

# Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity — Lord Acton

## It's now or never

For the second time this year a Canadian professor has been refused permission to teach Canadian content at this campus.

By speaking out against Americanization at York Roma Standefer has quite literally put her academic career on the line. (They're already pressuring her heavily.) She has taken the irreversible step of challenging the seemingly impenetrable U.S. fortress that is the York sociology department. And they will smash her, make no mistake about that. After all, just look at the attitude that is presently running rampant in that department:

For two years now, EXCALIBUR and others have documented the lack of Canadian professors and content in the department. Then along comes Roma who offers to teach some Canadian material. What is the reaction? Gustav Thaiss, a heavy in the department, has the gall to suggest that people in sociology don't want to go "overboard" on Canadian content. What do these people think we are, a bunch of colonized morons; we've seen the evidence. "Overboard," indeed!

Roma, of course, is reacting to "the emotionalism of Canadian content," according to Thaiss. This is the crowning imperial touch. This poor Canadian whom they tolerate (white man's burden) in the department is nothing more than a foolish emotional child, but, no doubt, like most colonials she will return to the fold as soon as she learns the errors of her parochial ways.

Such contempt! Our hopes, our feelings, our national aspirations — all these are little more than "emotionalisms" to be contemptuously tossed aside.

But the joke is on us, for how timid we must seem to them that they will say such things straight to our faces — in our own country, yet! We've all been taken for fools.

These guys haven't budged all year and now with a few weeks left they're off to the races laughing.

Well, just how much do those "struggle for Canada" and "keep it Canadian" buttons some of us wear really mean to us? A Canadian professor has just put her career on the line. We at EXCALIBUR plead with our fellow students — our fellow Canadians — to rally beside her. No Canadian should have to stand alone in this struggle. And if we don't help her, who the hell will?

EXCALIBUR is asking all concerned students to drop into the office as soon as possible so we can get together to develop and co-ordinate a strategy for action — and we mean action; we've been sounding off all year and not one word has sunk in with these people.

EXCALIBUR is backing Roma all the way, but despite our apparent big mouth, we're only a handful of individuals; it's not enough, but if we do have to go it alone, we will. And if that means we get smashed right along-side her, then so be it. We couldn't go down in better company.

## Letters to the Editor

### Ignorant bastards

I have just come from the Reserve Section of the library. I was attempting to study there, as were several other students. But, a few others obviously didn't think that the Reserve Room was a place for quiet study.

They thought it was a place to gather socially and talk in loud voices!

Well I got news for you ignorant bastards. It bloody well is not supposed to be a social place. This whole university is filled with social places. The library does not happen to be one of them. So find some other place to talk and permit the rest of us the quiet we so desperately need in this noisy, disorientated institution.

Lydia Oleksyn  
Founders III

### Liberated bomb

The Group for Liberated Learning spent reading week living in various lounges and classrooms in Stong College. They were supposed to officially decide their goals and the means to achieve them. Their goal is evident from the group's name, although what exactly is meant by liberated education was elusive ranging from no classes or any type of structure whatever to picking the minds of invited lecturers who would be invited at the groups disposal. This is not too bad as far as ideas go. What was shocking however was the discussions on the means. You can see for yourself what I mean from the following.

The group invited a number of speakers, some prominent university professors. An example of one was a political science prof. Asked in what way they could reach their goals, he answered that the best way would be to first come up with a brilliant idea and then publicize it in such a paper as the *Excalibur*. If there is anything in the idea it will start people moving to back it up especially if some of those people are influential members of the university community.

A grad student at York for the first year, organizer of this group, perhaps not realizing the set-up of this university, proceeded on discussing the present university system, asking in an aggravating manner questions almost in the form of demands, such as "Why not have students have a say in faculty appointments?" This prompted the quick reply that, at least in the political-science department, we do.



Q. Why does the sociology department have the lowest percentage of Canadians (17.6) and the highest percentage of Americans (47.1) of any department?

A. The reason we have so many American professors is because there aren't enough qualified Canadians.



Q. Why aren't there enough qualified Canadians?

A. Well, very few undergraduates are enrolling in the four year honours programme in sociology.



Q. Why aren't more Canadian students enrolling in the four year programme?

A. Because much of the content in our department is not oriented towards Canada and students don't find it relevant.



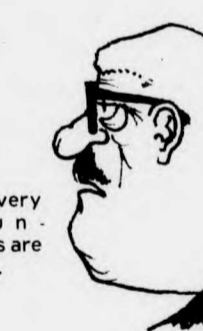
Q. Why are courses not oriented towards Canada?

A. Because we have so many American professors and so few Canadians.



Q. Why are there so few Canadians?

A. Well, very few undergraduates are enrolling...



Ross  
Excalibur.

Another statement by this prof. on fighting the system, on exploiting it to a group's advantage, was twisted by the group's organizer to "destroy the system..."

Perhaps the organizer's intentions aren't exactly what he shows them to be. Instead of promoting the group's cause, a cause which admittedly demands some consideration, he aggravates the matter with statements which promote conflict. Instead of gaining this prof's favour and influence, since he seemed sympathetic to the cause shown by the fact that he came to speak and answer the group's questions almost wholly on his own initiative, the group attacked him (verbally). Instead of acknowledging the prof's suggestions of how to effectively promote their cause, to have it accepted on an experimental basis, the group's leader seemed unable to settle for anything except, and this is the impression he gave, a full confrontation between students and administration in the riot-strike style typical in the U.S.

Words and ideas mentioned, hopefully in jest, during the rest of the week were: occupation of faculty and administrative offices, forced liberation, beat their heads, take-over Stong College, arm the students, attack, etc.

Is this promotion of an experiment in education or the advocacy of the disruption of the university?

C. Chichiarelli  
Mac II

### Staff Meeting

Thursday 2 P.M.

Please Come

## Excalibur

The York University Weekly

### EDITOR

BOB ROTH  
MANAGING EDITOR  
TIM CLARK

NEWS EDITORS  
Barry Lerner, David Chud

### NEWS

Brian Milner, John Livingston, Rob Barlow, Anna-Maria Kovacs, Paul Thompson, Mike Savage, Wendy Dennis Shelli Hunter, Manny Masongson, Jim Smith, Rhonda Rovon, Les Durkin, Ivan Fenton, Brenda Gray

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Tim Clark, Harry Kitz, Dave Cooper, Sandy Cormack

### ENTERTAINMENT EDITORS

Brian Pearl, John Oughton

### ENTERTAINMENT

Pat Kutney, Steve Geller, Dan Merkur, Steve Davey

### SPORTS

Tim Clark, Rob Rowland, Phil Cranley, Ivan Bern, Paul White

### GRAPHICS

John Rose

### LAYOUT

Louise Paradis

### BUSINESS AND ADVERTISING MANAGER

Rolly Stroeter

### ADVERTISING

Leo Smits, Jackie Stroeter

### TELEPHONE:

editorial phone: 635-3201, 3202  
advertising phone: 635-3800  
controlled circulation: 15,000

Excalibur, founded in 1966, is the York University weekly and is independent politically. Opinions expressed are the writer's and those unsigned are the responsibility of the editor. Excalibur is a member of Canadian University Press and attempts to be an agent of social change. Printed at Newsweb, Excalibur is published by Excalibur Publications under the auspices of the Council of the York Student Federation. Office: Central Square (southeast corner), Ross Building, York University, 4700 Keele St., Downsview, Ontario.