

## Christmas 1968

During this Christmas season:  
In Biafra several thousand children will die a slow death from starvation.

In India another thousand tons of wheat will be distributed as emergency rations to another million people, to last them for the entire season.

Somewhere in Viet Nam an American, 22 years old with a BA in English and a fiancée in some Illinois town, will step on a land mine and be blown apart on Christmas day.

At least two hundred Canadians will smash and maim each other in their automobiles, leaving well over one hundred Canadian children under 18 with no parents in the new year.

At least one man will die by electrocution

or hanging, before a panel of witnesses, in some cold U.S. prison.

Some of the people you sat beside in classes this fall will give up that "privilege" and will get jobs selling shoes, or typing in offices, as they start to repay a student loan that wasn't adequate.

At least one person you know fairly well will probably submit or be submitted for psychiatric care in an institution. The largest department stores will realize their greatest profit ever, from this season's sales, while the Scott Mission will turn away 40 old men on Christmas day.

At least one lucky Canadian will die from an overdose of drugs, and another 15 will find themselves with permanent criminal

records because they were caught passing marijuana.

At least one American black family will have their home or store destroyed by a deliberate fire, because the father tried to register to vote.

One Canadian Indian will die from cirrhosis of the liver, 300 miles from the nearest doctor, and three Eskimo women will be flown to Toronto for a seven months rest in a TB ward.

A Metro mother of five, deserted by her husband and now living on welfare, will shoot herself while the kids are upstairs sleeping.

All this, and more, during this Christmas season.

Have a very Merry Christmas.

### Isn't this fun? letter #1

I would like to clarify certain aspects of the controversy surrounding the Presidential Advisory Committee on Parking and especially the question of student participation on this committee which has become a principal topic of discussion during recent weeks.

I have been — or perhaps I should say that I was — the only undergraduate sitting on this committee since last May. I have, however, not been invited to participate in any of its meetings since September.

When the recent controversy concerning the parking situation on the York campus erupted I assumed that I would receive notice of a committee meeting to discuss the problem.

I received no such notice.

The executive of the York Student Council assumed that I would be a participant in any meetings held by the committee and in this regard sent me a letter — the letter referred to by President Ross in Section 2 of his statement on the matter (*Excalibur*: December 5, 1968) — indicating their involvement in the removal and subsequent return of certain parking signs. They further assumed that this letter would be formally be passed to the committee through me.

This letter has never been formally passed on to the committee since I have not been invited to attend any of its meetings.

Upon reading the President's statement concerning the removed parking signs I discovered that I still was considered "a student representative on the Parking Committee". I then inquired further and discovered that the committee had indeed been meeting. And so, in an attempt to clarify the situation in my own mind, I telephoned Mr. Annis, chairman of the committee, in order to determine if I was or was not still a participating member.

He informed me that YSC was in the process of selecting new members for the committee and that I was not still a member.

And so, since it has become great fun to criticize the students who do not attend the meetings of the committee, I would like to state here and now that I have not been invited to the meetings of the committee and that I am not considered a member of it.

Gerald Bloch.

### Isn't this fun? letter #2

In view of a letter which I understand Mr. Gerald Bloch has written to you dated December 5 concerning representation on the Presidential Advisory Committee on Parking, I would like to provide the following information:

1. There have been four students on the Parking Committee since January 1968. The members repre-

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All letters to the editor will be run, space permitting. Letters longer than 250 words may be edited.

sending York Campus daytime students were Mr. Gerald Bloch (V3) and Mr. J. Trubic (MBA), with, additionally, Mr. F. Robinson from Atkinson College and Mr. F. Dalton from Glendon.

2. During discussion with Mr. Small on September 10 Mr. J. Adams was informed of the need for the appointment of student members to a number of University Committees. Mr. Adams noted the then current discussions on the subject by the YSC, and indicated names would be forthcoming as soon as certain policy matters had been settled.

3. On October 30 I wrote Mr. Best, with a copy to Mr. Adams, noting the desirability of maintaining some continuity of membership on the Parking Committee from year to year and asking whether or not the York Campus student representation would continue to be filled by the present incumbents.

