

letters & comment

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, Excalibur, room 111, Central Square. Please type letters, triple or double spaced, and keep them to around 250 words. Name, address and phone number must be included, but name will be withheld on request. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for grammar and length. Deadline Monday 4pm.

Weisfeld talks back

It seems that some members of the CYSF do read the *Excalibur* even if they don't bother with the daily papers. As a result of my February 2 letter dealing with RCMP activities on the campus, Robert Steadman moved a motion at the February 8 CYSF meeting to censure me for my "irresponsible letter . . . in reference to Council members and political affiliation".

It seems that Steadman is upset that I only referred to those members of council who are affiliated to the Liberal Party, since he is associated with the Tories. Of course I didn't write that all those listed in my letter were members of the Liberals but he chose to make this a matter of principle nonetheless.

Actually I referred to Hayden "as well as others on council" only, in reference to the Liberals. I'm pleased that Steadman has chosen to clarify his party affiliation but perhaps it would have been more useful to do so at the time of his election since it is his party which is implementing the cutbacks in Ontario.

The real question over which I was censured is whether or not the CYSF has a responsibility to do anything about the RCMP agent who collaborated with the Western Guard's anti-semitic swastika attack on Bethune College. That agent, Robert Toope, testified that he was asked to join the Western Guard by the RCMP in May 1975 and was paid \$100-\$500 a month while a member, during which time he became sympathetic to the Western Guard's aims.

The obvious questions to be answered are: What sort of people are the RCMP using, and what are the 600-odd agents in Toronto doing that we don't know about, especially on this campus? (Are the unions, the student movement, classes infiltrated?)

The vote to censure me indicates that the current CYSF doesn't care or doesn't want to care. With 3-4,000 Jewish students on campus the CYSF must care.

Those members of council who voted in favour of my censure must explain their vote or take up this issue. I'm referring to David Chodikoff, Steven Muchnik, Robert Steadman, Herman Yamagisi, Gary Empey, Brian Hayden, and Paul Hayden.

Abie Weisfeld
Grad. rep. - NDP

South Africa

I would like to point out some important thoughts about your article on Canadian banks and South Africa. Mr. Westrup, you present these facts in such a way that makes them seem so wrong, but did you ever consider why things are this way?

Big corporations looking for directors obviously seek out the big business elite, the upper managers. There just aren't that many in Canada. This is a country of small business owners, and there is nothing wrong with that. Those few who have the potential or desire to become giants often let their ideals die in mediocrity, or have exaggerated and uncompromising ideals and want to change everything "NOW". They do not think of working to change the system from within the system.

After all, you do not have to tear down a house just to remodel it.

The reason we only have twelve banks in Canada is much the same. However, just because most of the people with a lot of money do not want to risk it on such a large enterprise does not mean a new bank cannot be formed by someone who will.

I find such fault with everything on your "In Canada Today" list, but the following statement is what shocked me. "The Canadian government officially denounced apartheid, but continues to allow Canadian companies to maintain strong business ties with South Africa."

Think about what you have just read! People are constantly fighting increasing government control and interference. Yes, I believe what these banks are doing is wrong. However, the day our government can control where our private companies do business is the day democracy dies in Canada. When this government has the power to tell me who I may or may not do business with is the time I will leave this country because it will no longer be the free and liberal country it was meant to be.

Angelika Brammer

Neither a Tory nor a Grit

I cannot resist the temptation to don my professional hat and point out a misplaced combination of words which appeared under my picture in *Excalibur*, February 2. I am described as a former Tory civil servant.

The appropriate designation would be "former civil servant in a Tory government". As any student of political science will know, the distinction is important. Most of my former colleagues and I attach a high degree of importance to the tradition of an independent public service in Canada.

As is well known, I have always attached particular importance to such independence of mind and professional status and have, for that reason, avoided membership in any political party. Whereas I do not regard the names Tory, Liberal or New Democratic as derogatory, I must advise you that the application of any one would be as inaccurate as the designation which appeared under my name a few years ago in the *Canadian Who's Who* — a Liberal and a Presbyterian.

H. Ian Macdonald
President

Tireless coverage

I would like to take this opportunity to thank George Trenton for his exact and tireless coverage of

the Yeowomen's Ice Hockey Team. We have never had such full and supportive reports of all our games as George has given us this year. Each article included quotes from both teams as well as significant opinions from the team at large.

The whole Yeowomen Ice Hockey Team joins with me in thanking George for his efforts on our behalf during the 1977-78 season.

Gail Johnson
Ice Hockey Convenor, WAC

Look beyond York

With regard to the letter from Mary Anne Boeckh and her 97 others; she says, "This university is here to support us and serve our needs . . . improve the quality of human existence."

I find it difficult to understand how such a selfish, self-centered attitude could improve anything. This university is not a restaurant, it is not here to serve her or anyone else's needs. If she wants to be served, let her go to McDonald's.

