

Excalibur

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

Shine on brightly: this is indeed the end

A seed stirs longing
And has no warning
For its bright awareness
And its dirty bareness
In the cool quiet dawn
Of life:

That lived in history
But only prepared
Just now after sun had rose
With their strong teeth bared.

"Why are we here?" cried the smallest.
"To enjoy life," smiled the tallest.
"Why?"

This poem was written by my brother, Fred. I don't know whether or not it is any good, but I like it. For some reason, since I heard it a month ago, the last three lines keep repeating themselves in my mind.

I suppose that many of you expected that this, EXCALIBUR's final editorial, would be the ultimate in radical trip-laying. I hope you won't be disappointed but it will be merely the passing ego trip of a retiring university editor.

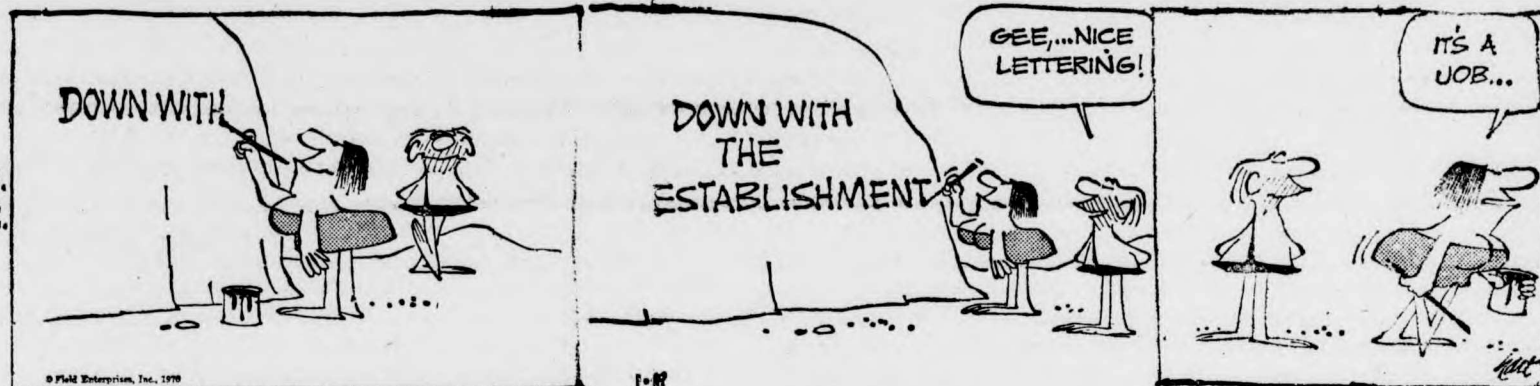
By the way, EXCALIBUR is not a radical paper. Rather, it is a muckracking paper. I'll try to explain why. This year I attempted to have EXCALIBUR fulfill two related functions: 1) a critical mirror on the York community, regardless of how uncomfortable the reflections might be, 2) a guide to the community for constructive social change.

Naturally, the two can not easily be separated. Often, honest reflections of the way things were provided the best possible guide to motivating people to start action to change things.

Therefore, EXCALIBUR was, and will probably continue to be, a creation of the objective conditions of York University.

That is, when the York community becomes 'radical' (I mean openly revolutionary, i.e. anti-imperialist) then also will EXCALIBUR become a radical newspaper.

My biggest disappointment this year: not being able to turn the EXCALIBUR mirror on the faculties of science and administrative studies. To those people in these two faculties who don't want to see this happen, be



forewarned. There have been quite a few individuals as well as informal delegations who have visited us asking for such coverage.

My happiest moment this year: the election of the largely activist Council of the York Student Federation under Paul Axelrod. After two years of less-than-mediocre student government, students here may finally have started on the long road to organizing themselves.

To the Natural Science 176A negotiating committee: congratulations on winning your basic demand of an optional final exam. That should be evidence that you can get what you need if you organize.

One point, though. I hope you noticed how relieved the 1st year General Education Inter-disciplinary Committee was when you agreed to drop your demand for a pass/fail option. They desperately wanted to avoid giving into your demand in any way and thereby set a precedent for similar action on the part of other courses at York.

I also believe that members of the committee saw even longer range implications of setting such a precedent...like perhaps an end to all forms of compulsory evaluation, however crude.

I am told that York will know who its new administration president is by the middle of April. Given the undemocratic, barely representative, and confused means by which he will have been chosen, we cannot, in honesty, say we are satisfied.

