

Excalibur

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

Excalibur, founded in 1966, is the York University weekly 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 and attempts to be an agent of social change. Printed at Daison's, Excalibur is published by Excalibur Publications.

News 667-3201

Advertising 667-3800

University must temper reaction to thefts, trade playground for campus, not cell

The recent rash of vandalism and theft on the York campus has left most persons once again shaking their heads and asking tired and familiar questions about why someone would consider slashing paintings and uprooting parking metres.

And granted, the events of the past two weeks — including the wanton destruction of cars, defacing of buildings and theft of \$15,000 worth of paintings — are enough to make anyone worry about the safety of on-campus effects.

But just as worrying is the danger of over-reaction to September's havoc, the instinctive desire to strip the walls of all valuables and to store them in the equivalent of a safety deposit box.

Art curator Michael Greenwood, despite his understandable wish to ensure that no more artworks meet the fate of the stolen Harold Town paintings and Eskimo prints from the Winters-Vanier masters' dining hall, may be laying the foundation for an attitude which, if it were to spread through the campus, might develop into an unconscious paranoia and change the character of the university community for the worse.

Campus security chief George Dunn recently made the point that staff, faculty, students and visitors tend to see the university site as a sort of "sanctuary", a private residence marked by universal trust and populated by reliable persons.

He is quite right in his view that the York community can no longer

walk about with the blind confidence that a wallet left unguarded in a lecture room will be left untouched for an hour. The fact that \$14,000 of personal property was stolen from community members last year indicates that a certain percentage of the persons walking around this golden mile are in fact thieves.

But it is possible to recognize the basic truth that dishonesty exists without reacting like a child who has just found the Santa Claus suit hanging in her father's closet. We must guard against turning dramatically from trusting innocence to totalitarian cynicism.

What would the next move be? Searching rooms in residence for stolen Versafood cutlery (since maid service, one form of surveillance, has been eliminated)?

More stringent inspections of on-campus pubs by the liquor licensing board (since pubs aren't supposed to let students get drunk, and drunks have caused most of the vandalism)?

Or, following the apparent suicide of a York staff member Monday, a move to stop persons from walking along the Ross building balconies.

Without drawing too heavy a metaphor, it may be possible that the public suicide has in some way symbolized a death of innocence at York University, and that the retiring of the paintings has evidenced an unfortunately extreme reaction to that loss.

It is to be hoped that we can limit the careless "open-door" policy which has characterized the campus



"I think we can lock up now — the paintings are safe."

to date without substituting in its place the far more loathsome spectre of rigid authoritarianism.

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.

Letters

"Free family tuition maligned"

Organized minority groups can hold society to ransom, yet the news media have to seek minor and inconsequential items to fan the public discontent.

I refer to the much maligned free family tuition for university faculty in this instance. It is further distress-

ing when a university administrator not only joins the hounds but throws in some extra red herrings to boot! Free family tuition may be invalid and outdated, but certainly not for the stated reasons.

Faculty salaries have not kept pace with inflation any better than those of other non-organized working groups. Indeed, the starting salary of an assistant professor (with at least two years postdoctoral experience) is only marginally more in paper dollars than my colleagues in graduate school expected and obtained in industry 10 years ago! One shudders to contemplate the actual ratio in terms of purchasing power.

Free tuition is not free to the faculty member after federal and provincial taxes have been paid on the cash value at top rates. The net worth is thus not usually a deciding factor in the choice of university. And of course the universities are not being totally altruistic either. Extra students mean extra income units. If one believes in the genetics of heredity there is also the chance of getting a few intelligent students who might go elsewhere (assuming of course that intelligent faculty have been hired).

A valid reason for dropping free family tuition would be that it serves only a small number of faculty. Its exchange for a more equitable consideration which might be a real benefit to all faculty would be a more realistic approach.

I have yet to meet anyone who was actually desperate to join the York faculty to get in on the deal. It certainly didn't enter into my considerations. Many of my industrial friends survive well without it and have the time to enjoy other, mostly non-taxable, little benefits.

In any event, let us stop this blithering nonsense about who is milking the public; it belongs in the same category as the three-month moonlight cruise that faculty is supposed to be on from May to September!

Yours truly,
C.E. Holloway
Associate Professor
Department of Chemistry

LETTERS DEADLINE
MONDAY
2 PM

Notes from the radiator

By MICHAEL HOLLETT

Charles Ribosome of the York biology department today announced a new research project involving poultry study.

Ribosome said a grant has been received to develop means to increase the size of chickens for market.

Ribosome said, "This is the shot in the arm our department needs. Success in this project would not only be prestigious for the department but for the university as well. The implications for the poultry industry are tremendous."

...

Two York University students disappeared today.

The students, Sara Langtree and Arnold Wogawoga, both in first year at York, were last seen entering the Farquharson Building.

In a related incident, three large buckets containing bones were found outside the science building. Upon examination, traces of 11 unknown herbs and spices were found on the bones, which are believed to be those of humans.

Police believe the two incidents may be related.

...

Newspapers across Toronto today received a communiqué from a group calling themselves the Chicken Revenge League. In the communiqué, the CRL claimed responsibility for the disappearance of two York University students earlier this week.

The group listed several "non-negotiable demands", including "the unconditional release of all chickens from poultry farms; the immediate cessation of all egg sales and the incubation of all eggs currently on store shelves or in storage; a ban on the selling or production of all chicken and egg related products; and the immediate arrests of Colonel Sanders, along with the presidents of Chicken Delight, Swiss Chalet, Shake 'n' Bake and Picken' Chicken for crimes against chickenkind."

Government officials have refused even to consider the demands.

...

The Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant in Downsview on Keele near Finch was held up last night by what witnesses described as two masked chickens armed with revolvers.

Kate Rotunda, a customer at the ill-fated store said, "I was ordering a family bucket when all of a sudden two big chickens kicked open the door, burst into the store and turned off all the fryers."

"They scooped all the chicken into a bag and mentioned something about a burial."

Police describe them as armed and dangerous. (To be continued.)

Editor-in-chief
Warren Clements
Managing editor
Doug Tindal
News editor
Michael Hollett
Entertainment editor
Agnes Kruchio
Photo editor
C.T. Squassero
Graphics
Peter Hsu

Staff at large — Alan Risen, Gord Graham, Ted Mumford, Garfield M. Payne, Steve Hain, Honey Fisher, Sue Cooper, Peter Matilainen, Ian Balfour, Kevin Richer, Chris Gates, Shelley Rabinovitch, Julian Beltrame, Norma Yeomanson, Bonnie Sandison, Mira Friedlander, Jim Omura, Jim McCall