And it is not here to support her either. If she wants support let her go out and get a part-time job and work like so many others I know.

She suggests student desire should be the major criterion for determining course funding. What about her "quality of human existence"? There are many blind, crippled and poor people out there who could use the money more than an able-bodied student.

Universities must, of course, look after their own interests, but it seems a pity that one so concerned with mankind should be so cold to the enormous benefits the poor would gain from an improved economy and reduced inflation that could result from a reduction in government deficit spending.

If Mary Anne wants her needs to be served and her support guaranteed, let her move back home until she learns the quality of human existence extends far beyond the grounds of a university.

Ken Johnston
Poli. Sci.

Ed. note: Although Mr. Johnston refers to Ms Boeckh alone, the letter was in fact signed by 98 people.

Pinder responds

Two issues ago *Excalibur* printed a letter from Paul Hayden which amused me as much by its hyperbole as by its population of strawmen and red herrings.

He begins with an inane statement, "In the past year I have refrained from using up space in the letters column so that students could express their views." (emphasis added) This puts an admirable face on the contemptible fact that Hayden hasn't bothered to write anything (except two letters at-

tacking me) for *Excalibur* in his eleven months of office. As President of CYSF he should have been a frequent contributor, actively putting forward his proposals for action.

Instead, we, the student body, have been left in the dark, as Hayden passively waits for us to communicate with him.

In a previous letter I wrote, "The CYSF abandoned us. They did not give us information. They did not campaign amongst us. And then they claim we are apathetic." Paul chose not to respond to this accusation. Instead, he triumphantly proclaims that, "On the issue of Miriam Edelson's appearance at York, CYSF did inform the community," but fails to mention that it consisted of fifteen (15) 8½x11 notices, none of which got further than 200 feet from the CYSF office.

Compared to the lack of a figure for the Edelson meeting, Paul quite accurately remembered the Parrott meeting two months previous when CYSF put out "250 large posters". Based on this he refutes my, "stating that CYSF did not notify the students on the visit by Dr. Harry Parrott." Quite a rebuttal, except *INEVER SAID IT*.

Paul also wrote, "Mr. Pinder again shows complete lack of information and research when he states that CYSF should have demanded Dr. Parrott to appear on another day." (emphasis added) Once again, *INEVER SAID THAT*, and wish that Paul would stop rebutting straw men. I advise him not to discredit his argument by misrepresenting his opponents' position.

Paul also pointed out that Parrott did not come on the last day of classes. Paul is correct, Parrott actually came (Paul forgot to mention) on the second last day of school.

Red Herrings and straw men to the side, Hayden did not respond at all to the substantive issues I raised; such as, effectively sabotaging Ontario Federation of Students; the failure of quiet politicking and lobbying; and CYSF quiescence in the face of dangerous OSAP changes.

To this I add their effectiveness concerning cutbacks. Instead of being in the forefront of organizing against cutbacks, they have been dragged along.

The dissatisfaction of students with CYSF was vocalized when the only person booed before he spoke at the meeting attended by 900 members of the community, was Paul Hayden.

Paul Hayden's performance (this year) has been abominable and I will join in the collective sigh of relief when he is gone.

Harvey Pinder
Student member
Board of Governors

Costly Forest

Over the years millions of dollars have been spent in campuses all over the world to quell incidents involving political factions of all kinds. Heaven only knows the cost to the taxpayer of the Dr. Jeffrey Forest incident at York. By all means have your various political groups and let them freely express their opinions, but let this be done in locations off campus.

Politics have no place at universities, they only disrupt the purpose for which students are attending universities. The administration should not have to spend hours investigating the numerous incidents involving radicals, and students should be free to attend these places of higher learning without being harassed by student activists.

In university publications harassment is something which is never done by radicals on campus, it is only done by our "brutal" police force.

I was interested in reading Ian Lumsden's defense of the immigrant student who wishes to remain anonymous for fear of police harassment; this student should try expressing a contrary view in one of Dr. Forest's communist countries. Then he would really know the meaning of harassment.

John B. Cluff

Vote on Harbinger

We the undersigned students of York University protest the present funding of Harbinger community services through our tuition fees. The services offered by Harbinger (abortion referral and sexuality awareness in particular) can be handled at a lower cost through Student Health Services. Harbinger is not a unique service. The social-political viewpoints promoted by the Harbinger program do not reflect the viewpoints of all York University students in regard to the issues of abortion and human sexuality.

We recommend: 1) that efforts be made by the CYSF to find more economically feasible alternatives to Harbinger. We suggest outside agencies such as Planned Parenthood and Birthright be investigated as alternatives in order to reduce costs; 2) that a referendum be held to allow the student body to participate in the decision re; the allocation of funds for Harbinger or an alternative program. Our recommendation is made in the hope that students will receive proper health care at a minimal cost.

Jerry Bonello
and 17 others

