

Union-bashing a Tory plan

Dear editor,

I recently had the chance to read an issue of the *Excalibur* (September 11).

Although I found the articles in general to be of very high quality (in both the literary and political arenas) I did take particular interest in your page 7 contribution, "The Forces Behind the Postal Strike."

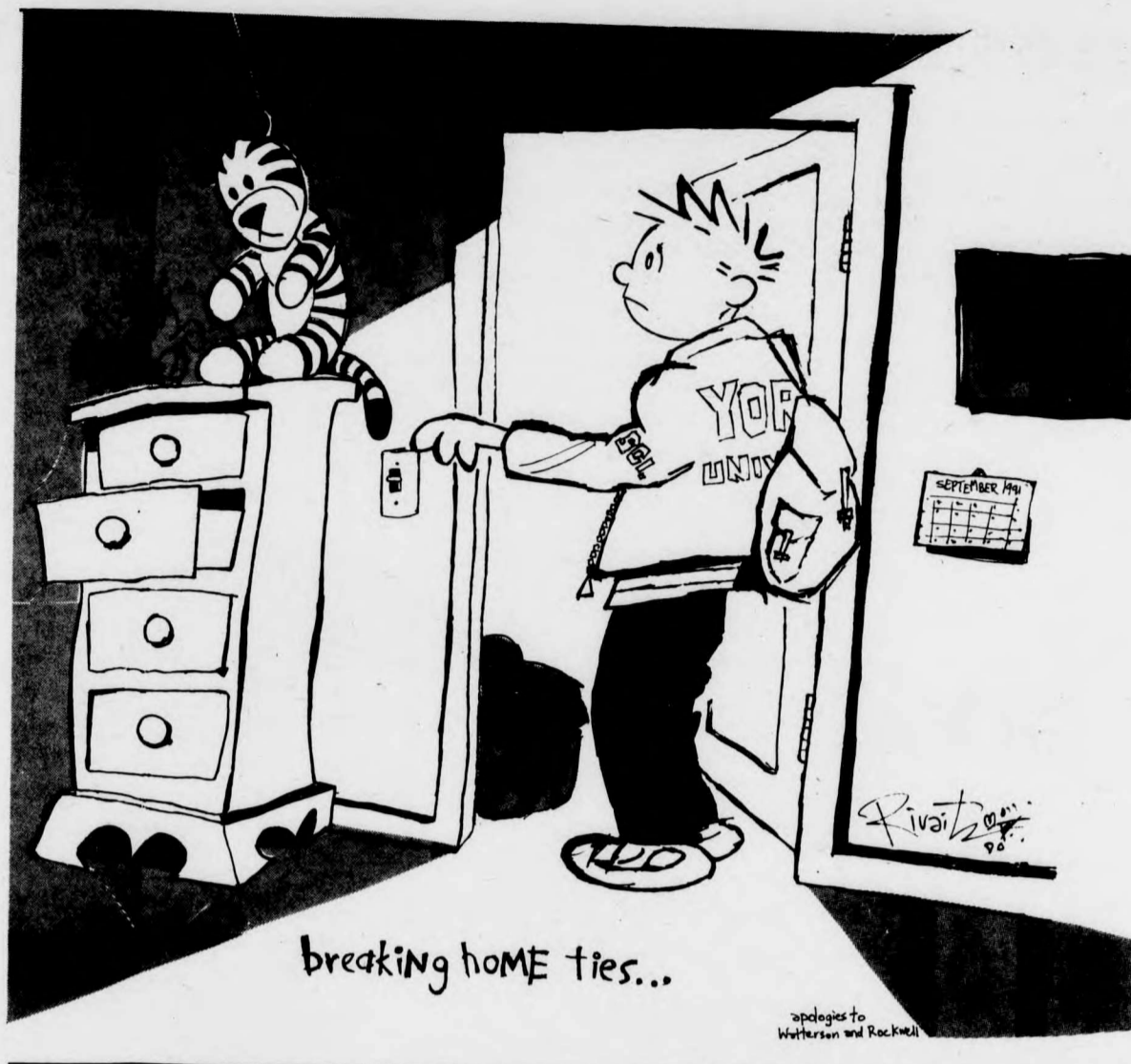
It is rare to see a topic such as a public service strike approached in such a well-researched manner. So often the public's only source of information is via anti-union newspaper chains (such as the "Thomson" bunch) which always blame the Union for any job action.

The serious fact that is vacant in these 'contributions of the right' is the tie or connection of the various Labour disputes that are now underway in Canada. That common denominator is, of course, the Mulroney 'Tory Agenda.'

Just look at the major demands of the present disputes between the various levels of government and the unions, The Canadian Union of Postal Workers (C.U.P.W.), Public Service Alliance of Canada (P.S.A.C.), and the Amalgamated Transit Union (A.T.U.):

C.U.P.W.: job Security; protection of Full-time jobs over part-time and casual labour; wage offers below the inflation rate; protection of Public Services.

P.S.A.C.: wage Offer (0%) below the inflation rate; job Security; protection of Public Services.



A.T.U.: full time job protection over part time.

One can clearly see that the Tory agenda has been sold as a 'package deal' to the business community to

take on organized labour in Canada as a whole.

We are not looking solely at a dispute between Canada Post and C.U.P.W., but rather a concerted action by Lyin' Brian's Federal Tories to take on the working class as a whole, which most definitely includes the student bodies.

One need just look at the Federal cuts to the Provincial Transfer Payments (particularly in Ontario) to see what Mulroney has done to dismantle and tax our education, our universal health care and our social assistance

protections, which is the foundation of Canada's psychological independence from the United States.

What the Federal Tories have done to our standard of living and to every corner of our society is deplorable, be it the Free Trade Agreement and Mexican Talks or the now infamous G.S.T. (Gone Shopping in Tonawanda).

What we must do is unite our forces much like the Tories and big business have united theirs.

Labour (organized or not), student groups, pensioners, the unemployed

(Canada's largest union), church and socially conscious individuals must now mass together like never before to absolutely discredit the Federal Tories.

We cannot afford to wait until the next election.

In Solidarity,
Robert S. Borch
National Director
Metro Toronto Region
Canadian Union of Postal Workers

Sexual message misunderstood

Dear editor,

Occasionally when one examines a particular element of a multi-faceted campaign in isolation from the other components, the overall message can become obscured. We feel this is what has occurred in the piece by Ian T. Kelso and in your editorial in the August 28 *Excalibur*.

For this year's Orientation week, the YFS/FÉY has embarked on a campaign centred around sexuality. The campaign components include the Ontario Federation of Students "No means No!" anti-date rape campaign (featuring posters, leaflets, buttons, and pamphlets), a one-page flyer produced by the YFS/FÉY (outlining the details of our campaign, promoting safe-sex practices, and detailing on-campus locations to obtain free condoms), and finally (the much talked about) College Orientation T-shirt logo promoting safe sex.

While we contest that the cartoon character "Happy Harry the Condom" in fact in any way remotely resembles "a semen filled condom covering an erect penis", we have more serious concerns with the article and the editorial.

The Orientation logo, designed to encourage safe-sex practices, in no

continued on page 9

Letters

We will publish, space permitting, any letters up to 400 words. They must be typed, double spaced, and accompanied by the writer's name and telephone number. Material deemed libelous or discriminatory by the staff of *Excalibur* will be rejected. Letters may be mailed or delivered to *Excalibur* • 426 Central Square • York University • 4700 Keele Street • North York • Ontario • M3J 1P3

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