

# 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.

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## Empty stomachs pricked some empty consciences

Twelve York hunger strikers are to be congratulated for getting a response out of the Canadian government on the persecution of the Soviet Jewish dissident, Anatoly Scharansky.

Scharansky has been imprisoned without formal charges since March 15, 1977 as an alleged CIA agent. His arrest has come at a time when the international Jewish community is concerned that the Soviet state may be gearing up for a wave of anti-semitic persecution, reminiscent of the early 1950's when Jews were herded off to labour camps as "cosmopolites".

Scharansky could be a test case. If he is pilloried and the world does not protest, the USSR could then step up its campaign against Jews, confident that no one would care.

The hunger strikers may have helped obstruct this plan. The government has told Moscow that Scharansky can come here at once. And a motion has been tabled in the House of Commons condemning the USSR for transgressions of the Helsinki human rights agreement.

Perhaps the Soviets have now had a taste of international revulsion that could eventually buy Scharansky's freedom.

There is no reason to believe that the Trudeau government would have done a thing to help Scharansky without pressure from the strike and attendant media coverage. The Prime Minister's record on human rights is abysmal.

Throughout the Vietnam carnage he never lifted a finger to stop Canadian complicity in the war. When the Soviets invaded Czechoslovakia he said it was "slow thinking". And his callousness towards starving Biafran children was notorious in the early '70's, when he said, after all we didn't help the starving Germans at Stalingrad did we?

At tremendous personal risk and sacrifice, the hunger strikers have succeeded in goading Ottawa into action. And they have proven that determined student action *can* affect government actions. We all owe them our gratitude.



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## Staff meets today 1 pm

Agenda will include: report from our delegates to the CUP conference (fees, expansion, etc.); policy on length of letters and opinion pieces; projects for second term; review of the issue; assignments for numbers 15 to infinity; refreshments; anything else that comes up. Be there!

Olga Graham

## Going Going Gonzo

Riddle: What is brown, round and is eaten by York University over 7,000 times a week?

Bagels!

Earlier this week, *Excalibur* surveyed the cafeterias and coffee shops on campus for bagel consumption. The total tally was over 7,000 of the little fellows a week.

Leading the standings were Calumet's Ainger coffeeshop and Food and Plenty Enterprises in Central Square, each vending around 900 bagels a week. Close behind was Vanier's Open End,



Winters' Absinthe and Administrative Studies' Financial Poste.

If anyone would like to investigate the number of cups of coffee consumed a week at York, please come to the *Excalibur* offices.

Speaking of the Absinthe... the pub is named after a green liqueur flavoured with wormwood and angelica root. It was popular in French literary and artistic circles at the turn of the century and given

to French troops as medicine for fever during the Algerian War of the 1830's and '40's.

The Degas painting *Au Café* is better known as *L'Absinthe*, and the pub has used the painting in ads.

Emile Zola described the horrors of absinthe in *L'Assommoir*. Its sale and manufacture are now illegal in France as a result of several sensational murder trials in which the liqueur was blamed for inciting its drinkers to crime...

There was an oversight when A&G caterers, who run the Atkinson cafeteria, ordered up some "map of Toronto" placemats. The aerial-view painting of the city, which is featured on the mats, clearly labels Black Creek Pioneer Village. But alas, next to the Village, where York University should be, there is only green...

Metro police have identified Jane and Keele, and Finch and Keele as two of the seven most accident-prone intersections in Metro... it's hard to make those left turns when you're absorbed in thought...

From the listings in York's Off-campus bulletin, November 14: "Two bedrooms on third floor of two-floor flat... Other occupant rarely home..."

Wild spending of the month department: Ontario's gift to Queen Elizabeth on the occasion of her 25th year as sovereign was to be a collection of art, gathered from submissions of three works each made by directors of forty public galleries across the province. \$86,000 was allotted for the collection.

This amount was to cover various administration costs and a catalogue, and the cost of a tour of Ontario galleries, after which the



works would be returned to their original homes.

The breakdown on the funds went like this: \$9,460 for administrative costs, and nearly half of the remaining \$76,540 on a full-colour catalogue. Only about \$40,000 was actually spent on art.

According to the panel of judges, it was felt that the art submitted did not merit shelling out any more than half the bucks left over. So why spend an almost equal amount for a lavish catalogue for a lacklustre collection of art?

Chevy Chase, ex of *Saturday Night Live*, whence did his alliterative handle derive?

Not from the name of an automobile, it seems. *Chevy Chase* is the title of one of a family of famous 16th century ballads which recounted a battle between the Scots and English. The "Cheviot" or "Chevy" are the borderland hills where the battle occurred.

Chevy Chase is also a town on the Maryland-Washington, D.C. border...

On the topic of borders, those zany Ku Klux Klan boys have hatched a new project. Klan national director David Duke has announced that Klansmen armed with CB radios and "legally registered weapons" will patrol the 1,300 mile border between the US and Mexico, looking for illegal Mexican workers on the US side...

Ted Mumford

There's something for everyone to do at Excalibur Enlist today!

