

# Excalibur

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

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## Cutbacks terror must be stopped

This is perhaps the most depressing issue of *Excalibur* that we have published in our dozen years of existence.

The paper is a tale of terror à la Hitchcock from page one to page 16. It is a tale called cutbacks.

A few weeks ago the cutbacks took the form of some abstract sum of \$4-million, a \$4-million shortfall between revenue and expenditures next year that was going to be made up by trimming the edges off York University.

Two weeks ago, that abstract sum of money took concrete form as the Graduate Assistants Association projected it would mean layoffs of as many as 300 part-time faculty.

Last week we began listing a few of the services at York that would have their level of service drastically reduced next year to save money.

And now it's No-Cutbacks Week. And we've been swamped here at *Excalibur* with article after article that in many different ways are saying the same thing. — If York's budget is cut by the projected 4,000 grand, then we are going to see a sudden, drastic drop in the quality of our education here at York.

We are faced with the prospect of mass-produced graduates, processed on York's assembly-line

of overcrowded lecture halls, haphazardly stuffed with knowledge by overworked teaching staff, existing on a campus with no "frills" like the Counselling and Development Centre, the Math Learning Centre, the Writing Workshop, Harbinger, not to speak of seminars and tutorials. Truly, a York degree would become a worthy addition to Big Macs, Coca-Cola, disco music and fluorescent lights, taking its place among other graduates of the 70's, sometimes known as the bland decade.

And believe us, we're not just getting upset because we have nothing better to do. We also feel the fiscal squeeze that is terrorising this campus. *Excalibur* this week, because of its own cutback-induced financial problems, cannot afford to print more than 16 pages, and we have enough stuff to print almost twice as many. The cutbacks hit here as everywhere.

This crisis is not isolated to York, we are just the first. It is province-wide and nation-wide and something has to be done.

Ryerson had a really successful rally last Tuesday, which formulated a program with which the university community is going to try and fight the cutbacks at Ryerson.



We have the same chance today at York, as our No-Cutbacks Week culminates at noon with a rally in Curtis "B". The rally won't answer all the questions about how to stop these cutbacks.

But it can be a beginning. If a program of demands and an on-going anti-cutbacks committee can emerge from today's rally, then it will have been a big success, and we can begin the process of finding the answers and working to end the cutbacks, and pull our university away from the brink.

**Staff meets tomorrow 1 pm**  
**It's party time!**

## If this is "progressive" and "democratic"...

Since November, the so-called "York Student Movement," campus wing of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), and its best known supporter, Jeffrey Forest, have attracted considerable attention. While we were repelled by the slanders the group was tossing around in the wake of the central square incidents (ie. "Zionist thugs"), we did not go along with the charges that the group had distributed hate literature, meaning a book critical of the tenets of Zionism.

But before a U of T Mid-East symposium held last week, the "Toronto Student Movement," U of T wing of the CPC-ML, distributed a very disturbing leaflet. While

reluctant to give publicity to this tiny group — which has virtually no influence and does not possess the power to enforce its aims — we feel an obligation to expose its views.

The leaflet was entitled, "Oppose the Zionist 'Peace' Symposium — Another Anti-Arab Plot." It contained the following chilling passage:

"The only peace that the Arab peoples will enjoy will come after they will have drowned the Zionists in the Mediterranean or scattered their bones in the Egyptian Sinai." Forest has said this is not anti-Semitic because the word used is "Zionists" not "Jews".

A denial which does not stand up. This passage is based directly on the well known

words of Ahmed Zuhairy, first head of the PLO, long deposed and discredited, who said, "we will push the Jews into the sea." Zuhairy said Jews, not Zionists. At one point the pamphlet mentions "Jewish settlers" and "Judaization of the West Bank." Later it calls for the "total crushing of the racist and fascist Israeli 'state' and its settlers in Arab territories". Women and children too?

As for this sick-minded talk of "scattered bones," it can only serve to incite hatred of those who have taken a Zionist stance.

The pamphlet goes on to urge U of T students to "oppose the campus being used as a forum for Zionist propaganda".

Forest supports this and says that Zionists — whom he considers "Hitlerite-Fascists" — should be denied the right to express their views publicly. We do not see how this vicious attitude can, to use a favorite Forest phrase, be considered "progressive and democratic".

Almost as ominous as what the leaflet says, is that it does not say. It does not even make a pretence of defending the rights of Jews. Or does the CPC-ML believe Jews have any rights?

If the CPC-ML is capable of distributing such a thing — words which would make Karl Marx turn over in his grave — it clearly deserves the contempt of all in the York community who value the principles of tolerance and free speech.

## Going Going Gonzo

•Last week's Cabaret, *Mixed Blessings*, written and performed by Cathy Knights and Pam Mingo, took on *Excalibur* in song to the tune of "Elegance" from *Hello Dolly*:

*Our school rag is comical,  
Sometimes closer to abominable.  
Grammar doesn't seem to matter,  
And all that counts is mindless chatter  
And editorials confuse us,  
They try to lead but end up losing us.*

Chorus

*Oh Excalibur,  
Without old Excalibur,  
York could never ever  
Carry it off.*

*The cartoons are really great.  
So's the price, that's no mistake.*

*Read about which grants are lowest,  
And Mac the prez  
and Jeffrey Forest.  
But that's not all,  
There's politics  
Every platform, come and take your licks*

Chorus

*Harbinger keeps telling us how to swing  
without much fuss.  
All the sex that we've been toying with,  
They announce we're not enjoying it.  
Stop the pill - But in a jam,  
Don't forget to use your diaphragm.*

Chorus

*The Rex Reeds of Excalibur  
Really think they're high calibre.  
Sight the flaws, forget the excellence,  
Rate fine arts with draught and pestilence.  
Search for themes and if they don't exist,  
Scratch the cabaret right off the list.*

Chorus

Far out song. "The cartoons are really great" line comes as no surprise, as Pam is one of *Excalibur*'s cartoonists. Just to show she didn't really mean all those other things, she did the cartoon at right.

•Yes, the devil did make him do it. In fact, the devil caused him so much misery that a Pennsylvania man decided to haul Satan into court.

The man wanted to sue Satan for violating his Constitutional Rights, charging the evil-

doer with making "unwarranted threats" against him and with deliberately placing "obstacles in my path and causing my downfall".

The federal judge denied the motion, saying that Satan, with no known address, could not be served with legal papers.

Ted Mumford



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