

Excalibur

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

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Doing that two o'clock shuffle

Riddle: When is a day's work of a bookstore clerk indispensable and a day's work of nine university managers not?

Answer: During negotiations between the university and the York University Staff Association.

Ava Waxman works as a clerk in the Glendon College bookstore and is a member of YUSA's bargaining committee. Her supervisor informed her that she would be unable to attend this week's conciliation meetings between YUSA and the university because she could not be spared for two days in the busy month of September.

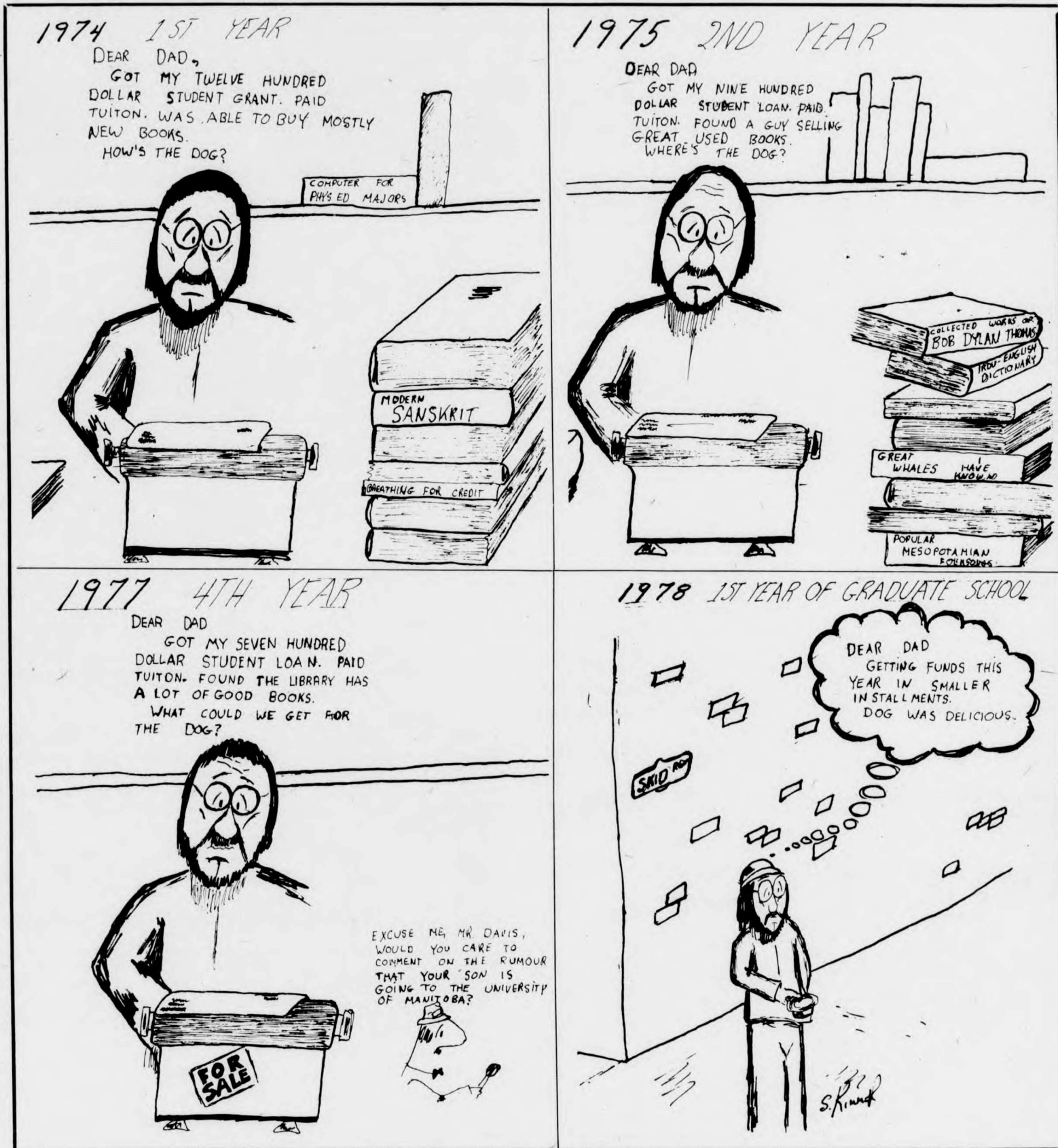
It may be supposed the supervisor was unaware that YUSA's right to have its bargaining committee members attend such meetings is written into YUSA's contract with the university and in labour law.

