

# Student denies stealing half-ton of York clay

I would like to lay before you a problem that I have encountered while being a student at York. This problem consists of an accusation against me which is untrue. I have been accused of stealing a thousand pounds of clay from the Vanier pottery Club. I feel like the main character in Kafka's *The Trial*. I would rather feel that when I go away from York I have graduated from a just and humane institution. Some history of the situation may

clarify the problem. When I entered York I asked the advisor to the club, Professor Ray, if I might give paid pottery lessons to supplement my assistanceship earnings. He agreed. The next year Audrey Robinson, the secretary thought I shouldn't give lessons for money. Professor Ellenwood, the other advisor took the matter to the members for a vote. They voted that I should give lessons. I continued to do so but relied mainly on

selling my pottery the second year. There has never been any rule against selling pottery that was made in the club, in fact the club sponsored a Christmas sale. I was able to earn \$500 dollars each year by giving lessons and seeling pottery. This enabled me to support my son with the assistance from York without recourse to any social services.

Upon returning to York this fall after time spent on an Ojibway

religious commune in August I discovered that during this time an accusation had been built up against me that I was implicated in the disappearance of a thousand pounds of clay from the club. Audrey had encouraged Geoff Hunter and Susan Propenko to spy on me all summer to see if I was weighing and charging my pottery properly when I fired it. I had no idea this was happening, nor was I aware that my firings were in any way improper.

I have an MFA in ceramics and five years experience teaching pottery in the wider community. I take professional pride in my work and find it incredible that people would spy on me to concoct unjust conclusions. They claim that I did not record a firing in the cards in which I owed eighteen dollars. I thought I recorded all my kiln sheets, but it may be that in the excitement of leaving in August I left one on the kiln or beside the card box, trusting that someone else would record it accurately. From this it has been deduced that I made away with a thousand pounds of clay which is shown to be missing.

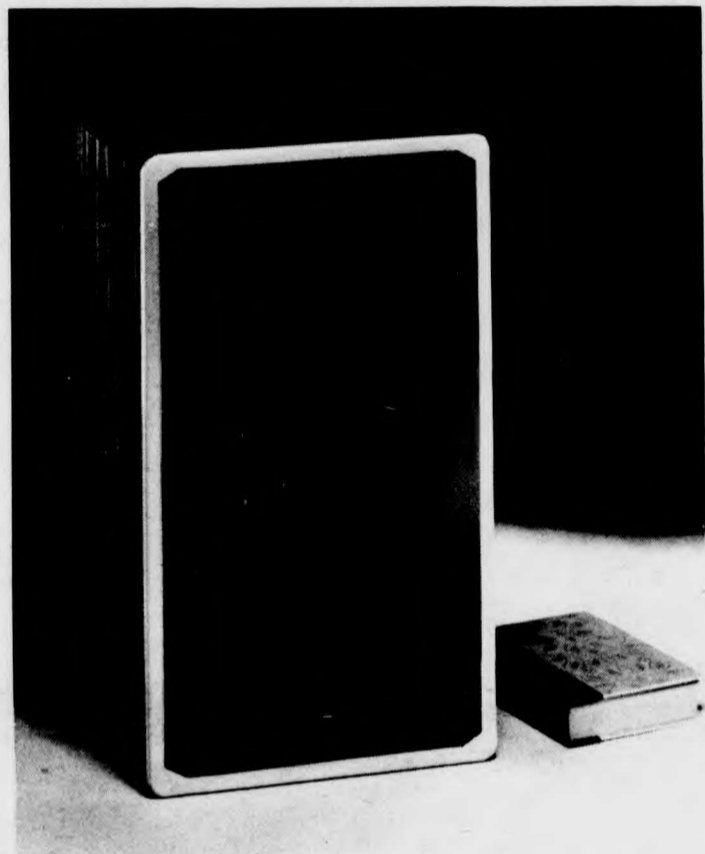
It is shown to be missing in a bookkeeping arrangement which does not mention that the resident tutor of Vanier was given considerable amounts of clay during the year; that fails to investigate how much clay is taken home by members who have potters' wheels; and is questionable in its estimation of how much clay goes down the sink into the clay trap and is thrown out.

Since August I have been unable to work in the Vanier studio because of this accusation and because the lock on the kiln room door was changed and I am not allowed to fire any pottery. I take as much pride in firing for fine glazes as I take in creating forms, I have tried alternative arrangements to do my pottery work but have been unable to realize them because I cannot afford equipment and supplies while attending school. The students and orders that supplied a supplement to my income are no more.

The lack of income is not as important as the general issue of the lack of democratic process which brought about this injustice.

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## Glendon isn't amused

As a fourth year Glendon student, I would like to take this opportunity to express much resentment towards two items which appeared in the January 27 issue of *Excalibur*. The first was the "Snips'n Snipes" blurb on the "treed wonderland" of Glendon, the second, the cartoon on page 4 by R. Showkewych. It appears that the cartoonist seems to think that the predicament of our College is

an amusing one. I must inform the *Excalibur* staff that I do not find these items in York's newspaper to be in the least bit amusing. Nor do a great majority of Glendonites.

We have no desire nor intentions of finishing our studies at York, in the Downsview Arctic. The trust is, we like our "treed wonderland" College, and we'll fight so it remains "juste comme il est".

Susan Liebel  
Representative of the French Dep't  
Glendon College Student Council.

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## Profit figure slightly off

In *Excalibur*, Agnes Kruchio cites me as a source for the proposition that the Glendon residences make a gross profit of \$227,000. In fact, there was a slight misunderstanding. I had meant to be conceding a substantial 'profit' (\$184,165 in 1975-76, I believe), but in retrospect I have to say that Ms. Kruchio was entitled to take me as confirming the number she quoted.

Apologies. The gist of the article at the point in question is unaffected.  
Nollaig McKenzie



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