

# letters

All letters should be addressed to the editor, Excalibur, Room 111 Central Square. Letters must be typed, triple-spaced, on a 66 stroke line. Letters are limited to 300 words (seven column inches). Name, address, or phone number must be included or the letter will not be published. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for grammar and length. Deadline Monday 4 pm

## Open end closed for upgrading

In response to a letter in the March 1 edition of the Excalibur, complaining about the closing of the Open End Coffee Shop during reading week and the consequent inconvenience it caused to Winter/Summer students.

The Open End has to close four times per year for complete and thorough cleaning. There was also need for the installation of a new beer fridge and an upgrading of the present sound system, and neither of these could be accomplished while the Coffee Shop was open.

Since it had to be closed, it was decided that it should be done when the least number of students would be inconvenienced by its closure. It is unfortunate that the Winter/Summer group had to fall into this category, and on behalf of the Council an apology to them is forwarded forthwith. Nevertheless, in view of the reasons stated, the closure was most certainly justified and we are all the better for it. I am sure everyone appreciates the cleaner environment, the colder beer, and the finer sound!

Vanier Winter/Summer Student Council

## High calibre Excalibur sports

Please accept my thanks and appreciation for Excalibur's efforts in covering and reporting of our Athletic Program. The men and women student athletes representing York and its colleges have made a substantial contribution to the quality of life on our campus; I'm appreciative of the conscientious and high calibre efforts of Excalibur reporters in making that known.

Frank Cosentino,  
Chairman and Director;  
Department of Physical  
Education and Athletics

## PM and thugs invade ballet

The Prime Minister has a tough act to follow. In 1968, Trudeau gained his "popular support" with long hair, and a take me or leave me style. The people must have liked it! For his critics he took a hard line on many issues his predecessors had shied away from. Whether he voted for him or not, intellectual treason was not something we had come to expect from our new leader.

In a pre-campaign blitz krieg, to regain a little of that popular support in the Horse Shoe, he found himself talking to an assortment of plebs: construction workers, factory employees, students, and me!

I was seating myself down at O'Keefe Centre after going all out on an \$11.00 ticket. Isle 4, RR, seat 64, way at the back, and who should walk in but Pierre. To my horror he had managed, that day to procure 7 tickets, (he was accompanied by 6 RCMP thugs) for a performance that was sold out. As he came into the theatre everyone was expected to stand, and then clap.

After a brilliant performance by the National Ballet I found myself meandering through the lobby and, yes, face to face with our good man! He stuck out his hand as if to say, "shake for a vote". I knew that I could avoid shaking his hand by thinking of something to say, quickly! But what? With the prospect of joining the long lines of unemployed after graduating, the question became painfully obvious.

"Trudeau, when I heard that you were here, I thought that it would be an excellent opportunity to tell you that I was looking for a job." AGH! Did I say that?

"You should take up dancing," he said pointing to the dance floor.

"No," I said thoughtfully, "that won't quite do."

"Well I don't have any here at the moment," as he searched through his pockets, and turned them out.

"That's really unfortunate,"

responded almost in tears. Then came his well rehearsed response.

"Have you tried Manpower?"  
"Your Kidding???" I was in a state of shock.

"You know, they really aren't much good at all."  
He shrugged, and smiled.

I was warming up and suggested that "he" try them some time.

As he was whisked along by his entourage of four or five tough looking characters he said, "I have," and smiled again!

He had stopped long enough, and didn't get this suckers shake.

Paul Le Forestier  
Glendon

## Excalibur lacks 'thinking corner'

I have read some comments on the Excalibur as one of the best university newspapers among Ontario post-secondary institutions. But I think something is always lacking in its content - a "thinking corner" where thinking minds are expected to meet.

In a higher institution of learning like York, it would be improper for the management of the Excalibur to continue to ignore the need to create a considerable portion in the paper where students and instructors can use to expose the "mental history of York" as Michael McGrady put it. Such an idea taken into consideration will tend to balance the menu for you discerning student readers, many of whom I think are already bored with your extensive coverage on politics in York.

How delighted would an Economics major be to read an article titled - 'Problems of Technological take-off in Third World Countries', so would a sociology major be to read one titled - 'The Canadian Social Setting and Public Morality', or a philosophy major to one titled - 'The Arrogance of Materialism'. Let us please start now to think of how to create this mental stimulus which the York community is presently not enjoying.

