

Excalibur

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

Lest we forget

Unless you've walked by the long grey rows of cement slabs with the familiar maple leaf, then Remembrance Day doesn't really mean very much to you. Unless you've walked those rows and had the incessant chant of Flanders Fields ripple tears down the cheeks, then national emotionalism really doesn't mean very much either.

That's the problem with Nov. 11 — it really doesn't mean a great deal to anybody under 30. For the military, it's another time for laying wreaths and damning the cynics; for the oppressed minorities of the past, it's for remembering the incinerated and hating the reincarnates of hate. But for most people under 30, it's all a piece of history that embarrasses friendships and clouds solid reasoning.

Perhaps it is the cynic who laughs at old fogies that provides the best illumination of all: he knows, that for all of man's rhetoric, good intentions and international platitudes, he really hasn't changed one iota.

Balances of power may have changed, but not man or his ideology.

Nations today still follow the principles of good business. After all, it's the most logical one, national political leaders are prone to say. It kept Canadian oil flowing to Mussolini's Ethiopian War Machine until he got his own; and it kept Canadian nickel flowing into Nazi War Machine until Hitler had enough stockpiled to last his tanks the rest of the war. We won't count the number of Canadians that now lie dead because of it.

And so the same businessman that damns the cynic for lack of reverence is soon caught up in the hypocrisy of his supposed piety.

He'll defend to the hilt the right to trade with South Africa whose apartheid policies are no better than Hitler's Jewish internment program before the war, because after all, good business means good political relations means...

Man really hasn't learned anything from experience. With the nuclear



deterrent, he can't throw large nations into war so he sponsors conventional wars, in smaller countries.

And now Canada supplies the U.S. with war material for Vietnam. It maintains

International Control Commission. Its diplomats run blind errands for the United States.

And it goes on...

Lest we forget, why don't we learn.

Committee needed to examine every new hiring

It was with some anticipation that we awaited York's latest figures on the nationality of its faculty. We expected no dramatic changes in the number of Canadians hired. After all, York president David Slater did warn us all in his May convocation address not to expect any miracles.

But to see that York continues to hire non-Canadians at the same astounding rate that it has in the past is really beyond words to try and describe.

The figures prepared for York's brief to the Committee on University Affairs were made to fit the needs of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The humanities — English, English literature, history, philosophy and linguistics — are in the worst condition

with 48 per cent Canadian faculty. But the social sciences — economics, geography, political science, psychology, social science and sociology are really not much better at 55 per cent. And the pure and applied sciences at 55 per cent.

The entire set of figures makes one thing perfectly clear: York is in sick, sick shape. No other university in Ontario, no other set of so-called intellectuals, no other social group in Canada except hard-nosed businessmen out for a profit could allow themselves to be taken over by Americans.

Like branch plants from American industries, we too have our American managers to handle departments and not too surprisingly they've imported good old American know-how. And, like the upper echelons of government, dean of arts John Saywell has so far responded to the line that imported capital is good for Canada. After all, there was a terrific shortage of social science graduates from Canadian universities and relevance to the Canadian fact wasn't the most important criterion for teaching, said the dean some time ago. (We say "some time ago" because Saywell doesn't

make it much of a habit to communicate down to first floor these days.)

Most York students by now have a taste of non-Canadian professors and some of their complete lack of relevance to Canadian material. It's rather nice to perpetuate the smug myth that Canada has no problems but most people would agree that that was shattered some time ago. Even the illustrious John Saywell has come out with another book on our latest major crisis, the October crisis last year.

Every year, the House of Commons committees recommend that Canada pass 51 or 75 percent ownership clauses of Canadian business to guarantee some sort of Canadian autonomy. The Science Council warns that more branch plant industries mean more unemployment for Canadians.

And finally Doug Wright puts it rather succinctly for the Ontario government: what's the sense of pouring all this money into graduate work if Ontario universities won't hire their own products?

Yet in May, Slater said "Hire Canadian".

Few have received the message.

We agree with Atkinson professor Ian

Lumsden: the time has come to establish a committee to review every possible appointment of a non-Canadian made by any department. This committee will ensure that every department can show good cause why a non-Canadian was hired. It should be appointed by the senate and contain student-faculty parity because only students have absolutely no interest in inter-faculty conflicts and petty politics. Too often, non-Canadians are hired despite possible objections just to keep a facade of departmental peace.

And finally, we call for the obvious: 85 percent of every department must be Canadian. To reach this goal, a committee must be established to safeguard some sort of Canadian identity.

If president David Slater intends to keep his original commitment to work through senate — as he promised last year and if he really means "hire Canadian" — as he said in May — then he should have absolutely no hesitation in establishing this committee. If he enjoys pleasant platitudes and hypocritical statements, then he'll continue on his present course of saying a lot and doing nothing.

All letters should be addressed to the Editor and sent to Excalibur, Central Square, Ross Building, York University, Downsview, Ontario. Excalibur reserves the right to edit all letters more than 500 words long. Unsigned letters are the responsibility of the editors. All letters will be published however due to space limitations letters may not be published the week they are received.

Letters to the Editor

Student senator wants \$27 fees abolished

I would like to comment on your editorial of Oct. 28 in which you state that the CYSF should receive the full student fee of \$27, rather than split it with the various college student councils, as is the current practice. I would like to suggest that the entire racket of extorting so-called "student fees" cease altogether.

The various student councils should have their taxing powers revoked and should be forced to pay their own way. Then all of them could compete with one another on the open market, and we could see just how much popular support each really has. The same principle should apply to such enterprises as Excalibur and Radio York, both of which receive heavy subsidies from student taxes. There is no reason why Excalibur cannot be sold instead of being distributed free. If people are not willing to support it voluntarily, then it has no right to exist.

Michael Mouritsen,
Student senator.

GSA approves CYSF budget with proviso

The Graduate Students' Association, has voted to approve the CYSF budget with the proviso that 60 percent of the funds — of which graduate student fees are a part — allotted to Excalibur, be withheld until an investigation of the paper's practises is made and answers offered that are satisfactory to the GSA.

In addition, we invite graduates and others to put forward constructive suggestions, either through their representatives or directly to Excalibur.

For instance, in another rider to its approval of the CYSF budget, the GSA asked that any surplus occurring in this year's budget allocations be applied to improvement of the Day Care Centre. With its limited facilities, the present centre is not sufficient for existing needs of students, both grad and undergrad. Surely we can forego some other "privileges" in activities or hardware to help

working parents — who happen to be students like us.

David Millar,
President, GSA

Mitchell attack raises questions

I read Nicholas Mitchell's even more biting though subtle attack on football and I would like to raise the following points:

a) Where did he arrive at the figure of \$50,000 (York's football budget)? Out of a hat?

b) If people want to play and watch football, evident at Training Camp, in lunch hours and at games, is this not reason enough to keep it?

c) Is it purely coincidental that Mitchell is the captain of the rigger team?

Alan Ross

Staff meetings
now at 2 pm

Excalibur

The York University Weekly

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