

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, Excalibur, room 111, Central Square. Please triple or double space the letters, and keep them to around 250 words. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for length and grammar.

# letters

## Congrats to Payne for "punk"

I would like to personally congratulate Andy Payne on his punk rock story in your October 13 issue. Anybody who can mention Morris, Ig, and manage to insult Jagger in the same breath is alright in my books anytime. In fact, I might even go so far as to say that Payne could (that's *could* be the greatest rock 'n' roll writer since StageLife's Machine Rock (if he works at it, that is).

**Machine Rock**  
Contributing Editor  
Stage Life Magazine

PS: You can tell those nodes at Radio York that I'll be glad to take over their crummy radio station anytime.

## Is it art? Or is it masochism

If one can be permitted to regret one thing in his life, mine is that I wasn't born ten years earlier. The sixties was a dynamic and vigorous epoch. A discontented, energetic youth perceived their world as one stinking from corruption and decay and consequently bent its energies on changing their environment. Admittedly, there were those who jumped on the "bandwagon" for 'fun and or profit'.

But protests at Colombia State, Kent State, and Berkely (just a few of the protesting American campuses) contributed in large part to several lofty, honourable achievements; most notably the end of the Vietnamese War.

Yet, with the end of the war, it seems, the glue holding the



## Punk goes to university

By Andy Payne  
Punk Rock, it seems, is on its way to replacing Idi Amin as the media's new subject of horror and moral outrage. In the past six months everyone from Marjorie's to the National Enquirer have nipped on it. The complete with commentaries and sociological implications is bound to confuse anyone unfamiliar with the "new wave". Fortunately, those in attendance at the "Punk 'N' Keg last Wednesday had the opportunity to witness first-hand what punk is all about. The "Vicious" and "enjoyment" played by the Battered Wives, a group of punks who appear to be suffering from a severe case of Pseudo-Philosophy, were particularly disturbing. I had to see with their rebelling and "I wishbirds" tune. I fail to see what's "new wave" about redoing "Great Balls of Fire" with prepubescent dirty-joke lyrics like "You fuckin' bitch, you're full of shit. Let me fuck you like a lover should". I'm afraid their alternative was hardly more amusing. The Vicious are without a doubt one of the most offensive bands to play the Toronto area in a long time. They are loud, stupid and obnoxious. I kind of like them and it's refreshing to hear a rock and roll band be just that: rock and roll. Pseudo-philosophy, pretentious and stupid lyrics. Whether they're doing their own "Die Style", "High School", they perform with an uncompromising integrity. The songs are short, snappy and the show raw and energetic. Freddy Pompei lacks the technical prowess of a John McVie, but he also lacks the self-

revolutionary spirit together began to disintegrate.

Dylan, Baez, Hoffman, have all found their castles by the sea.

And in their wake, in the wake of Dylan and Cleaver and the children of the sixties, has risen a generation caught between the decadent, materialistic "disco" world and the pseudo-Fascist, masochistic world of Punk rock. As Andy Payne wrote in *Punk Goes to University* [Excalibur Oct. 13], these are sorry times but I am at a loss to understand how one can feel encouraged (as is author Payne by something as insidious and destructive as Punk Rock. To be "alive and angry" at the world demands a responsibility to both the particular individual and the world, for if this outlet of energy is to be anything of true value, it

must be pointed in a positive direction.

The anger of the Punk Rocker is purposeless, impetuous, and directionless. It ultimately turns itself upon the Punk Rocker himself so that Andy Payne can witness the 'tragic-spectacle' normally reserved for the Roman Colosseum or the Spanish bullring.

Ole! then, to Nazi Dog, who apes something that his distorted but "no-talent, vacuous, zit-faced" head will never fully comprehend.

But especially Ole! to Andy Payne and all those human vacuums who lend their moral, spiritual, and hopefully someday, physical support to the phenomenon of the seventies, Punk Rock. **M. Elias**

## Excalibur headline called "racist"

On October 13 you printed an article headlined, "I'm a bloke, you're a frog, kiss me..." (emphasis mine). The use of such a gratuitously racist term by *Excalibur* provided me with food for thought.

I doubt if the paper would even contemplate using comparably insulting words, to describe another national or social group. I wondered then, why Francophones are considered fair game for such treatment.

I do not believe for a moment that the *Excalibur* staff subscribes to the idea that ignorance is a sign of grace and bigotry a badge of honour; but individuals who think this way have made "frog" a term of abuse in this society.