O. G. Uba,  
Economics

## Pompous paper prints platitudes

Ever since September this particular reader has been waiting for these pages to contain some competent writing on rock. There hasn't been any - and the article criticizing the name of the group Battered Wives, (March 15), is only further proof of the fact. If Excalibur's attempt at rock commentary can merely be an excursion into the pompous and the platitudinal, then perhaps the paper had better stick to reporting the minutes of meetings.

The main question here is ultimately not whether names (of bands, books, plays etc.) should be censored. What is important is that fiction not masquerade as fact, and your article, with its substitution of attitude for argument performs just such a distortion. You insist, for instance, with all available righteousness, that a group's name will sell its records. It won't - although record companies doubtless devoutly wish that it (or cover art) would. Music or outlook sells records; and if you are arguing, (since you have dismissed the Wives' music), that name is equal to outlook, and that a certain woman-abusing policy is either cherished by the band's members or encouraged in its audience, then you are plainly incorrect. Indeed, any sensationalism surrounding the band's name has been the result of articles like yours, or of demonstrations and protests expressing the same irresponsible point of view. The fact that there is no real understanding involved in such antagonism - the fact that it is the product of the newest turn in the topical 'concern' with women's rights - makes its sensationalizing aspects all the more obvious. Where are the objections to band names like the Vibrators, the Swollen Members, the Slits, the Curse or Martha and the Muffins? Condemnation of woman-as-sex-object is out of date, apparently. The latest thing is an equally superficial condemnation of woman-as-

bruise-object.

Go ahead and write trendy articles, folks.

But don't pretend that they're intelligent.  
Maggie Dowling

## Taylor should get wise to showbiz

In reply to Barb Taylor's letter in the March 8 edition of Excalibur (Why Winters hired Battered Wives).

The letter appears to me to be fully of irrelevancies and illogicalities.

Ms. Taylor says because the group was 'isolated' if not 'ostracized' from the Toronto music scene 'they chose the title Battered Wives. Why not The Outsiders or Outcasts - surely more logical titles. What possible logical connection is there between isolation from a music scene and women who suffer continued physical violence from their husbands?

The letter talks later of those who 'condemn the musical taste of others', the implication being that the people doing the condemning are not familiar with the music. But the issue in question has absolutely nothing to do with musical taste. I have never heard Battered Wives play and for all I know they may be Beatles or Beethovens. Even if they were, I would still object to their choice of name and logo.

Is Ms. Taylor really as naive as she seems or is she merely turning a blind eye to the real reason for the group's choice of name - publicity and money? The group is using a cheap and offensive gimmick to make a name for themselves - and you can be sure they will drop it if it loses its economic viability. Come off it, Ms. Taylor - get wise to the wiles of 'showbiz'.

Tony Gibbon

## Adding insult to injury

In this time of cutbacks and further firings of staff and faculty, readers of Excalibur can imagine my surprise when I read in last week's social science divisional newsletter that full-time faculty are being invited to apply for five course directorships in the 1980 drop in programme.

The jobs are available on an off-load basis. In other words, faculty are being invited to apply for work that surely, in these straitened times, should go to part-time faculty in the Division.

My investigations into this state of affairs reveal that Arts Dean Harold Kaplan has suggested that full-time faculty should teach these courses as part of their regular course load.

The Division of Social Science is, apparently, unwilling to do this for a programme that they only half-heartedly support.

Therefore, Kaplan's second priority comes into effect, that the courses be taught by regular faculty on an off-load basis.

My question is this: Surely, surely, surely it is possible for the Dean and the Division to reach some agreement whereby these course directorships could be integrated into the regular faculty course load?

If any work is left over, then should it not go to those who need the money most, part-timers who face the prospect of unemployment in September?

As added insult to injury, the remuneration for these course directorships is not the rate paid to part-time faculty, \$3675, but \$4000. Does the Division doubt its ability to attract faculty to teach a course for \$3675? Yet more grist to our straitened mill!

Tony Woolson,  
part-time faculty person

## Big Mac talks back

I refer to your story (March 15) on the Board of Governors' meeting of meeting of March 12th in which you described my observation that it is essential that university funding be underwritten to at least the rate of inflation as "a dramatic change of policy". I would not want you to think that this suggestion will necessarily be

followed by a dramatic change in government funding. In fact, this has been my position for several years in discussions about the serious underfunding of universities in Ontario. In numerous public statements, speeches, and proposals, I have reiterated the official position of this University: university funding should be related not simply to the numbers of students, but to the legitimate costs of maintaining the academic standards of the university. York University will continue to urge its case both upon governments and the public at every opportunity as we have done in the past.

