#### EXCALIBUR

# editorial

## **Dump Bette**

In protest against Education Minister Bette Stephenson's recent proposals to revamp the Ontario university system, Ontario's 10,000 university professors have called for her resignation. Stephenson's office has reacted to the professors' demand with both surprise and indignation the demand is wrong, spokesmen said.

But we feel the professors aren't wrong at all, and about the only surprise about the news is that it took so long to happen.

In the area of funding, Stephenson's record is an appalling one. When university enrollments were on the increase, Stephenson began to cut back government grants to universities; over the past 10 years, government grants to universities have been ruthlessly slashed 30 percent while enrollment has swelled by more than 60 percent. Only recently, Stephenson quietly informed universities of her new "improved" funding formula. This new formula means that York—with a budget of around \$100-million—will receive about \$450,000 less in grants in 1984-85.

Last year, Stephenson tried to assault universities through their deficits—deficits which had been forced upon them through insufficient funding. Before the December session of the legislature came to a close, she tried to sneak through a dangerous piece of leglisation called Bill 42. Bill 42 would have provided any university with a deficit greater than two percent (York is one) with a university supervisor with complete power to close any faculty or department the supervisor deemed appropriate.

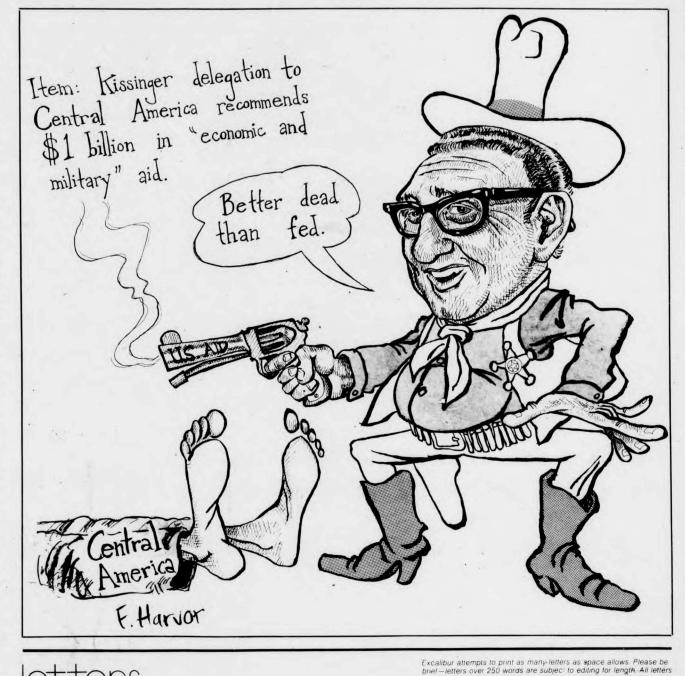
Then comes the matter of accessibility. By continuing to underfund the province's universities, Stephenson forced schools to restrict their enrollment. The goal was to make the institutions less accessible to students. In a recent *Globe and Mail* article, Stephenson said Ontario can no longer guarantee a university education to all qualified high school graduates. When questioned later by the press, she said her opinion was that of a mother living in North York and not that of an Education Minister. (Oops, you slipped, Bette.)

Now Stephenson is talking about radical changes that will create an elitist system.

With this change in mind, universities may once again become enclaves for the rich. That should never happen.

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Modern journalism, by giving us the opinions of the uneducated, keeps us in touch with the ignorance of the community. —Oscar Wilde



letters

## Letter rebutting porn rebuttal

#### Editor:

Re: Gary McCarron's letter "Rebuttal to Porn Letter," *Excalibur*, 3 Jan. 1984.

It's nice to know that my "social myopia," "pitifully narrow" and "muddled" thinking isn't my fault. McCarron blames it on environment and "what [I] have been taught to believe"—as if I were a seething mass, conditioned by society to take for granted everything in sight. Why you civilized fellow you. Nothing like faith in the coming generation.

McCarron says "it's absurd to measure pornographic material in degrees of exploitation." Of course it's absurd to measure pornographic material in degrees of exploitation, but the argument here sir is what is and what is not pornographic. What is actually obscene? The arguments are strong that there is no thing obscene in itself, that obscenity is a state of mind. The evils of hard-core porn are blatantly obvious. The distinction between Playboy "bunny" photos and this hard-core porn I believe is also blatantly obvious. What's so wrong here? Certainly the normal American youth of 20 is immune to almost all the humor inherent in sex. Yet the tendency of civilization is still to castrate, to deorderize, to render monotonous. Emotion and sensation denied, McCarron unabashedly proclaims himself Nature's rebel. He's got a soul to save.

J. Mortimer Hall once said: All is natural and inevitable; all is one,

the sun, the earth, trees, stones, snakes, slime, dung. Oddly enough, the nude figure of a young woman I tend to place somewhere in the first half of this scale.

-D. Hooper

### Editor:

Red tape

This letter seeks to highlight some bureaucratic inflexibility on the part of the Office of Student Awards. I am a transfer student whom, due to understandable "red tape," did not receive his OSAP until the end of November.

I am also what the Socialists would call a "working class student" who did not have the resources to pay for rent, food. or books, and pay my academic fees by 9 September 1983 (or 30 September 1983 for that matter). Thus I became liable for the \$50 late service charge and the \$50 fees deferment charge. It is ironic that someone who has demonstrated a scarcity of resources by appealing for financial aid in the first place should be assessed such outrageous surcharges. This situation arose because I was a student at Western last year and dutifully applied for OSAP early enough to receive it by 27 July 1983. My letter from the Director of Admissions of York informing me of acceptance dated 1 September 1983. In accordance with OSAP regulations, I was required to cancel my loan

and reapply through the institution I planned to attend. OSAP takes approximately ten weeks to be processed, and

must include the author's name, address, and phone number for verification purposes. Pseudonymns may be used upon request.

> mately ten weeks to be processed, and hence *l* was almost two months late in meeting the \$50 deadline. OSAP recommends that students apply

> by June 30 so as to have their funds on time. Apparently these harsh fees are designed to penalize students who neglect to fulfill their responsibility in making the process run smoothly by not applying on time. However, transfer students are not necessarily guilty of this, and failure to waive these fees if compliance with the rules can be demonstrated amounts to an extra charge arbitrarily levied on such students.

> My appeal to the Office of the Registrar was accepted and the late service charge was waived. Bravo! However, a similar approach to the Office of Student Awards was met with a blunt refusal to even hear an appeal. It was explained that all fee deferment charges were final and that probably I should have borrowed the money from friends or family to avoid the charge. I am a group B (i.e. independent) student who has lived away from home for a number of years and it is the responsibility of the Office of Student Awards to serve students in their financial difficulties. It is also within my right to change universities and I should not be subject to extra charges arising from the "red tape" of doing so.

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Excalibur is published every Thursday during the academic session (September to April) by Excalibur Publications Inc. 111 Central Square. York University. 4700 Keele St. Downsview, Ontario, M3J 1P3 Telephone (416) 667-3201 (editorial) 667-3800 (business and advertising). Contents copyright = 1984 Excalibur Publications. Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction or use, without written permission of editorial or pictorial content. is prohibited *Excalibur* is an associate member of the Onfario Community Newspaper Association. ISSN 0823-1995.

> News, arts, sports: 667-3201 Business and advertising: 667-3800 Excalibur typesetting: 667-3800

> > 310 Davenport Road, Toronto, Ontario MSR 3K (416) 925-6358



I will not rest until this bureaucratic rigidity towards transfer students is removed from the regular operations of the Office of Student Awards.

-Gerry Vanderburgh

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