What is less explainable is the university's refusal to reverse this low-level administrative decision. At first an offer was made to let Waxman off at 1 pm. A few days later the department of personnel services announced the university's negotiators could not meet for negotiations until 2 pm, rather than the original 10 am agreed upon by York, YUSA and a conciliation officer from the ministry of labour.

Although this decision permitted Waxman to attend, the despotic manner in which the university behaved is an all too typical example of the disrespect which drove York's support staff to unionize two years ago.

What's also distressing is that the university can spare the time of the nine or ten managers who make up its negotiating team, while finding a two-day replacement for one support staff person out of 1,000 seems to be an unsurmountable problem. If Waxman is so indispensable, why is she being paid a mere \$9100 a year?

Is her presence so direly needed at work because she happens to be the only member on the YUSA bargaining committee who was also involved in last year's negotiations?



Dr. Parrott's careful itinerary

Next week Dr. Harry Parrott, minister for colleges and universities, will make four visits to Ontario campuses. The visits have been arranged to introduce the student aid plan for 1978-79, which will somehow simultaneously take better care of the as yet undefined "needy" student while cutting off grants to second-degree students who have received four years of student aid.

If Parrott has data which shows what graduate, law and medicine students are by definition never "needy", we'd be interested to see it.

The revised aid plan will require some students and their parents to sign waiver forms allowing OSAP officials access to their income tax records. Those who sign will no longer be covered under privacy regulations and there will be nothing to stop officials from transferring the records to other government departments.

Of the five schools on Parrott's tour — Confederation College in Thunder Bay, Algonquin College in Ottawa, Western in London, Seneca College on Finch Ave. East and Laurentian University in Sudbury only Laurentian is a member of

OFS, the provincial student union that persistently lobbys Parrott's ministry on behalf of its 140,000 members.

In northeastern Ontario, Parrott had no choice but to pick an OFS school, as the only post-secondary institutions — Cambrian College and Laurentian — are both OFS members.

Parrott's ideas for facilitating accessibility to his presence on the tour seem conceived in the same manner as those concerning accessibility to post-secondary education: make it difficult. Surely York, Ryerson or U. of T. would have been better sites for his Toronto stop. U. of T. would be convenient for Parrott himself, as he works at Queen's Park. What's he trying to avoid by bypassing every large campus in the province besides Western?

As the new student aid plan is already gospel, the whole tour is nothing but a token gesture anyway — which explains its brevity and incompleteness. Since Parrott doesn't have to account to students, it seems unlikely he'll be parting with any information that won't be on the new OSAP applications in the spring.

Parking - privilege to precious pavement

With an abundance of self-righteous zeal, the administration has moved to put teeth into its parking regulations.

If you don't pay fines, you may lose your parking rights (these are termed "privileges" by the administration). And the parking bureau is quite willing to take you to court or have you expelled, in order to separate you from your money.

Yet due to the simple fact that the parking around here stinks, there is good reason to ignore the rules.

The fees are absurdly high. One hundred dollars for eight months at the Atkinson residence lot, even if you are a resident, for example.

The more affordable lots are ridiculously far from the campus' central buildings, particularly in winter.

Should women who don't want to walk a long way back to their cars at night, be fined for parking in a convenient spot? Or are only those who can afford the fees entitled to self-defence?

CYSF President Paul Hayden says you have the same duty to pay parking fines as other traffic violations. As if speeding along a city street, endangering lives, is an offence equivalent to parking without a sticker.

Oh for a student council that would tell the administration what to do with its parking regulations.

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Staff meeting today at 1 p.m.