

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, c/o Excalibur, room 111 Central Square. They must be double-spaced, typed and limited to 250 words. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for length and grammar. Name and address must be included for legal purposes but the name will be withheld upon request. Deadline: Mon. 4 p.m.

## Excalibur cutbacks "incredibly malicious"

As the editor of the only college newspaper currently publishing on a defiance of the public good. cut Excalibur's budget by \$7,000. Such a reprehensible act can only be construed as being either incredibly malicious or ridiculously stupid, and the conduct of the CYSF this year leaves me in doubt as to which is actually the case. If it is the former, the CYSF must believe that if they cannot close you down, at least they can shut you up. If it is the latter, I must believe that they have no concept of how difficult it is to run a newspaper. In either case, the CYSF should re-examine their decision in the light of the information which is available to them, and restore Excalibur's budget to its original sum.

This whole matter should also serve to show the CYSF why their reputation is a tarnished one in comparison with that of the college councils; for in assembling the current issue of our newspaper, we received all possible co-operation and assistance from the Winters College Council. In contrast to this, the CYSF have shown that they do not care about the fate of your publication. For this they are to be condemned because Excalibur is one of the few means of communication which is available to the entire York community. I therefore wish you all possible success in your attempts to have your full budget restored.

Phil Carr,  
Editor,  
The Winters Seer

## They don't have to let you call a lawyer

Let me commend the Excalibur for finding and reprinting the centrespread article "They Don't Have To Let You Call A Lawyer" in your January 13th issue. The consensus around Osgoode is that the article is a fair and accurate discussion of the topic and will be informative and useful for the layman.

However, one small point should be clarified. This is the recommendation in the introduction that one should call Legal Aid for information on criminal matters. This is good advice for Manitoba, where the article was written and where Legal Aid operates legal clinics in various regions of the province. The Ontario legal aid system does not provide this service and operates only to find a lawyer for persons in need of one. Calls to Ontario legal aid for general advice or information will probably be of little value to the student and a positive nuisance to the legal aid staff.

Anyone desiring advice or

guidance about the criminal law would be better advised to contact CLASP at Rm. 125, Osgoode.

E. B. Tyler  
Obiter Dicta

## Burtch is his name

Because the York Hockey Yeomen are Canada's number one University hockey team, the disservice which you have done to one member of this team in recent issues of your publications is particularly surprising and distressing.

The name of the hardworking centreman is not "Birch" (as in your January 13th issue) or "Birtch" (as in your January 20th issue). His name is Brian Burtch, and it would be appreciated by all fans and followers of the team if you would rectify this error in future issues.

Phil Carr  
The Winters Seer

## United Left Slaters want you to fight tuition cutbacks

On November 25, 1976, Harry Parrott, Minister of Colleges and Universities, announced a \$100 increase in university tuition. This increase is merely the beginning of the campaign outlined in the McKeough-Henderson Report. Its implementation would effectively restrict university education to the rich. Students must organize to oppose and rollback such government initiatives taken in defiance of the public good.

To the end, all students concerned about effectively resisting the cutbacks are in-

ited to form a United Left Slate (ULS) to contest the upcoming CYSF student council elections. An organizing meeting will be held tomorrow, Friday Jan. 28, at 4 pm, S167 Ross.

The ULS has been involved in York politics for the past six years. It is a coalition of NDPers socialist groups and concerned individuals.

In 1975-76 the ULS won the CYSF elections for the first time. It was an exciting administration that led campaigns to democratize York. This year the five ULS represen-

tatives on CYSF form a constructive opposition to the do-nothing philosophy of the defunct 'Edson Team'.

We want to continue this work. Thus, our organizing meeting has been called. All persons concerned about fighting the cutbacks are welcome to come, participate, nominate, or run for the slate.

ULS representatives on CYSF,  
Mary Marrone  
Abie Weisfeld  
Alice Klein  
Donna Mobbs

## All this for Tommy

Myself and the other members of Radio Glendon's news department (CKRG news) are disappointed with the way in which your reporter, Ian Kellogg, handled the Tommy Douglas story in your January 20 edition of Excalibur. Myself and Marshall Katz attended the Press meeting with Mr. Douglas on behalf of Radio Glendon News. We initiated most of the questioning while your reporter sat tapping, not only his questions, but ours as well. This fact didn't bother us as Mr. Kellogg took our names and function (CKRG reporters) and said Radio Glendon news would be given credit in his article, justly so. However, no mention is made of Radio Glendon news at all in his article. All questions appear to be those of Excalibur; a very misleading format.

