

Excalibur

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

Strange bedfellows

Don't you find it interesting that the board of governors, which rarely concerns itself with student affairs, has suddenly intervened in the McLaughlin/CYSF debate — on the side of McLaughlin.

It should really come as no surprise. The pitting of one student group against another is one of the board's more effective ways of preventing the formation of strong central student government.

McLaughlin college master, George Tatham, has also openly admitted that he encouraged the councillors to call a CYSF referendum.

And how was the referendum conducted: Mac council restricted their campaign to the posting of contentless signs. "Don't let CYSF Screw You" was a real gem; such depth, such analysis.

In previous years, college councils at least had the courtesy to hold public forums. Mac, was afraid of such open debate, since they had nothing to say.

But they have fulfilled their role. They have succeeded in weakening a CYSF that was so influential that even the board felt threatened enough to intervene. Good work, Uncle Tom.

Letters to the Editor

Violent reaction

Re-Letter of Mr. Barry Thomson, Vol. 5 #11. This is a put on, right? I mean, someone made up that letter to spark violent reactions from the woman's Lib movement, and perhaps some generally apathetic persons like myself.

I don't really believe the above suggestions, but it jolts me savagely to realize that there are sanctimonious bastards like Thomson around; at a University yet! I shall attempt to control the nausea and personal disgust Thomson arouses, and to deal with his comments in a rational and coherent manner.

Mr. Thomson may be literate, but he is monstrously ignorant and/or suffers from the mentality of the inquisitors of the middle ages. He talks of "murder", and then of the foetus as a "living organism". If the foetus is a living organism only, then an abortion is not murder. We talk of murdering human beings, and, unless Mr. Thomson is a complete vegetarian, (he must not eat eggs of course), and refuses to swat flies or step on spiders; he cannot logically defend his position that to kill a living organism, is murder. Now I suppose, he will insist that a foetus has the "potential" for human life. Then, so does an embryo, a zygote and also sperm. To say it of one, is as logical as to say it of the rest. Accordingly, the Catholic Church (at least as recently as five years ago) still had masturbation considered as a most definite and serious sin! To be consistent, Mr. Thomson must never jerk off, without admitting that he is murdering millions of potential human beings.

The above reasoning might be sloughed off by some, as extremely pedantic, but Mr. Thomson wallows in even more disgusting and preposterous positions. He refers to the male partner in intercourse in this way "someone else's sperm, someone else's love..." he makes this as a general remark without any qualification.

Skipping over the obvious cases of lust and promiscuity; it seems that Mr. Thomson has never heard of rape. Has he ever talked to a young girl who has been violently and savagely raped? I wonder if he might find it slightly distasteful to hear about a gang assault from the victim. But perhaps he might find the whole thing merely boring. Mr. Thomson's complete lack of sensibility for the female sex is evident.

I refer now to his line "All this talk about the mental health of the mother is nothing but unadulterated Bull Shit...". Has Mr. Thomson ever known a woman enduring an unwanted pregnancy? Does he realize the foolish and dangerous things the otherwise intelligent women and girls do to themselves to terminate a pregnancy? I think that Mr. Thomson should be chained in the maternity ward of a large hospital for a few hours a day for several months. A few visits to the delivery room might be beneficial. When he has perhaps grasped (to the slight extent that men are capable) the agony of childbirth, then he might begin to fathom the further horror and suffering of a woman who knows she can't (or shouldn't) keep, has very definitely become her baby.

But of course he feels that women who have abortions are "avoiding the basic consequences of their actions". In other words, they should be punished for their sins? Has Mr. Thomson ever talked to some one who was a "punishment"? Can he conceive of what it is like to grow up knowing that your parent(s) didn't want you? No matter if they try to be discrete about the whole thing, it shows in every word, every little act, every day of your childhood. On the other hand, some parents don't even try to be discrete. They make very sure that their burden, the "consequence"; knows just what they think of him or her.

I will now try to anticipate Mr. Thomson's probable rebuttal. What, he might say, if my mother had had an abortion? Would I be so certain about being deprived of my "right to live" as a foetus? Anyone with a modicum of intelligence can plainly see that the question makes as much sense as asking "what if my mother had never been pregnant?" It isn't a great sophistic attitude to honestly swear, that I couldn't care less if my mother had had an abortion. When "I" was a peculiar little creature with gills and a tail the idea of "my" destruction should not disturb myself or anyone else, any more (or even less) than the idea of a dead fish. Despite our common language usage, a foetus, embryo or sperm is not a baby!

After due consideration, I have decided that Mr. Thomson deserves the epithets I have heaped on his head. But to avoid the same type of criticism I make of him, I want to make something clear. I do not claim that there are not intelligent, rational and humane arguments against abortion. But in his infantile, ignorant, woman-hating ravings, Mr. Thomson demonstrates that he couldn't even begin to comprehend them.

