

Correspondence

Thanx Bruce

Thank you Bruce Gates for your article "York U in the New Wave '80s". I am glad to see that speculation about our future is alive and well.

I would like to zero in on two issues within that article and ventilate some disturbances that arose in myself while reading them. First, I was disturbed by portrayal of the future student's mini-computer doing all his work for him while he passively falls asleep. Surely he would be energetic because of the Optimization of Personal Energy Expenditure Course he must have taken in first cycle, which included relaxation training, personal exercise program design, and diet therapy. And surely he would realize, from the Constructive Empathy section of his Practicum in Social Skills Development cycle, that falling asleep in front of his professor in no way contributes to her self-esteem as a lecturer. Such behaviour increases the Ambient Social Dissonance ratings for the tribal-size social unit of which both he and his professor are responsible members.

Second, the issue of 1989 complexity vs. 1970's simplicity needs further elaboration. The 1970's saw the rise and fall of the "back to the land" search for simple lifestyle. This reflexive response to complexity and technology will hopefully be replaced in the 1980s by the more cerebral activity of General Systems Thinking which enables its user to embrace complex systems unfettered by fears of slamming painfully into one's limitations.

We must face the future with alertness and cautious optimism. Some readers may respond cynically to your article, Bruce, and sink deeper into apathy. Let us seek out, in the contemporary milieu, positive currents and align our energies with them, toward the future.

James L. Kennedy

RA's 'don't work'

On Thursday, January 24, the editorial in *Excalibur* contained the following statement: "The GAA contends that the administration will be forced to pump more money into TA's and RA's." The key word here is "RA's". Nowhere on the contract between the union and the administration is there a mention of the research assistant. Instead, it deals with the welfare of teaching assistants and part-time faculty. I feel the GAA shares the same prejudice as the staff of this university. RA's do not work. Rather, they are given an allowance each month so they may survive. If this is the case, then why are we asked to work ten hours a week? I challenge the GAA to answer this question. Are we so insignificant? The answer is no. Maybe now that the GAA has their contract approved, things will improve. They will work out an agreement for the researching assistant. Then, perhaps and only then, will the "administration... be forced to pump more money into...RA's."

Sheldon Rappaport

'Conspiracy' at York

There is a conspiracy at York. This does not imply the existence of conspirators—in fact, the present situation regarding the GAA and the Administration at York is a consequence of the following economic situation: York receives a minimum of \$15,324 BIU per annum per PhD student. There is no upper limit to the number of graduate students admitted to the program. However due to

cutbacks, there are a finite number of TA's. Thus with any increase in enrolment, there are proportionately fewer TAships for graduate students. The upshot of this is that the interests of the GAA and the Administration are opposed. The recent dispute concerning job security is an attempt by the GAA to mediate this dispute—i.e. to prevent the University from making money at the expense of graduate students. Given this situation and the GAA settlement, the following now holds: A guarantee of minimal job security beyond the first year, for those enticed to York by the promise of a Teaching Assistantship.

Stephen Boos
Judy Fudge
Brian Baigrie
Mariruth Morton
Greg Elsdon
Lou Lowther
Bryan Davis
Alina Marquez

Yellow journalism

One expects to find editorials in the *Excalibur* that are conservative, even reactionary. One expects to find a misrepresentation of the facts and glib pronouncements by puffed up cub reporters peddling yellow journalism. One doesn't expect much. But the last editorial in the *Excalibur*, "Shattered ideals", destroyed even those limited expectations. Total ignorance backed up by prejudice is dangerous as well as irresponsible.

In that editorial it was claimed that the recent GAA agreement would deprive incoming PhD students of a TA. This is categorically wrong. The agreement places these students in the priority pool. It was further argued that 'seniority' would now apply. One can scarcely refer to 'seniority' when graduate students barely half way through their studies, and with prior teaching experience, are suddenly removed from the priority pool.

The GAA agreement is a small step forward. It guarantees in writing that graduate students will have financial support and an opportunity to learn teaching skills during their first four years of PhD study.

John Foster

Popular mechanics

A car expired this week. This is not an uncommon occurrence, it happens every day. But its youth (not yet three years old) and its manner of death (murder) merit at least passing mention.

Some idiot(s) thought it would be very funny to insert metal particles into the motor of a car parked on one of the peripheral parking lots on campus. Of course, it doesn't take a mechanics course to appreciate the consequence—a turn of the key and the motor is ruined. Mission accomplished.

However, I'm happy to report that I wasn't the girl slammed against a wall and beaten up this weekend.

It's time the Board of Governors demand an enquiry and commit itself to adopting the recommendations set by (hopefully) competent individuals in the matter. Ladies and Gentlemen, it's your move.

(Ms.) J. Sabourin

All letters should be addressed to the editor, *Excalibur*, Room 111 Central Square. Letters must be typed, triple-spaced, on a 66 stroke line. Letters are limited to 300 words (seven column inches). Name, address, or phone number must be included or the letter will not be published. *Excalibur* reserves the right to edit for grammar and length. Deadline Monday 5 pm.

Come one, come all
to
our new donut shop

LOCATED RIGHT NEAR THE CAMPUS

TOP TOWN DONUTS

661-8558

2901 STEELES AVENUE WEST
(corner of Keele & Steeles)

THE COUNSELLING
AND
DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Welcomes You

Personal Counselling Groups
Academic Skills
Self Management Group
Consultation

Room 145
Behavioural Sciences Bldg.
667-2304

24-hour emergency service
through York Emergency Service

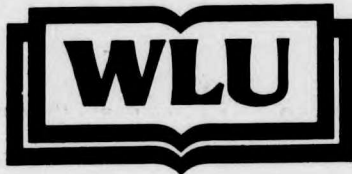
667-3333

THINKING OF GRADUATE STUDIES? THINK LAURIER!

- * Individual attention of graduate faculty
- * small group dialogue * small campus
- * excellent location in hub of Ontario

GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN BUSINESS ADMIN.,
GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, POLITICAL SCIENCE,
PSYCHOLOGY, RELIGION AND CULTURE, ROMANCE
LANGUAGES, SOCIAL WORK AND THEOLOGY.

For further information call: (519) 884-1970, Ext. 516
and ask for Virginia Wiegand or write:



Dr. A. Berczi,
Dean of Graduate Studies,
Wilfrid Laurier University,
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3C5

Get
a little
Southern
exposure.

Southern Comfort.

Enjoy it straight-up.
On the rocks. Or stirred,
shaken, even blended with
the mixer of your choice.
Delicious! No wonder
Southern Comfort's called
the one-bottle-bar!

For a free recipe book,
write Southern Comfort,
Box 775, Place Bonaventure,
Montreal, P.Q.
H5A 1E1



The unique taste
of Southern Comfort
enjoyed for
over 125 years.



SC-1-80