H. Ian Macdonald  
President

## Jesus and John didn't get it on

This is a reply to a letter published March 15, 1979 issue of Excalibur, that defended the Gay's rights of individual independence of conscience and self-determination.

With reference to Mr. Alexander Duncan's letter in the March 15th paper, Jesus's love for John, one of his disciples, was not at all an intimate physical relationship. Of the references made of this disciple in the Gospel of John, none of them even remotely suggest such a relationship (see John 13:23, 19:26 and 20:2) existed between him and Jesus. In fact in each of these instances, Jesus and John were not alone, but with other people. I therefore fail to see how anyone could interpret these passages in any other way than that in which they are presented. If anything, Jesus's fondness for John was closer to that of a younger brother, for we learn when he was crucified on the cross (John 19:26-27) that he gave his mother Mary, his disciple John as her son, that he might care for her.

In reply to the main point of Mr. Duncan's letter, I found in reading Mr. Matthews letter of March 8th, that his view is not one of condemnation of homosexuality as a punishable sin, but that it is God's condemnation of the sins of man, one of which is homosexuality.

In Romans 1:26-27, we are told by the Apostle Paul that men, who leave "...the natural use of the woman, burned in their lusts one towards another; men with men working that which is unseemly..." are given up by God because they have done that which is unrighteous. Paul goes on to say that (v.32) "Who knowing the judgement of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them." In other words those who

insist on practising the sin of homosexuality, even though they know how God feels towards these sins, continue to indulge and as such are guilty of a sin.

Mr. Matthews used the account of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis to illustrate the power of God's wrath. Sin was so bad in these cities that God felt it necessary to destroy everything where they stood. In Gen. 19:1-9, we are told that when Angels were sent to destroy the cities, they were also sought after by the men of Sodom for their pleasure.

Society at large has decided that homosexuality is not a normal or moral way of life. Many of the moral beliefs and values that are entrenched in our social system stem from the teachings found in the Bible. That is why Mr. Matthews has stated that "the gay question is not a matter of rights"; it is a matter of right and wrong.

John Mansfield

## It's not that bad for York students

York students do not have it that bad! So often we hear negative comments about the university, we have realized that York does have many positive aspects too. Despite cutbacks there are plenty of services that provide numerous kinds of information. It is all there for the asking.

In our recent Humanities study, we observed York's communication and information systems and discovered them to be very reliable. We just want to thank the dedicated people that provide these services. A good example is Information York, the well-known booth located across from the Post Office. No matter whether you require a telephone number or a friendly word of reassurance, assistance is available. Remember, however, York does supply each and every student with a copy of Manus, the student handbook. Keep up the good work, York!

Sari Salz  
Adrian Wharton

Greek student  
film showing  
Admission free  
Wed. April 4  
CLH-L 2:30

## Harbinger's Column



Another school year is drawing to an incredible end. Everyone is complaining about too much work and not enough time to finish it. But alas, we all survive our final exams (hopefully) and plunge into our summer jobs. The Harbinger Collective certainly shares with you the year end pressures and summer expectations.

Let us stop in the midst of our flurry and reflect on the past seven months. Twenty fresh new volunteers came knocking on Harbinger's door last September, followed by another seven in January. Most of them have obtained peer counselling experience, carried their load of office work, and gained added awareness in the process. A special thanks goes out to the volunteers.

It has been an interesting year as far as activities go. In October there was the Association of Peer Counselling Center Conference held at Ryerson. Harbinger edited and published the Association's newsletter for Fall 1978. This was distributed to all Peer Counselling Centers and relevant social service and government agencies in Ontario. Then there was the Interprovincial Conference on Lesbian and Gay Peer Counselling held at the U of T which was coordinated by Har-

binger to improve the skills of volunteer and professional counsellors from various private and public agencies working with homosexual women and men. Next came Awareness week, during which we invited speakers from various service related topics. Taking into consideration that we have had two volunteer training sessions, it can honestly be said that "we have had a hectic but challenging year".

The collective would like to show their gratitude to those socially conscious individuals in the York Community who have contributed financially to our existence. Our warmest thanks goes out to the following Colleges: Calumet, Vanier, Founders and Bethune. An extra special thank you is directed to the CYSF members headed by David Chodikoff. Your financial assistance and sincere support have been greatly appreciated.

The Harbinger Collective looks forward to serving you in the coming year. You don't have to have a problem in order to drop by. We have a multitude of useful information. Come see for yourself.

S. Mooney  
for the Harbinger Collective