

Comments taken "out of context"

I must protest that my comments were taken drastically out of context by Agnes Kruchio in her article on Dean Eisen's dire predictions for next year.

Her article implied that I believe full-time faculty should be fired instead of part-time if the administration really wants to save money. This has never been my position or that of the GAA.

The story's divisive impact at a time when solidarity among all our organizations is most important plays directly into the hands of the administration, and I deeply regret not only the misquote but its un-

fortunate timing.

Fortunately, the interfaculty infighting that the misquote implies is contradicted by the joint anti-cutbacks campaign now being planned by the three major campus unions.

The GAA, YUFA and YUSA are currently organizing an anti-cutbacks week for February 6-10 to protest the manner in which the administration is dealing with our financial situation. All three unions believe that the administration's mute acceptance of provincial policy on universities—and of the consequent cut in funding—will

damage York beyond repair.

And the principal losers are York's students, both current and future.

For too many years, our universities were the private preserves of a tiny and mainly moneyed elite. It is only now that there are immigrant and working-class students in our classrooms in any number. And it is now that the provincial government has chosen to cut back on the quality of the education these students will receive.

We are not convinced that the York administration has made any

serious effort to fight the government's attack on education.

None of the Ninth Floor Numerologists have realized that today's cuts will strike at enrollment as well as quality, and lead to still more cuts tomorrow. None have pointed out that education has already declined as a proportion of the provincial GNP over the last five years. None has demanded that corporations begin to shoulder their share of educating the workforce.

It is within this broader political context — of a government assault on social services as a whole — that York's problems must be solved. Petty attacks on our fellow workers have no relevance. And I did not, and would not, make such a statement.

Leslie Sanders
Chief Steward, GAA

Early bird gets worm at fee time



We could not let Ian McLeod's humorous article re: The girls in Student Accounts, go without answering. It gave us a small break from our busy morning and a wee laugh.

The girl with the bouffant hair-do, invites you to come see her smile, when there are fewer students around to dull out wits, as it surely does. We face that faceless mob twice a year, the rest of the year we are quite normal, as a few other students will testify, and do have time to look a student in the eye and even pass the time of day.

Anyway Ian, we did enjoy the article, and you can write a few lines about us anytime you wish. It's nice to know even though you lined up for 4 hours to pay your fees you could find some humour. Next year pay your fees a week before the dead-line and we will all come to the wicket personally and give you our biggest PEPSODENT SMILE!

Those ICY girls
in Student Accounts

Impeached rep answers charges

At the CYSF meeting of January 18, a petition signed by 130 students of Vanier College, and endorsed by the Vanier College Council, was presented. It charged that by using council as a "forum" for my political views, I was not defending the needs of Vanier students.

I would like to take this opportunity to answer this charge.

In the CYSF elections last year, I ran as a member of the York Young Socialists on the United Left Slate. The main points of our program were: opposition to tuition fee hikes, opposition to cutbacks in student aid, and support for women's rights. During the time I was on CYSF, I was active around the questions in the ULS election platform.

At a conference of the Ontario Federation of Students this fall, I and other members of the Young Socialists campaigned for an effective strategy against Harry Parrott's proposals for a new, more restrictive student aid plan. In a leaflet submitted to that conference I urged OFS to call a province-wide centralized protest action, saying "the strategy that can win our demands is based on utilizing our power - thousands of students organized in mass actions."

At the October 12 CYSF meeting, a campus club, the Trotskyist League, applied to CYSF for funding for a public meeting they planned to hold. The majority of CYSF defeated this proposal, arguing that political clubs should receive no aid from student funds. I found this a dangerous precedent, and argued that a student council has the responsibility to allow the open discussion of all points of view raised by recognised political clubs.

At the next meeting, on October 31st, a broader motion was put forward, that denied any form of funding to all political clubs. United Left Slate councillors spoke against this motion. I felt that it is in the interests of students that all recognised political clubs be free to put forward their ideas. Such a severe curtailment of funding places barriers in the way of some clubs' ability to do that, especially those without access to large amounts of money. When this motion was passed, despite the opposition of 6 of the 16 CYSF present, I and other students began a campaign to have the motion reversed. In just a couple weeks, we collected the signatures of 675 students, on petitions that protested this discriminatory policy and demanded its reversal.

I presented this petition at the November 23rd CYSF meeting, and read a statement from the Third World Students' Union which also condemned the restriction on political clubs. Despite the overwhelming evidence that York students wanted CYSF to continue funding of political clubs, the majority on council voted to uphold the restrictive policy they had instituted.

During the budget discussions, the same council members who opposed funding of political clubs, also voted to cut funds for Harbinger (York's peer-counselling service) from \$4000. to \$2000, and axed *Breakthrough*, a feminist

journal, down to \$1250. This was in arrogant defiance of the wishes of nearly 600 students who had signed petitions in support of Harbinger.

