

From underground papers...

...to Pinochet jokes

Tales of the grassroots resistance in Chile

By Andrew Nikiforuk

"In Latin America, Adam Smith needs Mussolini."

Eduardo Galeano

"One of the questions which we always emphasize, particularly when we talk to the democratic and anti-fascist forces, is that to be against the Junta at the international level means not to give any assistance whatsoever, not to collaborate with this regime which is based on the blood of the Chilean people".

Camilo Maturana, member of the People's Front of Chile

Today in Chile a third of the population has no work. Forty-two percent of all construction workers are unemployed because only police stations are being built.

Today in Chile the annual rate of inflation is eighty - five percent. Many workers and their children cannot afford to eat. The majority of the people receive soup and bread at the comedores populares, the canteens established by the Church.

Today in Chile five percent of the

population controls fifty percent of the wealth. These people shop in the exclusive boutiques in Santiago and buy imported whiskey at the Almac supermarkets. Maids water their lawns and polish their silver.

Today in Chile a man is arrested for daring to place flowers on the grave of Pablo Nerude, one of the greatest poets of the Americas.

Today in Chile there is a resistance movement.

Resistance means telling a joke about Pinochet. It means printing an underground newspaper such as *Unidad y Lucha* or *Liberacion*.

It means working slowly at the factory. It means weaving tapestries depicting the indignity of poverty and the sin of fascism. It means writing revolutionary graffiti in the washrooms, on corridor walls and on banknotes.

It means playing the charango, a native musical instrument which the Junta tried unsuccessfully to ban.

It means passing a subversive leaflet to a friend.

All of these acts are expressions of defiance, of resistance.

In Chile a resistance committee is

a group of four or five people. These people may work in a factory or in a university. They struggle secretly. They spread information that the government suppresses. They pass on news of a strike, a demonstration or death of a relative.

They make sure the Chilean people know the truth. They teach the people the importance of organizing; they show them the possibilities of resistance. They prepare for "superior forms of struggle". Sometimes they execute informers and members of the secret police from the National Centre of Information.

In Chile resistance committees make up the People's Front. Communists, socialists, *Miristas* and revolutionary Christians are all members of the People's Front.

The People's Front is struggling to end the dictatorship, to restore democratic rights and freedoms, to establish a price freeze, to aid small business, to employ the jobless, to promote land reform and to prevent the restitution of expropriated multi-national corporations. The People's Front demands bread, work, land and liberty for the Chilean people.

If you lived in Chile and if you were secretly passed an underground newspaper, you would find the following instructions: "Comrade: Read, disseminate and take care of the material of the Resistance, take care of each militant. As our movement is advancing and growing, the Junta is beginning to unleash an even greater repression against us. Therefore we must remain vigilant. Don't Forget:

- That this newspaper must circulate - you should only keep it for the time that is necessary.
- Do not keep material at home; find safe places to keep it. Prepare a simple alibi to use in the event that you are discovered, without in-



Since General Pinochet came to power in 1973, human rights have been a thing of the past in Chile.

involving anybody else.

- When you give this material to other comrades or friends, make them see the importance of taking the same security measures....
- Do not expose other people or yourself through laziness or through placing convenience in command; thus we will avoid unnecessary losses.
- Never hand out material in a public place...
- Keep alert for all new information. Write it down as clearly as possible, and give it to the person who brings you this newspaper.
- Write poems, jokes, letters, make drawings. Everything assists. The

Junta inflicts thousand of injustices, but there are also thousand of people's struggles. All of this is passed over in silence by the fascist press; it is our duty to make it known. "The liberation of the Chilean people will be the work of the entire people! We must all contribute a small grain of sand!"

In Chile the people are not defeated. They are resisting the institutional terror of fascism, the terror of unemployment, the terror of inflation and the terror of the concentration camp.

Chileans know that they, "*La Resistencia*" will win because the human spirit is indomitable.



Excalibur

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

Excalibur, 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 attempts to be an agent of social change. Typography by Foto Set, printed at Delta Web, Excalibur is published by Excalibur Publications, a body incorporated under the laws of Ontario.

News 667-3201

Advertising 667-3800

Staff meets today at 1 pm

Agenda will include: review of the paper, assignments for 13, writing bee for spoofs, accreditation for photos, honoraria for sub-editors, when we are having the half-way party, delegates to CUP conference over the holidays in Halifax, report from ORCUP conference in St. Catherine's, etc.

Letters deadline Monday 4 pm



Don't all speak at once.

Only one issue left before Xmas - but it's not too late to join Excalibur

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Entertainment editor
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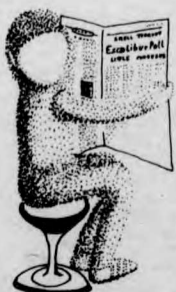
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letters

York specialty



Gee! How naive can I be?! After all the complaining I've heard this year from fellow students about *Excalibur* - "It's sure not as good as it was in the ole days..." - I figured your office would be swamped with responses to the poll!

Only 43 out of virtually thousands of students found the energy to fill out the form and voice their opinion. This doesn't say much for initiative among individual students, but I suppose it's a picture that's been painted before.

I just hope APATHY isn't the specialty York becomes famous for.

Chris Rapicano

Outdoors club open to all

My thanks to John Brunning for his article on the Outdoors Club. I would like to correct however, one small information item. Membership in the Club is open to everyone in the York Community, students, alumni, faculty and staff. The more participants the better the club.

Roger Seaman
Faculty Advisor

Relating to a play at Osgoode last week, *Convenceremos* - it was hippie-dippy, but I'm thinking for all its wishful thinking it was taking a surprisingly enlightened and hard look at what's wrong, symbolized in the penitentiary system. They are doing it, social theatre.

I think the reason, probably, the theatre looked so rough was it can't get support from any of the regular or alternate theatres. Too threatening to have a real theatre-voice around, eh? Anyway, thank all of you who are convicted to this life of perilous compromise.

Sed
Sociology

Convicted to a life of compromise