, graduate students and undergraduates (also presidents).

4. In the meantime, declare a library amnesty on all overdue books. This has been done in other library systems with great success. It works like this: declare an amnesty period of one or two weeks during which time any overdue book can be returned with no penalties and no questions asked. Return rates have been phenomenally high where this has been done.

The initial cost of the system described above will be high, of course. But we venture to say that the real cost will be far lower when applied to the high book attrition rate and the misdirected efforts at parking control.

Yours for rational law and order.

Stuart Marwick,  
College E 2;  
Charles Matthews,  
Founders 3.

## Canadian awareness is now a necessity

Sir:  
I was very interested in your issue of Jan. 8 about the lack of sufficient Canadian content in York courses. I am glad to know that the students are concerned with this problem. I am also very glad to read that the department of political science has adopted a double file policy for new appointments to their department. I hope other departments in the social sciences and humanities, including my own, will follow suit.

Although I don't believe that too much self-consciousness around the issue of national identity is especially desirable, I think that when that identity seems to be threatened, as is now the case, a new kind of self-awareness becomes essential for every Canadian, and especially for teachers.

Cultural attitudes are intangible, but they do exist, and they are reflected in our painting and literature as well as in the other areas you enumerate, in ways that can be examined and discussed. I don't think we need specific courses such as you enumerate on page 6; surely the themes you mention can be — if they are not already — incorporated in courses which are already being taught?

I know that I try to deal with many of the issues which you name in the courses that I teach, and although I speak unofficially and only for myself, I am sure that my colleagues who teach Canadian literature and Canadian culture do the same.

But, I agree with you that still more needs to be done and can be done in the area of Canadian studies in the university. And it ought to be done with sensitivity, conviction, and scholarship.

Miriam Waddington,  
associate professor,  
department of English

## Reader laments answering of letters

Sir:  
I really feel I must protest your lamentable policy of commenting



editorially, at length, on contributions with which you do not agree, especially in the "Letters to the Editor" column.

One particularly glaring example is your treatment of Thelma McCormack's letter in the Jan. 15 issue. Your comments are fully half as long as the letter itself.

This treatment of contributions, in order that you may always have the last word, is taking grossly unfair advantage of your very privileged position as editor. I note that the same treatment has been accorded the contribution from the York Green Committee (with which, incidentally, I am not connected) on P. 7 of the same issue.

Now, of course, you may say (your comments, no doubt, appearing immediately below the letter) that it is possible for the contributor so treated to write a further letter in reply.

In that case, you might again use your privileged position to append comments to the further contribution. By the same token, you may use your position to cut off debate at any time you choose, not by refusing to print an unsolicited contribution (which you are pledged not to do) but simply by refusing to reply when you think a debate has gone far enough.

You claim that you welcome contributions from members of the university. Your present policy, in fact, discourages such contributions. Prospective contributors are understandably wary of involving themselves in an I-thou dialogue in which "thou" holds all the aces. Why not try printing letters such as Prof. McCormack's without editorial back-chat and invite replies from other interested people?

David A. Kirshenblat,  
McLaughlin 1

## Flaming democrats and the presidency

It was rather amusing to find out that Dean A. D. Allen of U of T has withdrawn from the race for the presidency of York University "because he opposed the presidential selection procedure."

I suppose the credulous and gullible public is expected to believe such ruse and proclaim the dean a "flaming democrat".

As to the withdrawal of Dean J. T. Saywell because of "rumours...slanders...accusations", it would appear that the virgin dean is not only alien to such a tradition, but he has been the victim of something unCanadian. Poor Saywell, Child of the North, Strong and Free.

No, gentlemen! Such academic sophistry will not do, especially since both of you are available for an American kind of draft.

Then what impelled such faithful academic servants not to contest the presidency of York? Surely they have no compunctions about oligarchy since they were coopted by it and ascended to the apex through its apparatus. Is it perhaps because they fear disclosure and iden-

tification of who is promoting whom or is it because the myth of sacrificing scholarship is being exploded in a power game?

Secondly, the real reason these nominees withdrew relates much more to the impending struggle for Canadianizing York than the alleged disagreement with the primacy of the board of governors.

York is the prototype of the "branch plant" university where American "proconsuls" occupy the loci of power and determine who shall be coopted into the academic guild. Since the imperial stamp is essential and the proconsuls brought along their own entourage and clients, a significant number of people at York and elsewhere are terribly upset, and a revolt is likely to erupt soon.

Moreover, to rectify this academic colonialism, efforts to recruit the apprentices of the proconsuls and the part of a few eviscerated Canadians are being made. Such gestures of the totalitarian liberal ideology of "value-free" scholarship is not likely to appease anyone other than vacillating liberals.

Thirdly, since the U of T faculty refused to concede any guild prerogatives last month, it cannot be assumed that Dean Allen, their titular head, who remained silent, is a flaming democrat who desires to share power equally with other university constituents.

And since Dean Saywell has "served" for a decade at York, it cannot be affirmed that he has been a crusading advocate for a "preponderant voice" for the faculty and students in decision-making at his plant.

The sad fact is that York was created not to educate but to mold Canadians and to produce recruits to serve in the imperial civil service and provide employment for symbol manipulators from the American Empire itself.

If the Canadian people ever find out that two York political science teachers who cost York approximately a hundred thousand dollars see only eight students, they would demand an investigation; but if they find out what is done at York and elsewhere in the name of "education" they would close them down, if not burn the deans, presidents and board chairmen at the stake.

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