

letters & comment

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, *Excalibur*, room III, Central Square. Please type letters, triple or double spaced, and keep them to around 250 words. Name, address and phone number must be included, but name will be withheld on request. *Excalibur* reserves the right to edit for grammar and length.
Deadline Monday 4pm.

The Forest letters, vol. II

Forest: inquiry hoax

There has been a large amount of confusion generated over the recent attacks against myself and the York Student Movement, student wing of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist - Leninist) at York. The university administration is trying to peddle the line that these attacks were not politically motivated but that they arise out of my "personal behaviour" i.e., that I go around hitting students and therefore I should not be allowed on campus.

They are trying to suggest that it is alright for 30-40 Zionists to attack the Marxist - Leninists but that it is illegal for the Marxist - Leninists to defend themselves and that when they do, they are arrested and charged with every sort of trumped-up crime, of causing a disturbance by fighting and by shouting, of carrying dangerous weapons and of assaulting their attackers.

Further I was suspended and banned indefinitely by the university administration and now they are trying to float a kangaroo court under the hoax of holding an impartial inquiry.

In fact, as these events show, I am being attacked solely because I am a Marxist - Leninist professor and because I actively support CPC(M-L), the revolutionary party of the Canadian proletariat, which is based on Marxism - Leninism and proletarian internationalism. CPC (M-L) stands for the overthrow of the reactionary bourgeoisie, the U.S. imperialist domination of Canada and the capitalist system itself through the revolutionary mass struggles of the proletariat.

The Party also supports the revolutionary struggles of the international proletariat and the oppressed peoples for national and social emancipation. The Party has always supported the struggle of the heroic Palestinian people whereas the oppressor Canadian state, acting as an agent of U.S. imperialism, has always opposed the just struggle of the Palestinian people.

For these reasons the Canadian state has, over the years, launched thousands of attacks on the Party, making over 2000 arrests and jailing many hundreds of Party supporters. It is for these same reasons that the reactionary university administration, the Metro Toronto police and the Zionists have been attacking the YSM and myself. These attacks expose the lie that Canada is a "bourgeois democracy", that the university has an "academic atmosphere", and provides a democratic forum for expressing ideas.

In fact, the university in monopoly capitalist society is an institution for the indoctrination and propagation of every reactionary, anti-people, anti-communist, anti-working class and racist ideology, and the bourgeoisie exercises its dictatorship here through every means possible, including the violent suppression of the progressive people.

In the current struggle many organizations and individuals have come out to oppose the suspension and ban of myself. Included among these was *Excalibur* which in its editorial of November 24, 1977 said that "it is essential that we oppose the administrative ban of Jeffrey Forest". In the same editorial, however, under the hoax of opposing the state, of opposing the suppression of the Marxist - Leninists, *Excalibur* viciously attacked CPC (M-L) with unsubstantial accusations and slanders.

In fact they are guilty of the very crime of which the accuse CPC(M-L). The attack of *Excalibur* ob-

jectively serves to prepare conditions to assist the state in launching further attacks. This activity of *Excalibur* does nothing to aid the resistance movement of the students but, instead, actually works to split the students in the face of an attack by the enemy.

The struggle at York is not simply over whether I get my job back or not. Rather it is a struggle to defend our basic interests, to defend our right to disseminate and participate in Marxist-Leninist, progressive and democratic politics. All students, faculty and staff should oppose these attacks of the reactionary state, the university administration, the police and the Zionists.

END THE BAN!
IMMEDIATE REINSTATEMENT!
FULL INVESTIGATION!

Dr. Jeffrey Goodman Forest

An excellent lecturer

It was a surprise for me to learn that Dr. Jeffrey Forest was suspended by the university. I was in Dr. Forest's class: SS 183 "Social issues of contemporary Canada" last term.

I do not know much about the York Student Movement, and I do not really understand "Zionism". However, I would like to say something about what I feel and what I think about Dr. Forest.

I read the news through once, and I found that some parts of the article were trying to give us an impression that Dr. Forest was wrong and extreme.

Dr. Forest is an excellent lecturer. He always tried his best to explain every single problem to us. Our class was finished at 10 pm, but he and Marsha Forest stayed and discussed with us until 10:30 or 11 pm!

Everyone of us liked him very much. There were about 30 students in our class. During all the classes, Dr. Forest always had a smile.

He prepared very well for the classes. I learned a great deal from this course. In addition, some students came to our class for their own interests and not for the credit.

I think it is incorrect to force Dr. Forest off this campus.

William Lee

Defeat suppression

I came to the York campus recently to give a guest lecture and found myself facing a familiar scene. I was greeted by posters announcing the ban and suspension of Dr. J. Forest.

From what knowledge I was able to gain, his suspension is a clear-cut case of political persecution. The right of a professor to hold Marxist-Leninist political views — and to express them — is a right we must defend. Banning or suspending a professor before any investigation is outrageous.

Dr. Forest must not only be reinstated, but all persons concerned with political freedom must rally to protect Dr. Forest's political and academic rights. At Waterloo we have faced similar attempts to suppress Marxist-Leninists' political rights (in the *Chevron* affair) and have defeated the attempts.

These attempts have now moved to York; stand together to defeat them here.

Professor Leo G. Johnson,
Associate Prof. of History
University of Waterloo



Violence was predictable

I must respectfully disagree with the position your paper has taken regarding the right of Jeffrey Forest and the Communist Party of Canada to disseminate the literature leading to the ugly incident of November 18.

