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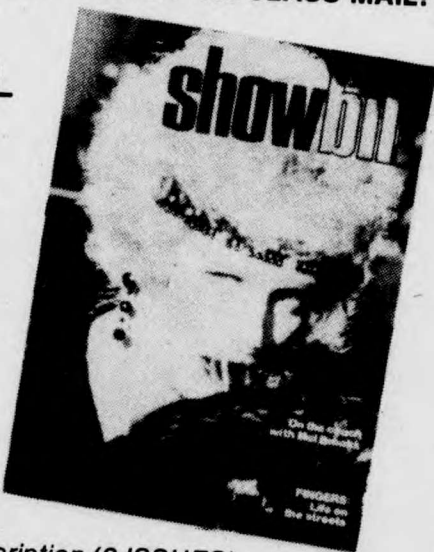
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## letters

### Scrip hike

I notice with contempt that Norman Crandles has recommended a \$700 scrip plan for residence students at York for 78-79. The rationale for this increase, as mouthed by the chairperson of the "food-users" committee, is that "student fees must meet accelerating labour, operating and supply costs which the catering services expect next year." This assumption is highly questionable.

A compulsory minimum level of consumption is offensive to an individual's right to exercise freedom of choice. It is not enough that students have a choice of how to distribute their forced level of consumption among competing caterers. They should have the right to define their own minimum level of consumption at these outlets. Surely, given the present captive market which the caterers have to work with, they should have no trouble attracting enough voluntary customers simply by providing a quality service. To guarantee the caterers a minimum is to tacitly admit that an acceptable level of quality required to attract this market does not exist.

At the present \$600 level there are already many students, most of them women, who are unable or unwilling to spend this much on food and are forced to sell excess scrip on the black market at a rate of 70% or less of face value. The effect of this is that the Food Services Committee is forcing the light eaters (primarily women) to subsidize the heavy eaters (primarily men).

An additional injustice of the present system is the misleading effect that the scrip system has in attracting students to York and residences from other universities or from off-campus housing. Many students are led to believe that \$600 will meet their food needs for the year. The reality is much different. Three dollars per day is a gross underestimate of what it costs to eat at any of the caterers. I have lived in Winters Residence for two years as a Don and have yet to meet a male resident who can eat at this level regularly and survive. In fact, most spend between \$6 and \$7 per day - over twice the allotted amount! The

cost of eating at other universities is advertised fairly, as is the cost of eating for a year off-campus. Surely, we do not have to resort to misleading students in order to fill the residences at York.

My suggestion is that the scrip system should be abolished. Caterers on campus should compete for business on the same basis as they would in any other institution in society. Coffee shops on campus and other food outlets would then be able to compete for the student food dollar and those who could not survive the competition would go out of business. The market demands would then dictate what services were provided and all students would get a better deal. For the University administration to grant exclusive contracts to businesses on campus is grossly inconsiderate of those who must patronize these businesses - the students.

Steve Garrod

### Sports coverage

Please accept my congratulations and thanks for a job well done in covering our sports program during this past year.

In particular please convey our appreciation to your sports editor Kim Llewellyn and her fine staff of reporters. Their efforts were much appreciated.

Frank Cosentino,  
Chairman and Director  
Department of Physical Education  
and Athletics

### Hope with Hubbard

York University sits in the middle of a pressure squeeze down the drain situation. Fewer teachers for more students and more hours is the formula. Our standards have deteriorated before under these conditions, and one could say that our past solution has become our current problem. We have a ruin on our hands. We are in need of change!

It may be that we have to tighten our present resources and all the rest. Okay. But what can we do on the other side to make our students survive better and create a winning university.

Carol Wrightman,  
Assistant Professor,  
Dept. of English.

## Comment

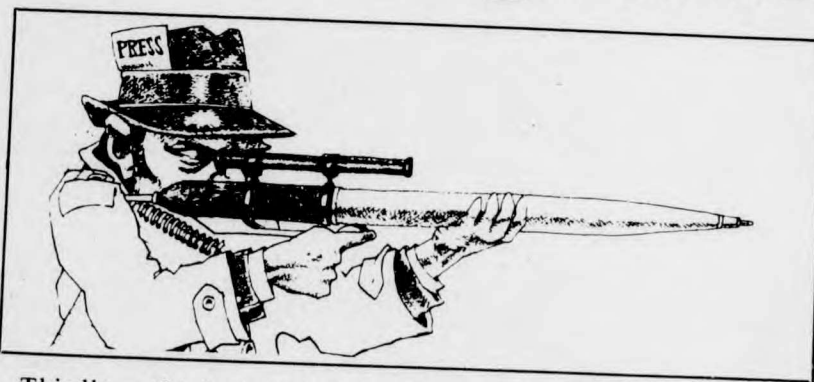
# Support for Sun a tough issue

By Rick Harris

The editorial on press freedom (March 23) has the right idea, but *Excalibur* is off-base on several important points.

Firstly - Star columnist Dennis Braithwaite was courageous in defending Toronto *Sun* editor Peter Worthington on the principle of the press responsibility, but his generalization about the reluctance of the 'left leaning media' to defend press freedom is incorrect. Many journalists, including the *Star's* Ottawa bureau chief, Richard Gwyn, have come down hard on the Trudeau government over the Worthington thing, while the story has received page one coverage in most of the major papers, coast to coast.

Secondly - the television networks have come down equally hard on the government over the issue of press freedom. Not only have they deplored the prosecutions of Worthington - and *Sun* publisher Donald Creighton - but the broader issues of press freedom and government interference was the subject of a television panel this week which involved CBC news and public affairs vice-president Knowlton Nash, Global television's news vice-president Bill Cunningham, writer Pierre Berton, and *Saturday Night* editor Robert Fulford. Since I am the person who put the item together for the CBC, I can tell you that the result was an unanimous condemnation of the Trudeau government's growing tendency to try and interfere with the workings of a free press. Moreover, I had originally invited Braithwaite to participate in the show, but I was turned down.



Thirdly - the issues of press freedom and press responsibility are two very different things. While I personally think that the Toronto papers should have closed ranks and defended Worthington, I do not think that their failure to do so had anything to do with the politics of the Toronto *Sun*, or their taking refuge in legalisms like "the law is the law". Their reasoning was even more picayune than politics and had to do, I believe, with the fact that the *Sun* has become a successful paper which has seriously affected the circulation of the *Globe* and the *Star* in the process.

As deplorable as this might seem, one cannot assume that their behaviour means that journalism in this country has gone soft. Nor for that matter does the principle of press freedom mean that journalists have the prerogative to break the law if they don't agree with it. This is where press responsibility comes in and it's a tough issue for any journalist to have to face when considering whether or not to support Worthington.

Press freedom is a philosophical position that has evolved out of the

traditional relationship between democratic governments and the freedom of speech and of publication. This is the principle of the fourth estate. Press responsibility on the other hand is a purely subjective thing. In this regard, *Excalibur* would do well to consider the positions both of Bentham and J.S. Mill before calling the *Sun* a "worthless newspaper" and its columnists "hopelless hacks". It may well be that the *Sun* falls just short of being a fascist rag, but nevertheless its circulation tends to suggest that a fairly large body of constituents agrees with its politics and its policies. Worthington's policy, on this occasion, was to break the law. It was difficult and a courageous choice for him to make, but it was a choice predicated, in this case, on the Trudeau government's excessive secrecy as well as on the principle of freedom of the press.

A decision not to support Worthington, in this instance, does not in any way make a mockery of the press.

Rick Harris, [Stong College tutorial leader] is story editor of CBC Toronto's *In Touch* program.