

# Excalibur

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

## Citizenship statistics must be released

Today York's senate decides whether or not to release information on the citizenship and educational training of faculty members and graduate students — and it's no secret why many professors want these figures kept secret.

Last year when these statistics were released people at York discovered that many arts departments were controlled by Americans and American-trained Canadians.

Students began to see a relationship between these statistics and the lack of Canadian content in most of their courses. They noticed that American professors were ignoring Canadian issues simply because they were unfamiliar with them.

Some students, in fact, challenged the nature of York's education right in the classroom, demanding professors

put Canadian content into their courses.

This year, however, it has become apparent that certain professors, both American and American-trained Canadians, hope to suppress information in an attempt to undercut the nationalists on campus.

These professors will, no doubt, claim their academic freedom to teach what they want is being violated — their freedom to ignore Canadian problems (although the Canadian taxpayer pays their salaries) and their freedom to withhold from Canadian students that information and those intellectual tools needed to build a decent society in this northern half of the continent.

Yes, some of us would like to limit professors' "freedom" and we hope the first step towards that limitation will begin at today's senate meeting.

## Letters to the Editor

### Profs and Z steal you "blind"

I think it high time that the York bookstore be exposed for the crap that it is; and the faculty in general be made aware of the almost criminal negligence it perpetrates.

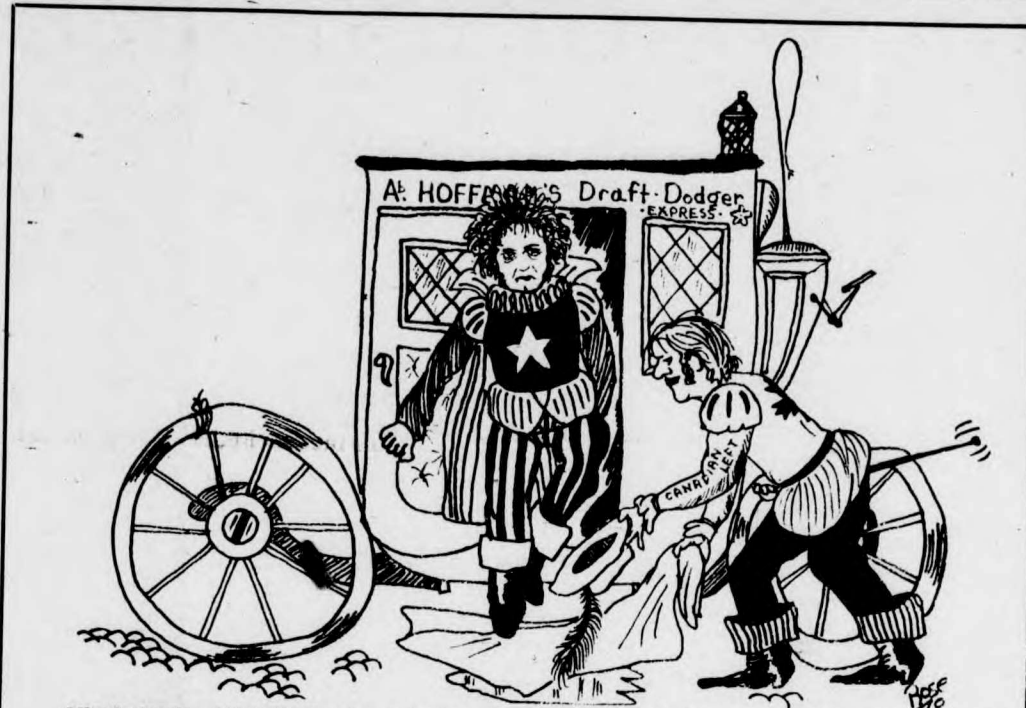
I spotted no less than six different paperback editions of Moby Dick on the shelves, all no doubt required by different professors. But surely the binding, the print size, the weight and the aesthetic appeal of a given edition at \$2.45 don't make that Melville any better than his poor (75¢) cousin. They all start out with "Call me Ishmael" and proceed right along, unabridged, until the Rachel finds another orphan in place of her lost children. In text only the introductions are different; and if a prof seriously recommends Melville for his course because some other men wrote something clever about Melville's symbolism, I must question that professor's value as a teacher. Clearly the introductions can be competently covered in a lecture without necessitating an entire class' purchase of an expensive edition.

Perhaps it is only ignorance. Perhaps the faculty has really never paid attention to the fact that any fiction available in

Bobbs-Merrill, Rinehart or Riverside (with the exception of maybe a dozen titles) is available in Signet, Washington Square or Bantam; that Delta is just an expensive Dell edition; and that Fitzgerald and Hemingway, who seem always to be read in expensive Scribner's editions, sit on my shelf in 85¢ Penguins, all purchased at the Book Cellar (Yorkville and Avenue Road). But if ignorance is the case, it is only the meagrest of excuses, and can have no continuing validity.

