

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

Energy is there but will it grow?

Remember that phrase from a long forgotten past, the phrase "student movement"? You may not remember it because we are all members of what has been called the blank generation, a generation where not much has moved at all.

But the phrase "student movement" will probably become part of our everyday parlance in the near future, because it's back (some say it never left). In its new beginning, it already incorporates more students than that one ten years ago that only a few grad students remember. And it's more than just a student movement. It incorporated those who work on the campuses as well as those who study.

20,000 students, faculty and staff from dozens of post-secondary institutions all across Canada, engaged in public protest last week against government cutbacks in education financing, tuition fee increases, student aid decreases, and the growing problem of graduate and summer unemployment. There's a crisis brewing in post-secondary education in Canada, and those 20,000 protesters were serving notice to Canada's various governments, that if they weren't going to do anything about it, then we were going to protest their inaction and try to work out solutions of our own.

At York, 1,000 of us went down to Queen's Park last Thursday and participated in the anti-cutbacks demonstration that brought together 7,000 people from 12 different Ontario campuses. That demonstration was inspiring, and a really good beginning, but there were some problems with it, problems that have to be seriously considered, if we are to mount a successful campaign that has a chance of stopping the cutbacks.

One demonstration is not enough to stop the cutbacks. It embarrasses Davis and his Conservative government and brings the plight of universities to public attention. But on the morning after, when the dust and rhetoric have cleared, cabinet ministers are back at their offices,

going ahead with their cutbacks plans.

No speaker at the rally put forward any ideas for building an ongoing movement after the demonstration to carry on the anti-cutbacks campaign. It almost felt at times that we were being thanked for coming out to demonstrate, but we could go home afterwards and let our "leaders" carry on from there.

And that's not good enough. A few leaders aren't going to stop the cutbacks. The only hope we have of doing is that is incorporating as many people as possible into active participation in the campaign.

The next meeting of the Toronto Area Cutbacks Coalition should have been announced, and everybody in Toronto invited to attend.

That coalition, like its counterpart at York and on other campuses, can't be a closed body of delegated officials. It must be an open body, with a democratically elected leadership and a program and strategy democratically controlled by its rank and file.

Rank and file control, will ensure the maximum possible rank and file participation. Keeping it a closed body of delegated officials is a sure way of dissipating the energy of the thousands who are against the cutbacks, and preventing the movement from growing.

That is the single most important change that must occur in the anti-cutbacks campaign. Opening up the anti-cutbacks committees to rank and file students, faculty and staff will not only mean more bodies actively participating in the decision-making process, it will mean a larger pool of people from which to draw creative suggestions for an anti-cutbacks strategy.

Tony Woolfson, coordinator of the York Anti-Cutbacks Coalition, recognizes this necessity and he has extended an open invitation to the York community to attend the Coalition's next meeting, one week today. Details on time and place will be available next week, and we would urge everyone to attend.



Trying to block out the Sun

The decision of the Trudeau government to press charges against *The Toronto Sun* and its executive editor Peter Worthington for publishing the contents of a top secret RCMP report on March 7, represents a grave threat to the freedom of the press in this country. We hope that members of the York community will let their MP's know that they don't like what can only be described as an attempt to put a scare into a newspaper which is a tireless critic of the Liberal government. *Toronto Star* columnist Dennis Braithwaite put forward a good defence of the *Sun* in his Monday column when he wrote:

"To take refuge in legalisms like 'the law is the law,' as the *Sun's* morning competitor has done, isn't good enough. The press has a duty to defy whatever restraints may be put upon it by the state whenever it feels that the public interest can be served in no other way.

"When the majestic *New York Times* published the leaked Pentagon papers during the Nixon administration, its action was applauded by the media as an exercise of the highest form of press freedom and responsibility."

Braithwaite goes on to lament what he perceives as the reluctance of the left leaning media to defend the rights of the "brash, sensational, noisy, and prejudiced" and *right wing Sun*. He hopes the media will realize "the morning tabloid's fight is their fight and will rally to its support."