4. After learning that Mr. Adams had not received a copy of the above

mentioned letter I took one to him personally. I again sought his assistance stating that a meeting of the Committee would be held at an early date and I indicated I would be pleased to have Mr. Bloch continue.

It was my distinct understanding that Mr. Adams had assumed responsibility for securing student representation on the Parking Committee for the November meeting. In this respect Mr. Adams had advised Mr. Small by memo of November 13 that action had been initiated to select students for this Committee.

5. It was because of my discussion with Mr. Adams and anticipating new student representatives appointed by the YSC I did not advise Mr. Bloch of the November meeting of the Parking Committee.

6. As noted previously Mr. Bloch has been a member of the Committee since January 1968. He has attended all meetings, up to and including the one held on September 17, much more regularly than any other

student member. Mr. Bloch has made a constructive contribution to the deliberations of the Committee and his continued membership would be most welcomed.

E.S. Annis,  
Chairman, Parking Committee

### An open letter to President Ross

Student violence generally, and the recent parking sign incident here at York specifically, are certainly cause for concern, and I fully share with you the sense of pessimism to which you refer in your annual report. The essence of a university lies in it being a forum for intellectual search and for peaceful resolution through rational discussion. As such the university is a hallmark of civilized society, and it is certainly disheartening, if not chilling, to contemplate

that force and violence, so typical of the pre-civilized barbarian, are re-appearing in the very institution that man looks to for reasoned guidance. If the university is to survive as an INTELLECTUAL community it must recognize that those who are willing to initiate violence rather than appeal to reason repudiate the very essence of a university and, as such, should be explicitly dissociated from our institution.

Both in principle and in practice reasonable men have nothing to gain through compromise with those who advocate initiating force and violating other's rights as a means of achieving their ends. In principle compromise amounts to condoning the efficacy of their methods, and in practice compromise only results in the escalation of demands and violence.

In this regard I fully support your decision to fine the students involved in the removal of certain parking signs and to make them responsible for their replacement. These students clearly chose force rather than openly presenting a reasoned argument, and in doing so, not only violated certain rights of others, but also affronted all responsible York University students whose reputation could suffer by implication. To point out that several of the students involved in the removal of the signs were members of the York Student Council suggests the unrepresentative nature of that body, and not that the students at York condone these irresponsible actions.

Should similar events occur in the future, at any of our universities, I would hope that concerned members of the community, students and non-student alike, make their concern known.

John B. Ridpath,  
Lecturer  
York University

### Get serious, Mr. B

Surely Mr. George Burns cannot be serious. In the Nov. 28 issue of *Excalibur*, his letter titled "Where's Glendon" concluded with the following statement: "Glendon used to be a pretty nice place before it got dwarfed by York." In light of the somewhat "less than profound" comments which precede this declaration, how can one possibly take this statement seriously? In effect, what brings Mr. Burns to this glorious pronouncement is a disjointed array of irrelevant facts about "taking a shovel with your lunch in the good old days" and "what do we do at Glendon about parking signs."

If there is some logical progression of thought here which I fail to see, I wish Mr. Burns would do me the honour of pointing it out. So I pass it back to you, George. As you said, "Come on. Speak up."

Sandi Stevens, Glendon III

## Excalibur

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IT'S THE END OF THE YEAR. Presents for a better world — to bob elgie even more adorableness, to scott a brownie camera, to frank l. a new (and more human) mind, to Dave McC, pat kutney, to pat kutney (decency forbids), to ross k. editor an ugly staff, to super-george a liver sandwich, to roly a new filing cabinet, to tony-poo the title of assistant-sub-co-editor, to olga some walnuts and carrots, to mike s. a new index finger (it does get a workout), to stew (heh, heh, heh), to rhonda some new boys, to sheila, susanna, nancy and sarah we give tony (to share), to anita bob (wait! olga wants him), to dave koop a virgin mini, to anne some sleeping pills, to larry goldstein his own newspaper, to bill novak 35 column inches, to david, val, grant, lucianne frank holt crystal balls all, to pete reeder a new pen and to jerry shiner, david schatzy, alex cramer, bob koledin sorry we're out of gifts. Oooops, to richard aah, oh, ummmmm, oh leave him alone . . .