The use of this word, coupled with a story concerning amicable Franco-Anglo relationships, may lead your more impressionable readers to believe that "frog" has now become acceptable and respectable (beyond the moronic fringe where it has hitherto been in use).

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Rather the use of the expression is liable to bring down on their heads the pity and contempt reserved for those so insecure, that they must resort to disparaging remarks about other ethnic groups.

However, some may find nothing offensive in, "frog", and conclude I am making a fuss out of nothing.

But similar charges of over-reaction have been levelled at those who speak out against abusive language used to describe blacks, Asians, homosexuals and women, among others.

I understand the phrase-making in the headline was done in good faith and is said to be part of a song written by students. That song apparently paraphrases a Quebec pop tune.

But many many Francophones found the tune distasteful, in the same way many blacks would oppose the use of the word "nigger", by a black man, like Muhammad Ali, to bait his opponents.

Who can doubt that the word would take on a much more sinister aspect, if it were to be used in a white newspaper's headline, where it is transformed into the coarsest racial slur.

Similarly, it should be clear to those who have heard the original song, that it was written and sung in a particular Quebecois context. To paraphrase it and transfer it (without any explanation of its roots) to an Anglophone newspaper, is to invite serious distortion of its meaning.

Whatever the intentions of the headline's writer, I am certain they did not mean to indicate to your readers that Francophones are amused by the term "frog"; or that they felt anything other than scorn and disrespect for those who would lower themselves using it.

To believe otherwise may make for awkward moments among friends and foes.

J. R. Trottier Osgoode

### Editor's note:

Robert Charlesbois, Quebecois folk-singer, has a popular song in Quebec which begins, in English (tongue in-cheek), "I'm a frog, you're a frog, kiss me". The students at the UBC summer language program, also tongue in cheek, composed their own version of Charlesbois' song, starting "I'm a bloke, you're a frog kiss me." Tongue even further in cheek, they quite often referred to each other as "blokes" and "frogs".

It was an oversight on *Excalibur's* part not to explain this as the origin of our very tongue-in-cheek headline.



## Cultural coverage draws praise

This is just a personal note to congratulate you and your staff on your current work — particularly the issue of 6 October. While I do not always agree with your editorial positions and while I still have concerns about those positions and how they can influence news coverage, I am especially pleased with your coverage of cultural events and with the generally more detached tone of the paper.

Since you must frequently receive letters of criticism, I thought some deserved praise might be appropriate from time to time.

**Joseph Green**  
Dean of Fine Arts

## Is Excalibur frightened by Radio York ad raid?

I am writing to say that I am entirely displeased with the way you have treated the Radio York issue. You were quite unprofessional, with an entirely one sided approach to the

## Not even one full-timer

I enjoyed your excellent articles on Women at York but feel compelled to offer one small correction. How nice it would be if the Women's Centre had a full-time staff person working, but our funds are too limited to make this a reality at the present time.

We have survived with more than a little help from our friends — women faculty members, student councils, CYSF and individual Deans and Masters; York has reason to be proud of the effectiveness of all the women's organizations on campus. Now if we could just get a little help from the administration think of all the great things we could do!

Charlotte Sykes  
York Women's Centre

**Editor's note:** The articles referred to appeared on the "News-beat" page of *Excalibur*, prepared and paid for by the Communications Department.

issue and absolutely no journalistic insight into the problems faced by this hard-working and dedicated group of people.

As you are, I am sure, fully aware, Radio York is currently trying to get a licence to become a real FM station, and all of the negative propaganda you have been spreading around is not exactly going to help their efforts. It seems to me that since you have got a working newspaper the very least you could do would be not to interfere with them getting a working radio station.

I think that the real reason you are so against them is that you are afraid that when they get on the air some of the stores and things that advertise in *Excalibur* are going to go over to Radio York.

Radio York is providing a great amount of help to a lot of people who are interested in radio. A person I know is learning how to be a disc jockey there, and when he goes to apply for a job he will have experience. They hold free classes that teach you what to do on the radio, and it seems like you can learn everything at Radio York that you can at one of those broadcasting schools without spending four years or a fortune.

Just because you aren't interested in it doesn't mean that other people aren't, and what right do you have

to take it away from them.

I am beginning to agree with all those people who are calling you "Low Caliber".

Daphne Colbran



Bryon Johnson photo

## Are Yorkites really Yorkists?

I resent *Excalibur's* references to York students as "Yorkites."

That is a derogatory term used by enemies of students. We are

"Yorkists"; please try to be a student newspaper. L. Bronstein