We agree — and no one has ever accused *Excalibur* of being right wing. The ironic thing about this is that the *Sun* can hardly be considered a defender of the freedom of the press itself; it lead the cheering section in the persecution of the gay newspaper *The Body Politic* on obscenity charges.

Well despite the fact that the *Sun* is an awful newspaper, despite the

fact that it hangs up women like slabs of meat in its Sunshine Girl feature day after day, and despite the fact that its columnists, Worthington included, are hopeless hacks, the revelation of the RCMP report on alleged (no evidence was set forth) Soviet espionage in Canada was an attempt to serve the public interest, not an attempt to work against it.

And in the wake of the recent Liberal threat to muzzle Tory MP Tom Cossitt, himself a tireless right wing critic of the government, the move against the *Sun* looks truly ominous. Here we have a government that is clearly trying to scare off the opposition by any means it can. That's a threat against us all.

Speaking of supporting freedom of the press, supporters of *The Body Politic* are demonstrating at 5:15pm today, outside the office of the Attorney General at 18 King St. East. The demonstrators will demand that the police return all of the paper's property confiscated in a January raid (including a list of subscribers) and that pending obscenity charges against the paper be dropped.

The staff of *Excalibur* has voted to endorse these demands and we would like to add that *The Body Politic* needs your support.

Going Going Gonzo

•What has the 60's band The Lovin' Spoonful in common with Dr. Bull's restaurant on Ontario Street in Kingston?

A guitarist - turned restaurateur named Zalman Yanovsky.

Toronto native Zal rode to fame in the mid-sixties as John Sebastian's zany foil in the Spoonful. Their strange behaviour (and strange music) made them successful candidates to do the score for Woody Allen's *What's Up Tiger Lily*.

After the Spoonful flamed out, Yanovsky cut an equally strange solo album, *Alive and Well In Argentina*. With the exception of playing a bit for the National Lampoon's *Lemmings Woodstock*

take-off, he's been underground for eight years, playing his Gibson Thunderbird "occasionally".

Last May he and a partner opened Dr. Bull's. He was interviewed recently by Peter Martin of the Centennial College *Asylum*.

"I don't hear from the old members too often. Steve (Boone) who played bass, was in the studio and the last I heard of our drummer, Joe (Butler) was that he was living on welfare.

"Sebastian's new material (eg. the 'Welcome Back' theme from *Welcome Back Kotter*) makes me feel zzzzzzzz.... The music business is a lot safer than kitchens. You don't slip on wet floors with long knives and have fires."

Zal's major plan for the future isn't grand.

"Right now I just want to make it through lunch."

•With all the recent talk of compulsory literary testing for applicants to Ontario Universities, the student Senate caucus at Western has come up with a new twist in the idea: literacy testing for professors.

The caucus is trying to pilot a bill through Senate which would see professors who flunk the test



moved from teaching to research positions. Fluency would also be a factor in future prof hiring. Only language profs would be exempt from taking the test.

The caucus draws their mandate from a survey of 500 students which found inability to understand professors a major complaint.

•The fine arts journal *direction*, based in Founders College, is pulling up its campus roots and

expanding its scope. Under the new name *direction: ars nova*, it will seek support and an audience from the world at large.

There's a release-night party for *direction no. 6* tonight at 9, in the Founders SCR. Some of the contributors will read from their works and advance copies of the issue will be on sale. If you miss it, they'll soon be on sale in the York bookstore....

Two weeks ago, noting that a fellow *Excalibur* staffer had been turned away from the Women's Centre because he was a man, I hoped in print that this was not policy. As it turns out, it isn't.

I mentioned in the same column that there was only one women member on our central student council, CYSF. On the council for 78-79, the female representation will be doubled. In last week's election two women were elected (or rather, acclaimed) to the 25 member body.

•Title of the week, from the *Atkinson Balloon*. Garfield Payne, who is also CYSF's Chief Returning Officer, is listed as being, "Chairman of the Board and Legal Advisor in Charge of Distribution". Ted Mumford

Staff meets today at 1 Screenings for editor in chief today at 2 Monday at 4