The issue arising from this unfortunate incident is not one of freedom of speech but rather it is the right of the minority to be protected from racist attacks and to be able to live in comfort and security. Further, another issue is to prevent the recurrence of these violent events.

Certainly allowing this situation to continue is bound to lead to further violence and possibly personal injury. I would suggest that the university's security service would be negligent in allowing such an incident to recur when it could easily be prevented. Being unable to condone the violence of that afternoon, I must state that it was predictable.

I would suggest, as I'm sure *Excalibur* would, that the same ugly results would occur if the Western Guard were permitted to disseminate their hate literature. Hence I'm sure *Excalibur* would agree that this group should be prevented from proselytizing on the campus, hence I cannot understand why your paper is unwilling to extend this same principle to Mr. Forest's group.

Absolute freedoms of expression must be compromised to a limited extent in order to protect the rights of minority groups to live free from the fear of persecution and to prevent the recurrence of such an ugly and violent incident.

Barry Edson
Past President CYSF

Students say reinstate

The *Excalibur* issue dated November 24, 1977 expresses the thought of the Student Council that Forest be fired, as well as requesting that he not be allowed access to a literature table in the future.

As students of Atkinson College and members of his Social Science class 183A we do not support this view.

We believe:
A) that Dr. Jeffrey Forest has been convicted and sentenced without a trial by virtue of his suspension from the York Campus;
B) that we live in a society where everyone, including Dr. Jeffrey Forest has a fundamental right of freedom of speech and of thought.

26 students of SS 183A

The letter the Star wouldn't print

Enclosed are copies of my letters to the Editor of *The Star*. *The Star* has chosen to ignore them; furthermore, they have failed to print a basic explanatory paragraph of John Buttrick's rebuttal.

Since *Excalibur* has also misstated Buttrick's position, I would be grateful if you would print the enclosed letters for clarification.

Mr. Borden Spears
Senior Editor
The Toronto Star

Dear Mr. Spears:

Enclosed I send you a copy of my letter to the Editor of the *Star* concerning your paper's report and editorial statement on John Buttrick's *Educational Problems of Ontario*.

I do not have to tell you that policies concerning university education are, at this time in particular, of great importance to the community. Therefore, I am shocked and grieved that your paper has treated Buttrick's contribution in a manner which indicates either ignorance due to negligence or willful misrepresentation. In either case, you have reason to be concerned for the integrity of your paper's editorial practices.

Editor
The Toronto Star

Dear Sir:

I am shocked by the misrepresentation in your front page report (Wednesday, November 16) and in your editorial statement (Saturday, November 19) of Professor John Buttrick's argument concerning *Educational Problems in Ontario and Some Policy Options* (Occasional Paper No. 4, Ontario Economic Council, 1977).

Far from advocating the position you ascribe to him, Buttrick explicitly calls for a more egalitarian education policy than currently prevails in Ontario. He clearly explains that since only a small

proportion of Ontario students from low income families ever qualify for university education, the current university educational system supported by the Province represents an effective subsidy to the rich, financed in part by taxing the poor. Hence, as things are, raising tuition fees would in itself represent a progressive change.

Then, so as to give students from lower income groups the opportunity to benefit from higher education according to their talent and not their financial capacity, Buttrick calls for several measures, including readily available student loans, the repayment of which would be made contingent upon income and capital gains as reported for income tax purposes, on a sliding scale (see page 68 of his report).

Two principles are involved here. First, by misrepresenting his argument, you have treated in an irresponsible and destructive manner a policy problem of fundamental importance to the community. One may disagree with Buttrick's specific proposals, but no one who believes in a democratic society would disagree with his goal.

Secondly, by creating the impression that Buttrick represents an elitist, anti-social position, you have cast doubt on the integrity of a man who has been fighting all his life for social justice.

Louis Lefebvre
Professor of Economics



Soviet stories disappointing

The interview with the two Soviet students and the article on the hunger-strikers in last week's *Excalibur* is very disappointing journalism.

First of all, the interview refrains from asking these Soviets any of the questions which are of vital interest to Canadian students.

For instance, do students in the Soviet Union have to pay tuition? No.

Do they have a guaranteed living stipend? Yes.

Is it hard to find a job? No. There is a labour shortage in the Soviet Union. Students have their choice of jobs in their desired area.

Secondly, the interview attempts to generalise from hearsay reports of two emigrés to the whole of Soviet society. There was not one statistic in the entire article. Obviously statistics were avoided because they would invariably refute the claims made.

For instance, though Jews represent less than 2 percent of the total population, they occupy 6 per cent or more of university posts, managerial jobs, and Communist Party positions.

It is true religion is practised legally and openly, though the vast majority of the population is not

religious. I saw evidence of this on a visit to the Ukraine this past summer. Just how "the KGB controls the Moscow synagogue" is not explained in the article.

One thing is certain - there are no documented cases of terrorism or torture in the Soviet Union today. Under Stalin - yes - but he fortunately died 25 years ago.

That brings me to the article on the York hunger-strikers. The article suggests that they are protesting the violation of human rights. Clearly they are not protesting torture or killing, but rather a legal decision about Sharansky's alleged CIA affiliation. And on what basis? Jimmy Carter's word of honour?!

If such selfless freedom fighters as these are so concerned about the transgression of human rights, why do they not protest the regimes of Chile, South Africa, South Korea, etc., where 10,000s of people have been and continue to be tortured and killed?

Well-balanced journalism dealing with such a touchy topic as human rights would surely have made this point.

If we are going to criticise other countries, we should do so in a responsible fashion.

Eric Walberg