However, one point makes us very happy...Murray G. Ross is leaving at the end of June. I would dearly love to

expand on that statement, but our lawyers advise me that it would be considerably beyond the bounds of 'fair comment.'

I would like to extend my personal condolences to the board of governors and particularly to its chairman, William Pearson Scott. Perhaps you gentlemen will be able to find the money to purchase a Punch and Judy show if the new puppet is not satisfactory.

Thank you: everyone on the masthead. In particular: Dave Cooper, Tim Clark and Harry Kitz. Better photographers no editor could have asked for. In particular: Rolly and Jackie Stroeter. I detest advertising in principle, but the ads they drummed up paid the bulk of our bills. In particular: David McCaughna. An editor you're not, but an often-brilliant writer you are. In particular: Ross Howard. Despite a fourth year, The Telegram and senate, Ross provided his advice and good copy. In particular: Glen S. Williams. Glen shouldered much of the load in our campaign against Americanization, through his feature articles and his help in developing editorial policy.

John King. Managing Editor. A good newsman with a healthy suspicion toward everything. He could get a job as a printer with his technical knowledge. He's still awake at 7 am Wednesday morning when it's time to drive to Newsweb. An honest and loyal friend.

Bob Roth, next year's Editor-in-Chief deserves special thanks for the hours he put in covering stories. Bob

is one of the few people around who can write half-decent interpretative news. Best of luck next year. Get a lot of sleep this summer.

Newsweb, our printers, should get a medal for the patience and help they have shown us this year — especially with regards to the extras. Probably the thing that says most about Newsweb is that it's a happy place to work in.

I have this uncomfortable feeling that I should say something profound, strike a 'quotable quote'. I have never been one who has enjoyed writing editorials. I actually think they are a little pretentious and probably superfluous. I also believe that a well-written news story is more valuable than an editorial in nine out of 10 cases.

To be honest, I must admit that my editorial policy has never exclusively, nor even in large part, come out of Page 6. Rather, it has come from the newspaper packaged as a whole: front page, feature pages, montage. That's also what I enjoyed doing the most this year — packaging each issue of EXCALIBUR.

I do have a 'quotable quote' after all. It probably isn't original, but anyway...

Understand the people and through that understanding perhaps learn to trust them, maybe even learn to serve them.

Curzon.
Amicalement et syndicalement,
Bob WALLER

You know, MacRae — you're right Russell does have a brilliant mind

...How, for example, did the university become so Americanized in the first place?

Clearly, the university is not the ivory tower of academic legend. That statement is already a cliché even in university administration circles.

The university is linked directly to the Canadian economy, and whatever is happening on the campus is the result of what is happening in the rest of the nation.

But recognition of this fact has many implications about how the problem will be solved and one of the first implications is that neither students nor faculty will solve it alone.

John Conway, a teaching assistant and graduate student at Simon Fraser University, has put it more bluntly:

"Clearly, we cannot have independent universities without independent economic and political institutions as well.

"What we are dealing with is American imperialism and the struggle for Canadian independence. Perhaps that struggle can begin in the university, but it cannot end there."

In the past, the use of the word "imperialism" has usually been sufficient to cut off debate on any topic — it has acted as an ideological circuit breaker in the minds of many people who are nonetheless disturbed about the problem of American control.

It is probably time to ask if the term "imperialism" does describe the problem. For that is the issue underlying all the press statements issued by all the interested parties involved in the debate over American control.

In view of the consequences of Americanization of the university; and in view of the consequences of American control of the Canadian economy — loss of political control, cultural identity and natural resources — the time has probably come to quit examining terms in light of their palatability, and to examine them in terms of whether or not they accurately describe the situation.

It is only through this sort of examination that all Canadians will be able to come to grips with a situation which they agree has dire consequences for Canada.

Until such time, both the tragic and the farcical will continue to be acted out in Canadian history, punctuated only with legislation limiting the American content on Canadian television, and by the occasional Royal Commission report.

— George RUSSELL,
Bureau Chief,
Canadian University Press,
Issue, September, 1969

Excalibur

March 26, 1970

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excalibur, founded in 1966, is the student weekly of york university and is independent politically. opinions expressed are the writer's and those unsigned are the responsibility of the editor. excalibur is a member of canadian university press liberation news service, and attempts to be an agent of social change. printed at newsweb, excalibur circulates to over 17,000 people. office: central square (southeast corner) behind the ministry of love, york university, downsvlew, ontario.