

# Review of Take-it is flippant, prissy, insipid

By PAUL STUART

In last week's Excalibur, the readers were treated to a flippant smear-job of the soon-to-be released student handbook, Take-it. The distortions were conveyed by managing editor, Oakland Ross.

From the first melodramatic line about sun-kissed machine guns and fanatical revolutionaries 'scurrying' across Downsview, Ross uses his not inconsiderable ability to turn a phrase to depict Take-it as an irrational piece of "revolutionary gobbledegook"; one that is so trivial it is not worth so much as a glance.

Indeed, after reading Ross's review, some of us who were involved in the production of the manual were wondering if Ross had done any more than glance at it before deciding to tell everyone how terrible it is.

Along with a few prissy complaints about editor Paul Kellogg's rhetorical style, our tender-hearted, road-middler even pronounced the handbook "scary". Well gee golly Oakland, the United Left Slate (now the United Left Coalition) was always open about its aim of providing students with

critical evaluations of society and York's role in it; but, if you're scared, maybe we should just disband and quit bad-mouthing this best of all possible worlds.

But then you weren't really scared; you were just exploiting people's justifiable concern about all the rebels who want to become King in order to make a document many N.D.P.'ers would endorse seem as crazed as the propaganda of the Symbionese Liberation Army.

That is your right — and I support your right to become a hack-writer.

The attempt at political analysis is so insipid it buggers the imagination. Ross seems to be saying that Take-it cannot have been written "by the CYSF for the York community" because it seeks to provide a socialist view of York, past and present.

I might add that you did not attempt to refute Kellogg's contention that any non-political handbook, would, in fact, constitute a mute endorsement of a very political situation: the rule of the corporations over this university.

As is indicated by its recent trampling of the rights of 70 for-

mer food workers, (whose sweat made all the intellectualizing that goes on around here possible) the administration is capable of outright cruelty.

But that shouldn't bother us scholars, eh, Oakland?

Particularly aggravating to me, was Ross's air of complacency towards the case of Rosie Douglas and, by implication, the problem of racism:

"What has Rosie Douglas (Dominican revolutionary, soon to be deported from Canada) got to do with York? Not much. But the ULS thinks he should have a lot to do with York, so there he is..."

For an answer to your question Oakland, I suggest you consult a few of the several hundred black students who attend this university.

Faced with the brute reality of discrimination every day of their lives, seeing family and friend assaulted by racist thugs and witnessing the more courageous black-rights advocates being subjected to Gestapo-style harassment by the RCMP — York's black students see the grim side of this society that we whites don't. Black students cannot submit

and separate their roles as students from the rest of their lives — as naive liberals such as Oakland Ross demand. And frankly, I see Rosie Douglas as rather heroic, but perhaps I'm taking things too seriously for this Downsview shopping plaza.

Ross's inane assertion that Take-it, "swoons with nostalgia for the good old days of student unrest and getting one's thing together," simply does not hold up to the most cursory examination. In my article, York Students and Politics, I took pains to correct any such misconceptions.

In 68-69 for example, the president of the Student Council began the year with a threat to start something called "the revolution".

He was a boob. Excalibur called the incident an example of "playground politics", and I quoted it approvingly. Yippie Jerry Rubin is referred to as a "talk-show revolutionary". And I, for one, have never heard anybody in the ULC "swoon" for the return of Timothy Leary or the rest of the crew that Allen Ginsberg calls "burnt-out old egg shells".

While my article does refer to

the Artistic Woodwork strike of 1973 and many other political events (including a pro War Measures Act rally in 1970), no attempt was made to misrepresent York as seething with revolution. I quote:

"For me, York has never exactly been a hotbed of activism but what comes across (in the record preserved in Excalibur) is that there has always been a minority of students revolting against the status quo and doing their best to formulate alternatives."

Now come on Oakland, does that really sound like the "eat-em-alive, power-to-us-madmen clap-trap" that some Stalinist psychos hand out on Bloor St.?

Or did you skip that part?

I could go on endlessly, but in closing I want to mention the soundest criticism in the article. Ross does not like the title, Take-it, because it "reeks a little of Madison Ave."

A valid opinion. I think most people on the left would agree that the endless banalities of the ad-men have affected us, as they have everybody else. And it bothers us.

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