

Ombudsperson 'expensive, not thought out'

We are writing in response to the "Persuasio" column of J. Alan Hunter entitled "We need a York 'Ombudsman'" of March 17, 1983. The article is rife with inaccuracies and contains a section of unionbashing full of unsubstantiated accusations and misleading statements. First let us point out that the referendum being held is for an ombudsperson and not an ombudsman, as an advertisement immediately below the column points out. As for the section on "Union attitudes" one must wonder where Mr. Hunter finds his information. It is but another example of pro-ombudsman (or is it ombudsman?) proponents presenting poorly researched and poorly argued statements to push through an inadequately thought out and expensive proposition.

Let us point out the inaccuracies in the "Union attitudes" section. The university is not responsible in any way for the relationship between CUEW and its support staff as the article implies. That is handled through CUEW and CUPE Local 1281. Second, T.A.'s are limited by Ontario law to work no more than an average of ten hours per week, and to no more than 270 hours a year by our collective agreement. The reason for this limitation of hours is that T.A.'s are also students and must study as well as work. It is totally ludicrous for Mr. Hunter to argue that he has heard of T.A.'s who "having already done their required

20 hours of tutorial aid" by January stopped working. We can state without qualification that no such instance has occurred in this fine institution.

We did indeed strike for "quality of education" in 1981 and fought hard for smaller class sizes in 1982 negotiations. The fruits of our efforts have been slow in coming, but for students and teaching assistants used to large classes, we have been able through financial

Pearlman defends CUEW

I would like to respond to Alan Hunter's letter in the "persuasio" section of *Excalibur*, V. 17, No. 24.

Though I fully support the creation of an independent Ombudsperson at York, I however do not support the issues raised by Alan Hunter in reference to CUEW.

It seems that Mr. Hunter in the process of protecting his own democratic rights has stepped on the very rights of a much larger group. Just as we all have the right to abide by a constitution so does CUEW have a right to exercise the very constitution they abide by.

Contrary to what Alan Hunter states I believe that CUEW broke no contractual agreements against student body or university administration.

Mark Pearlman
CYSF Director of Academic Affairs

**YOU REALLY
LIKE THOSE
JEANS
DON'T YOU?**

ERRATUM

An article which appeared in the March 3rd issue of *Excalibur*, "Security benefit dance a bust", incorrectly states the amount of door sales at the Lampshade Lunacy dance. Sales at the door came to \$102.00.

penalties on the university to hopefully limit tutorial sizes to 28. Still this is inadequate, but we haven't given up the battle. If there is any villain in the piece it is hardly CUEW which has consistently fought and will continue to fight hard for a proper learning environment. The focus of attention should rather rest with the administration of this "fine" university which because of its efforts to secure larger grants from Queen's Park have adopted a policy of overcrowding and the stuffing of classes with students, who, in administrative shorthand are "Basic Income Units."

If our teaching assistants adhere to the terms of their contract by refusing to work more than the

maximum 270 hours a year, we fail to understand the point of Mr. Hunter's article. He proposes that students view their stay at York in contractual terms, but yet demands that T.A.'s break their negotiated contracts. Hardly a consistent line.

Mr. Hunter should investigate the facts before he puts pen to paper; perhaps a teaching-assistant could show him the basics of consistent and persuasive writing.

The Executive
CUEW, Local 3

Union candidates cause concern

As concerned grad students, it was with a certain amount of uneasiness that we learned the C.U.E.W. was fielding a slate in the upcoming Graduate Student Association (G.S.A.) elections. Clearly, such a move could affect the ability of the G.S.A. to fairly represent all graduate

students, both unionized and un-unionized. Even among many grads who belong to the union there is a belief that in times of labour confrontation each individual must be allowed to make his or her own choice as to whether or not to respect union picket lines. For some of us, our dedication to our students and our research remain our most important priorities. We are here to get an education and learn a career, not to play politics. In the past we have always felt free to express our opinions and concerns in and through the G.S.A. which acts as mediator between opposing views in its membership. We are concerned that if the C.U.E.W. executive controls the G.S.A., it will cease to be a forum for mediation and compromise and become a mere rubber stamp for union policies.

As for the work of teaching assistants, lab demonstrators and markers has a substantial effect on the undergraduate community, we are surprised and disappointed that *Excalibur* has ignored the G.S.A. elections and related issues. What is at stake in a union takeover of our G.S.A. could have tremendous repercussions on the working relationships between graduate students and the rest of the York community. We hope that *Excalibur* will publish this letter to help make graduate students aware that there is an important election on Friday, March 25th. We encourage all grad students to go to N922 Ross and vote. It would be nice if *Excalibur* could endorse the pro-compromise slate of candidates--Ron Moore for president, Mahmood Amani for secretary and John Hahn for treasurer.

Sincerely,
Elisa Bourdon

D.M. Bruce
Kai Keskinen
Tom Steel
Chin Chintas
A. Maise

EXCALIBUR

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If I had time, I might wonder if any of this lunacy really matters. But that breeds confusion/apathy/the blues: if it matters it will matter regardless of the time spent considering it. Don't think so much. No better still: discover when it's appropriate. It's true, however, that thinkers really care and asking means concern. Breathe easily. Relax. It flows. "You want a receipt? Get out of here." There's something from Banff that's exactly the right colour. Thank you very very much for the Spock Beverage Holders. Hang in there Brian, we'll figure out what happened in APPC. To Ricarda: FELICIDADES!!! May Lerrick stumble upon 1,000 more new and awful jokes. Cheers to the Gang of Three..Hi Ho Silver.....AWAY.....!!

Excalibur is published every Thursday by Excalibur Publications, Inc. with the help of volunteers from the York community. Our offices are located in Room 111 Central Square, Ross Building, York University, 4700 Keele St., Downsview, Ont. M3J 1P3. Editorial Office: 667-3201. Advertising & Typesetting: 667-3800.



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