It is disturbing to see how an obviously amateur newsman can succeed in the plagiarism of the thoughts and the questions of others. Radio Glendon news is embarrassed to have to write this

letter since your paper had always been a respected voice of the student. Now, unfortunately, we must say that the contents of Mr. Kellogg's article have slightly altered our opinion of Excalibur.

I would suggest that this letter, along with a personal apology to CKRG news and its reporters be printed in the next edition of Excalibur. This would be the professional approach to the problem.

Wayne McNeil and Marshall Katz  
Radio Glendon news

Editor's note: The decision to not credit Radio Glendon was the editors' and not Ian Kellogg's. Kellogg informed us of CKRG's participation in the interview but we felt since the overwhelming bulk of the work was his, he alone would be credited.

## Harbinger speaks out

The members of the Harbinger collective are concerned about the problems facing gay men and women at York, especially in the area of housing. This was recently brought to our attention by the

article in Excalibur (Dec. 9, 1976) entitled "Homosexual Couples may not rent some furnished apartments."

We believe that one's sexual orientation, marital status, level of study and housing preference are not the business of the housing office. We feel that the housing policy should be worded and implemented such that the type of problems described in Excalibur do not occur again. It is distressing to note that June Corbett, residence manager, has been quoted in Excalibur as saying that she is reluctant to be explicit about changes (in policy) which were not now finalized. (Jan. 13, 1977, Excalibur) Ms. Corbett is further quoted as saying that changes would be approved and publicized around the beginning of February. We feel that publication prior to finalization would allow for more community input, resulting in a policy more acceptable to all.

We hope that the housing policies will be looked at with the intention of removing the barriers gay men and women have previously faced.

The Harbinger Collective

## Harbinger's column

Harbinger is York University's peer counselling and referral service. Drop in at 214 Vanier residence or phone 667-3059-3632. Open 10-6, Monday to Friday.

## The dope about abortion laws

By SUE KAISER

There is no doubt that the topic of abortion is a sensitive and controversial one. Emotions often run high in discussions of why, when or if at all, abortion should be regulated by law.

Abortion is a morally charged issue, with close connections to other similarly charged areas such as sex, marriage, women's liberation and religious beliefs. For this reason, it is often difficult to uncover the current facts of the situation. This column is intended to provide some pertinent information on the Canadian abortion laws, and how they affect women.

In Canada, the laws concerning abortion are federal laws, and are part of the Criminal Code. In 1969, these laws were amended to legalize abortion in certain situations. Prior to 1969, the abortion laws were essentially the same as the British laws enacted in 1861. This made it illegal to perform or procure an abortion for a woman whether she was, or was not pregnant. The only exception to this law was an abortion performed for the primary purpose of saving the life of the woman.

The recent changes in Canadian law brought it up to date with British law as it has been enacted

for over thirty years. Abortions are still illegal, with the exception of being permitted, under specific conditions, for reasons of danger to the life or health of a woman.

These legal abortions, called Therapeutic abortions, may be done in accredited hospitals, with the approval of a Therapeutic Abortion Committee (TAC). This committee is comprised of at least three doctors, who must approve each proposed abortion before it is performed. In general, this committee considers written material which is submitted by a woman's referring doctor recommending an abortion. None of these doctors do any abortions while they sit on the committee.

While the law provides for the establishment of a TAC, hospitals are not required to set up committees. Many do not. Only about 25-30 per cent of Canadian hospitals provide abortion services. By far, the great majority of these services are available in urban areas. Toronto has many hospitals with TACs, but there are many towns like Sudbury, whose hospitals have no committees. For these women, the 1969 amendments have changed little. They still face time consuming, expensive travel or illegal abortions.

Further variations in the availability of abortions are the result of the different manner in which hospitals interpret the "health" part of the law. Some hospitals give a wide definition of health (physical, mental, social), while others confine themselves to a very narrow definition. The Canadian Medical Association has accepted the World Health Organization position that health includes mental and social well-being, as well as the absence of disease.

Hospitals vary greatly on the types of abortion procedures available, and on the time limit imposed. Some hospitals will do abortions up to 10 weeks, while others provide abortions up to 24 weeks. Most hospitals have some quota system, doing only a limited number of abortions each week.

For information about abortion and alternatives in your area, contact women's centres, community services or birth control centres. These groups often keep on top of local red tape and hospital requirements.

While doctors are not required to perform abortions, they must provide a referral to someone who will consider a request.

## AS THE CAMPUS TURNS

WARREN CLEMENTS