There is yet another reason the faculty may cling to expensive books, and that is uniformity. A prof wants to be able to refer to page 37, line 8, and he also wants a book to last several years and a dozen readings, which lets out 35¢ Washington Square editions of Huck Finn. But even so, in one English course of mine, the recommended editions (the cheapest the prof knew of) totalled \$18.95. I bought them for \$20.55. No matter how you look at it, vellum finish and steel engraving cannot outweigh the amount of good reading that \$8.40 can buy.

But the true responsibility lies with the York bookstore, who have been supporting this operation for a long time. Of course they never draw attention to a



Yippee leader Abbie Hoffman in his recent Alberta speech delegated Canadians to the role of serving American draft dodgers. (See page one.) This indicates that even the American left (anti-imperialist, yet) has internalized the master race mentality inherent in American culture. Rather than developing their own strategy geared to Canadian particularities the Canadian left is supposed to play a subsidiary (branch-plant) role to its American parent. Sorry, Abbie, the times they are a changin'.

cheaper edition because the mark-up on it is lesser. No, no, the bookstore is just another marvellous service like Versa Food — so full of defects that only its monopoly allows it to exist. In talking with an employee the other day, I learned that, for example, a shipment of hardcovers came in when the paperback editions were ordered, and consequently one course is paying an extra seven dollars per copy because of the bookstore's laziness (and greed?).

Further, the bookstore is well aware of how cheaply editions may be bought, but for various reasons, doesn't help the profs out in picking the cheapest. Moreover, the bookstore could easily be buying books directly from the publishers, since they order in large enough quantity, yet, again out of laziness, does all the purchasing through a couple of wholesale distributors, which is why they can't afford to cut the cover price substantially.

If it weren't for the fact that the bookstore carries books that no place else does, I'm sure there would already have been several boycotts. As it is we are stuck way the hell up shit's creek, with nothing we can do to save ourselves.

Obviously this problem exists primarily in the lit, hum and soc sci courses. Although some of the most outrageous examples I have yet learned of is the half year science course whose prof is requiring \$17 hardcover texts for each semester, when he knows very well that there are paperbacks available at \$8.

To a certain extent there are some who don't consider this a problem, figuring that if a kid can afford university, he can afford an extra \$40 a year on special editions. That's a pile of crap. The only real alternative a lot of people have is to rip-off the bookstore, which a lot of people are willing to do. And that brings it all home to the faculty. How are they going to live on the royalties of their books' sales, if their students are making a habit of stealing them?

There is a great deal of equity involved. Everybody ends up broke and with a lot of unwanted books on his hands. Except the bookstore. It just ends up broke.

We must break the bookstore's monopoly, and we must also educate the spendthrifts on the faculty. And the time is now when the shelves are loaded with deluxe editions.

Dan Merkur  
Excalibur Staff

### Zalewski passes the buck, for book buck hike

Dear Sir,

There is a serious inaccuracy in Mr. Zalewski's (York bookstore manager) paid editorial of today's date (Sept. 17). Section 34 of the Combines Investigation Act makes it an offence for a supplier to specify the price at which his goods shall be resold. Mr. Zalewski cannot therefore be right when he tells us (with the aid of red ink) that "all book prices in the YORK BOOKSTORE are set by publishers or

dealers, never the bookstore. . ."

A supplier may recommend a retail price, but the bookstore is free to ignore it with impunity and, in my opinion, should do so if it feels that the mark-up is excessive.

Jacob S. Ziegel  
Professor of Law  
Osgoode Hall Law School

### Yellow journalism but with imagination

Dear Sir,

I wonder whether any of your readers were gullible enough to believe that York University was "ordered" (by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania) to comply with a state law calling for the keeping of files on the political activities of Pennsylvania students attending York.

"York told to comply with U.S. state law" (Excalibur, 17 September) is surely one of the most imaginative pieces of 'yellow journalism' since the Hearst newspapers covered the sinking of the Maine.

How about another installment next week entitled, "Pa. State Troopers Headed for Border" or "Slater Confronts Keystone Cops."

Christopher Maurer, '73

(Ed. note: Anyone doubting the accuracy of our news report may view the Pennsylvania document in question in the EXCALIBUR office.)

### Convocation report incomplete without audience reaction

Dear Editor,

I noticed that in reading your account of Mr. Blumenthal's speech on convocation day, you left out a few interesting facts. You did not mention that the audience's reaction was that of anger and outrage, and that Mr. Blumenthal should spoil their day with his outburst of distorted facts and insults.

When the chancellor did remind Mr. Blumenthal that his five minutes were up (as indeed they were) he also invited those who were interested in listening to the conclusion of Mr. Blumenthal's speech to stay in their seats. NO ONE STAYED!

Marion Fralick

(Ed. note: Audience reaction to Blumenthal's speech is somewhat debatable. Prof. Gwen Matheson in a statement said she and "several of us in the audience protested loudly" when Blumenthal was cut off; see her account in the student handbook, Manus, pg. 27. Also, no one stayed because Blumenthal, himself, left.)

Letters not published this week will be held over to the next edition with apologies

## Excalibur

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