On November 17 and 18, members of the York Student Movement were harassed as they staffed their literature display in Central Square. Jeffrey Forest, a member of the YSM, was arrested November 18, after a fight broke out over the issue of Zionism. The CYSF executive, without even legal evidence of Forest's guilt, advised the administration to fire him from his teaching position at York. In a leaflet printed by the York Young Socialists, we pointed out that despite our deep differences with Forest, the YSM, and the CPC-ML, we "unequivocally defend the right of all political clubs on campus, including the CPC-ML, to freely express their point of view." During the CYSF meeting following those events, I criticized the executive's role in judging Jeffrey Forest before he had had a chance to answer the charges laid against him.

By the time of the January 18 meeting, a number of council positions had become vacant. Under the president's report, it was proposed that rather than filling these positions by by-election as is the normal democratic procedure, nominations for appointment be taken from the college councils. This motion was passed by the majority of CYSF, although I and other ULS councillors pointed out the unconstitutional and undemocratic nature of such a move.

Then, under New Business, the petitions calling for removal of Jane Chisholm and myself were presented. We were accused of not having represented Vanier students'

interests, Jane by her lack of consistent attendance, and I because of my political point of view.

So, what are the interests of Vanier students, or York students as a whole, for that matter? I believe I represented them in the following ways.

There are gay and lesbian students in Vanier, and there are women students in Vanier. There are many Vanier students who have made use of Harbinger, and who read *Breakthrough*, and many more who will want to in the future. It is in the interests of all students that Parrott's new student aid program be reversed, and that education be easily accessible to all, without cutbacks or restrictions. And it is in all students' interests that we be able to hear the political view of all campus clubs, regardless of their relative popularity, and without financial censorship imposed upon them.

These are the interests of all York students that the executive of CYSF and its supporters did not represent, and that I spoke in favour of. Holding a majority on CYSF, these people were able to defeat any proposal put forward by the ULS, yet they still found it desirable to silence a voice that disagreed with them, by voting for my impeachment.

Two points of view became apparent on CYSF this year - that of the executive of CYSF, which cut back services they disagreed with, and ignored democratic rights and the Constitution. I held the other point of view, and in that way, defended the needs and interests of not only Vanier, but all York students.

Cheryl Pruitt



RCMP at York

One is amazed at the lack of political responsibility of Paul Hayden and his supporters on the council when it doesn't seem as if they even bother to read the daily news.

After the *Globe and Mail* reported on "Section D" of the RCMP security service which is active on Canadian universities, and the specific report in the *Toronto Star* (Wednesday November 23, 1977, pp. 81-82) of an agent of the RCMP participating in the right wing Western Guard's attack on Bethune College, painting Nazi symbols and slogans on its walls, we still don't have a response from Hayden.

Perhaps he and others consider this to be an off-campus issue, but more than likely his Liberal Party affiliation (as well as others on council) leads him to subordinate

the interests of students here to that of his own party.

This seems to be the case when I put forward the following motion at the January 18 CYSF meeting, and not one of the representatives present would even second the motion for the purpose of discussing the issue: "Moved that CYSF send a letter to the Solicitor-General and the responsible officer for Toronto asking for an accounting of the activity of agents of the RCMP on York University."

Those in attendance were David Chodikoff, Steven Muchnick, Tom Silverhart, Paul Hayden, Gary Empey, Herman Yamagisi, Robin Carter, Henry Hui, Robert Steadman, Brian Hayden, Chris Chop and myself.

Abie Weisfeld
NDP-ULS graduate rep-

Calumet correction

On page 2 of last week's *Excalibur* in an otherwise fine article on CYSF havoc-wreaking, Lynn Snelling said that I "sent letters to all Calumet students informing them of the two (CYSF) vacancies."

This is not correct.

In my capacity of Secretary of the Calumet General Meeting, I sent out a brief announcement of a special General Meeting, to be held on 25 January, whose sole purpose was to be the nomination of Calumet representatives to CYSF, per Council's resolution of the week before on filling-up unexpired terms.

This announcement was not sent to all Calumet students. At the beginning of the year, all students were urged to attend the General Meeting, and, throughout the year, announcements of meeting are made in all College Tutorials, in the campus periodicals, by means of posters in the Common Room, Reading Room, Coffee Shop, and corridors of Calumet College, and through mailings to those 150 or so students who have made it their business to attend the monthly sessions of the General Meeting. It has been our experience that monthly broadcast mailings to everyone in our commuter college are both very expensive for us to print and for the University to mail, and very ineffective as a way to bring in students who don't come to the College, don't read *Excalibur* or the *Bulletin*, or do not take College Tutorials here.

Please let me add here that Calumet College's General Meeting is open to all Calumet students. They may speak and vote and raise issues and make motions, even if they have never attended a General Meeting before. This active, open style of student government continues to work very well, and all our students are urged to help keep it working that way. The Meetings, for the fifth year, are being held at 5 pm on the second Wednesday of each month in the Common Room of Calumet College (located in the Atkinson complex).

John B. Mays
Secretary of the General Meeting
Calumet College

