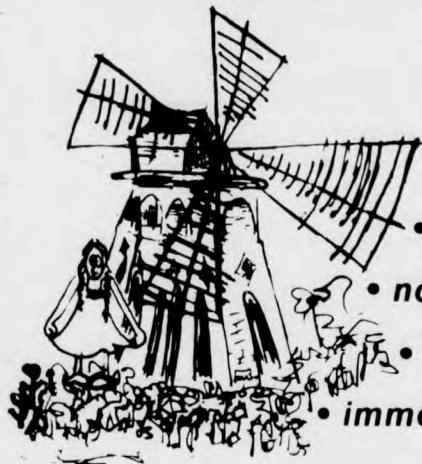


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Correspondence

More on Boyd

As a follow-up to my letter last week regarding Dean Harold Kaplan's dismissal of Mr. Terry Boyd in his capacity as lecturer in Humanities and Director of the Advising Centre...

The Dean continues to refuse to justify in detail Mr. Boyd's termination, and is ignoring the individual concerns of students. In a letter to the Dean, 3rd year Individualized Studies student Ms. Wendy Forest asked for reassurance that every alternative means of allocating funds had been considered prior to the decision to end Mr. Boyd's employment. The Dean replied only with a general statement saying that his decision was made in response to overriding financial concerns. Ms. Forest also drew to the Dean's attention the predicament Mr. Boyd's leaving York would leave her in personally, since her course of study is under the directorship of Mr. Boyd. To this the Dean replied nothing. And to add insult to injury, Dean Kaplan's letter of reply was a form letter, received word for word by at least four other students.

These evasive tactics are typical of the manner in which the Dean has dealt with Mr. Boyd's case since the beginning. When he first made his decision to end Mr. Boyd's employment, he failed to consult Mr. Boyd's teaching unit, the Division of Humanities, impugning both the rights of Mr. Boyd and the good faith of the Division to make and accept difficult decisions.

It would appear that Dean Kaplan is the kind of Dean who makes his own vested interests the criteria for his actions. Perhaps he is thinking only of the immediate demands of the marketplace, and so finds it easy to make these decisions, placing short term-gains before long-term goals. If he is really this kind of Dean, then what effect will the order of his priorities have on liberal arts education at York?

If these speculations as to the nature of the Dean's actions are false and unfounded, then he should come forward publicly and say so, and once and for all provide detailed justification for his decision to dismiss Mr. Boyd. If he chooses not to do so, then we can only conclude that these speculations are truth.

Gary Kenny

Lyceum

The demise of the Lyceum Used Bookstore is certainly a major tragedy (\$6,000 worth) that CYSF must face next year. The situation is more than clear—Lyceum "has lost money consistently since September."

Certainly in principle an on-campus used bookstore makes sense—it can provide books to students at a discount. However, the question which now arises is obvious: At what point does a CYSF business lose its status of a service and become simply an excessive drain on CYSF funds?

Lyceum's failure should also be viewed in another perspective. Lyceum's space was originally used by *Excalibur* as a store-front reception area. This benefitted *Excalibur* because it provided the paper with increased visibility as well as more working space. If Lyceum cannot be operated as a successful student service, the space can better be used by *Excalibur*.

I urge our CYSF to carefully consider proposals that could transform Lyceum into a viable student enterprise. Jon Mann's editorial suggesting the sale of used course textbooks is valid, however this is unlikely to provide

much revenue except in September and January.

In any case, Jon's life has been far from exemplary and after cheating his way through numerous undergrad philosophy courses, his suggestions should be considered only with great cynicism.

Howard Hacker
Co-manager, The Reel and Screen

Another Fan

Another year has gone by at the wondrous York U. and with its end comes to light a few of the activities of its students which are so disgusting as to merit public attention in order to prevent such things from occurring again.

Certainly this year's king pin of unmeritorious acts award must go to...the illustrious Jon Mann, Editor of what used to be the students newspaper. Many thanks must go to Mr. Mann for refusing to comment on much more than squash courts and the colour of the sky in his editorials.

Excalibur staffers themselves wondered at Mr. Mann's gutlessness, until they found out that he was bucking for a position with one of the more conservative Toronto papers. Too bad the students remained in the dark so Mr. Mann's resume could include a good example of how to suppress anything more controversial than the time in his resume.