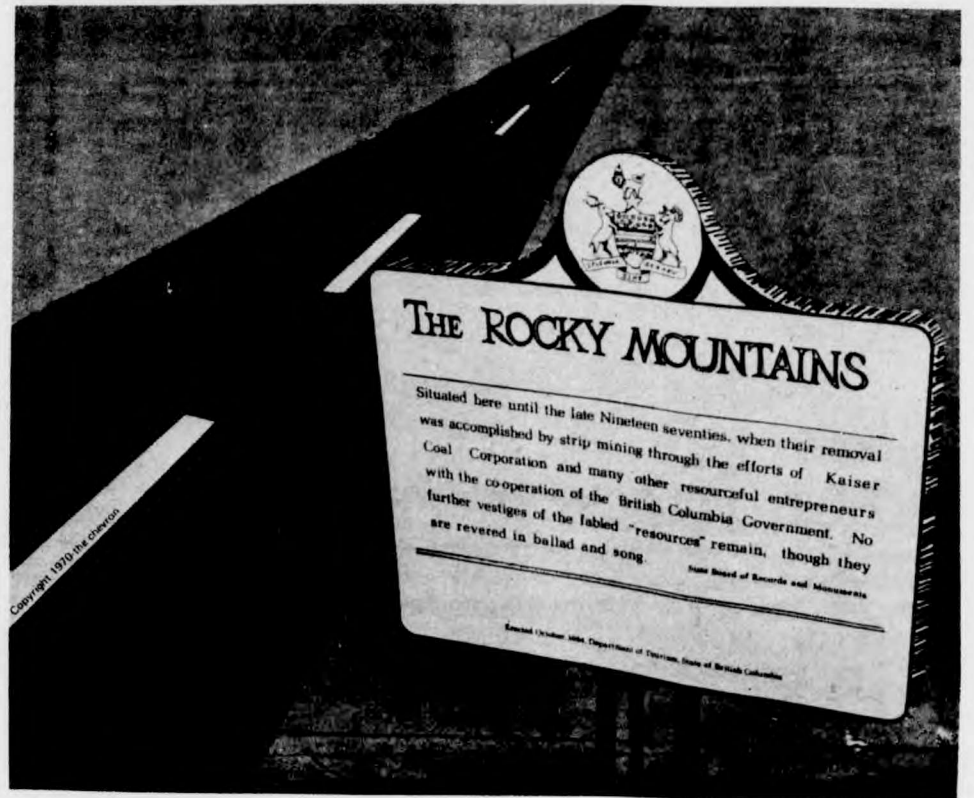
Gerald D. Manning
Philosophy III

It's the insiders

A few weeks ago EXCALIBUR carried a front page article reporting on the increased security precautions the university is taking in response to widespread theft, vandalism and misbehaviour which are attributed dubiously, by the administration to "outsiders".

It seems to me that we "insiders" ought to take an honest look at our own conduct in the university before we allow the administration to blame it all on these mysterious "outsiders".

I submit that the damage and carelessness here should be placed squarely on the shoulders of us "insiders". Who else would steal thousands of dollars worth of books since September? Who else is responsible for the mindless messes we wake up to on Sunday mornings in the junior common rooms. Who else steals books from the bookstore and leaves the dining-halls like pig-sties? Surely the activities of "dirty old men from the outside world" don't account for the annual harvest of unwanted



pregnancies and table-top abortions at York.

Does the university really think we can lock our problems by locking the doors of the colleges or by locking one college from another, as happened last weekend? Have, in fact, the extraordinary (and insulting) security precautions in the libraries stopped book thefts? Of course not. Locked doors are like locked minds: you end up locking yourself out and leaving the thief inside. We are creating a society without trust at York and that will inevitably mean more violence.

I admit I'm alarmed by the new level of violence even here in our own cozy York society. I'm even more alarmed by our timid attempts to deal with violence by installing more and more locks and more and more guards. We York students are already well on the way to giving our administration free rein to create a mini-police state, and I for one am going to object every sordid step of the way.

Let us instead take a thoughtful and honest look at our inner failings — inside us personally and inside our York society — and try to deal with them, and only then lay the blame on "outsiders" for what we don't want to admit.

Christopher Thomas
Winters IV

Creten shoddy

On the occasion of Open House, November 6, 1970 at the University of Western Ontario in London, M. Jean Chretien, minister of Indian Affairs, delivered a speech on the subject of Indians in Canada. Following this, he participated with students in a forum. In reply to a question which compared the situation of Indians and Quebecois, M. Chretien said:

"All that Quebecers want is a ski-doo and to speak French."

That a federal minister should say this at any time would be lamentable; when he says it in the midst of a crisis which is exposing the conditions of life for many in Quebec is incredible and indicative of gross insensitivity. The unemployment in Quebec is perpetually higher than the Canadian average. With 28.6% of the population of Canada, Quebec is home to 40% of the unemployed; 38% of Montrealers live on \$4,000 or less annually; 25% on less than \$3,000. Without apportioning blame for the conditions of life in Quebec, it still must be said that such a gratuitous comment is shoddy and unworthy.

Gerard Roy, Matane, Quebec.
Jeff Lawrence, London, Ontario.

Gay-in

Last (December 11) night a group of about a dozen York Homophile Association members who had gathered in the pub decided that they too had the right to enjoy campus social activities. It sounds simple to say that these people just went to the McLaughlin dance and expressed their identity by dancing together for the rest of the evening, but how many people can really appreciate the sheer guts it took to step onto the dance floor and make this gesture?

It may sound incredible to all those who staunchly uphold society's taboo against expression of affection between members of the same sex, but absolutely nothing untoward happened at that dance. There were no disparaging remarks, no one left in a huff, everyone continued to have a good time. In fact, a number of people approached the guys dancing together and said "I may not be part of your demonstration, but I think what you are doing is great!" Others smiled and nodded in approval. It was beautiful! It was people loving people!

Unsigned.

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