

Cruise testing at York

By KEN KABUKI

Shock, despair, glee, and apathy greeted the announcement this week that York University has undertaken contracts to work with the American Cruise Missile Testing and Development Programme. Excalibur's Ken Kabuki spoke with York President Harry W. Arthurs about the implications and details surrounding the decision.

EXCALIBUR: What factor was behind the decision to participate in the Cruise program?

AUTHORS: Money. You have to sell a lot of eggs to put an egghead through school these days.

EXCALIBUR: But don't you feel that the money, coming from the American Industrial Military complex which is presently contributing to the misery and loss of millions of lives, if not the extinction of the planet, is unfit for use by an academic institution?

AUTHORS: No.

EXCALIBUR: But, to rephrase, isn't the money tainted?

AUTHORS: An accident of history. Twenty years ago, we were licking the American Army's boots for the chance to test LSD on mental patients at McGill University. Why should we get up off the floor now?

EXCALIBUR: But surely, in the span of 20 years, we've developed a slightly higher consciousness concerning the use of money from morally bankrupt sources.

AUTHORS: Horseshit. Do you think that the Space Arm wasn't made to snatch the balls off of Soviet Satellites? Money is the fruit of evil: our greatest philanthropists today were rum runners breaking the laws of two countries to peddle their Canadian wares during prohibition. When there's a dollar to be had, people forgive and forget very quickly.

EXCALIBUR: Why were you the only one to pursue this contract?

AUTHORS: Me? Heavens no. Every university in Canada has been wearing their kneepads thin trying to get the Cruise on Campus.

EXCALIBUR: Why was York chosen?

AUTHORS: Well, they've been experimenting with the Cruise in Alberta for years because of the similarity of that terrain to the Russian Steppes. It works. Now they need to see if the Cruise will work in Siberia.

EXCALIBUR: So, you're saying that York's weather conditions...

AUTHORS: In winter—exactly parallel those of Siberia. In fact, early Air-force reconnaissance flights over Canada suspected that the York campus was actually a northern prison camp. Imagine their surprise to find that people actually come here of their own free will.

EXCALIBUR: But aren't there more appropriate barren spaces in, say, Northern Ontario farming areas?

AUTHORS: Yes, but they needed the buildings. They have to test the

Cruise's ability to manoeuvre in city spaces. Which is another factor in the choice of the York site. With the exception of the Fine Arts Building, which is being demolished, the rest of York's architecture is very similar to that in Russia.

EXCALIBUR: How so?

AUTHORS: At almost every university the Army looked at, the architecture is beautiful and modern, reflecting enlightened taste in design. Fortunately, though, York has all these gloomy overbearing concrete monoliths, just like those Stalin constructed in the 1930s.

EXCALIBUR: You mentioned demolishing the glass-fronted Fine Arts Building. What will be put in its place?

AUTHORS: Nothing. We've delayed additions for years and now with Free Trade, it's inevitable that our culture will be getting it up the ass in a big way anyway. Dismantling Fine Arts is just part of the package.

EXCALIBUR: But what about those students presently pursuing their studies?

AUTHORS: Both they and their dependents will be well-provided for.

EXCALIBUR: Their dependents?

AUTHORS: It's part of the Cruise agreement. They wanted to make a film of the missile's effectiveness so, to save us the cost of demolishing the Fine Arts Building ourselves, it's been targeted.

EXCALIBUR: A nuclear explosion?

AUTHORS: During convocation. Just think of it—all those actors finally getting roles as extras in the greatest film of the century.

EXCALIBUR: But that's horrible!

AUTHORS: Horseshit. People have known for years that all this testing is going to lead to a big accident of some kind and nothing has been done about it. There's not much difference between paying taxes to support the Cruise work and actually pushing the button yourself. All we're doing here at York is taking the bull by the horns and showing some administrative and scientific leadership in helping the accident along for a little fun and profit. Who can have any objection to that?



SAME FACE, DIFFERENT NAME: It's bizarre, but ever since Sunday's sighting of a UFO, York President Harry Arthurs has changed his name and views.

Excalibur staff divided over union

By CHUCK CUNNINGHAM
(Ritchie's infamous brother)

Last week, *Excalibur*, York's community newspaper, became a unionized workplace in an extremely close vote. Final tallies indicate 125 for and 95 against with close to 50 absentions.

The struggle for unionization had been a long, hard-fought battle waged for over two hours. Leading the pro-unionization forces was arts writer Norman Wilner. Wilner came back from his caviar and vodka lunch and decided to organize a vote. Wilner said he would like to see *Excalibur* writers paid appropriately for the work they do. "Yeah, we want a 50% increase from our present wage," said Wilner. Editor James Flagal said he had no problems with that demand and even went as far as to offer a 100% increase.

In addition to the wage demand, Wilner has also suggested that windows be built into the offices of *Excalibur*. Flagal responded by saying that this was impossible, but promised some pictures of windows. In addition, Wilner argued for longer coffee breaks than workers have presently. Flagal agreed to this point as well.

The one snag in negotiations was the union's demand that scab labour that was hired during the two-hour strike should be fired now that the

strike is over. Flagal refused to do this, claiming that loyalty was owed to those "who came off of the square to help us out." This point became irrelevant when the union was decertified at 5:00.

David Dollard, five-time past-president of the Ayn Rand fan club, began efforts to decertify the union at four. Dollard claimed that the vote taken was not representative of all the workers at *Excalibur*.

Union officials charged that Dollard had a conflict of interest in the issue. *Excalibur* belongs to parent company Coca-Cola, and it is rumoured that Dollard has a big interest in the beverage manufacturer. Dollard responded by saying

he only had minor interest in the company. "I am involved in the Coca-Cola bottle return stock re-investment scheme," said Dollard.

Meanwhile the whole unionization process has left *Excalibur* ideologically divided. *Excalibur* sports editor James Hoggett refused to join the union because of its American influence. "This union wants to sponsor bus trips to Bills game; no way," said Hoggett.

In the arts and news departments, editors and writers indicated that they thought the union idea was good in its time, but like all ideas it could not keep up with the wants of an ever changing society.



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