Last and certainly least is John Hyland the new C.Y.S.F. business manager. Not much can be said about Mr. Hyland because he's never around long enough to do anything.

Last week on Monday he was still out to lunch after two hours. Tuesday he didn't even come in, and Wednesday, Thursday and Friday he wasn't in till around eleven. The only real proof of Mr. Hyland's existence is the \$280.00 a week salary he collects. I suppose only God and John know why.

Even Malcolm Montgomery was heard begging John to at least show up, even if he didn't do anything.

Undoubtedly I will be commenting on C.Y.S.F. and *Excalibur* next year. Excuse me if my cynicism persists.

Donald M. Sugg

Your editorial "No Surprises" (*Excalibur*, April 9) held one for me: its recommendation that the student-run Lyceum Bookstore enter the "lucrative textbooks market." As if there were such a thing...

I suggest that if, as reported Lyceum has experienced financial difficulties selling used books and posters, they may want to think twice before accepting your editorial's well-meant advice.

As is widely known in book-industry circles, textbooks—while generating substantial profits for the most efficient of textbook publishers—provide such narrow margins to bookstores, no bookseller in his/her right mind willingly goes into the business if financial rewards are one's primary consideration. Most textbooks are sold to bookstores at effective discounts of 20 per cent or less. This means that out of a potential, though seldom-realized, 20 per cent contribution to gross margin a bookseller must finance wages, benefits, inventory—carrying charges, mark-downs, transportation, brokerage, shrinkage, foreign-exchange, and other, "fixed" costs. The probability of a bookstore's (operating at maximum efficiency) breaking even selling textbooks ranges from very unlikely to non-existent. One would wish Lyceum a better way out of its financial problems than to recommend

they leap into the sure losses associated with the acquisition, storage and sale of textbooks.

R. Barreto-Rivera
Director
York University Bookstores

Miguided Kanuck

Jim Kanuck Kerr clearly opposes the efforts of people who have attempted to publicize and question United States involvement in El Salvador. For Kerr, the outcry against American intervention in that country is not warranted and is actually "against gracious efforts of the United States to extend aid to the poor and underprivileged people of El Salvador in their greatest time of need".

Ironically, the writer does not examine any issues, but somehow concludes that "the Soviet Union continues to use and abuse small defenseless countries as stepping stones to World control." Kerr then comes up with the usual reactionary outburst: how can the people of the free world allow such events to happen in other countries, he asks.

This kind of simplistic reasoning confirms that it is people such as Kerr who live in a world they do not care to understand. One need not go as far as El Salvador to examine "gracious American efforts" for there are enough of them in our own backyard. They've resulted in direct penetration and control of the Canadian economy to the tune of \$43,139 billion in 1976 and the figure is increasing.

Beset by its own economic pressures, the United States has not hesitated to protect its own interests at the expense of other countries. This is evidenced by "Branch Plant Economies" like those in Canada, whereby plants are being closed with the loss of thousands of Canadian jobs.

In underdeveloped countries, the situation is even worse. American corporations, supported by their government's policies, have, increased their foreign holdings, concentrating on extraction of raw materials in countries such as El Salvador, Guatemala, racist South Africa, Namibia, Chile, and Brazil. Indeed, the list of one-sided dealings between poor countries and the United States is long. The U.S. government refused to conduct relations with Chile when Allende was democratically elected and the Chilean people took control of their economy. The U.S.-controlled "World Bank" refused loans to Chile during that period, but cynically found \$126 million for the Chilean mass murderer, dictator Pinochet.

Naive statements like "gracious efforts to aid poor countries by the United States" are utter rubbish and have no foundation whatsoever. The role of the United States in the world economy is to create favourable conditions to guarantee profits for the American transnational corporations, regardless of local social conditions. It is hardly surprising that the foreign debt of non-oil producing Third World countries was \$315 billion, while that of interest paid on past loans was \$37 billion, in 1978. How's that for aid Mr. Kanuck?

With such obvious plunder, some people still wonder why poverty, hunger, and disease are on the increase in poor countries? It is against such miserable economic plunder that people in countries like El Salvador rise and attempt to change their conditions. While some of us hear and support their outcry, others cry "communism".

David Himbara