

Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity — Lord Acton

Excalibur, is the York University weekly and is independent politically. Opinions expressed are the writer's and those unsigned are the responsibility of the editor. Excalibur attempts to be an agent of social change. Typography by Foto Set, printed at Delta Web. Excalibur is published by Excalibur Publications, a body incorporated under the laws of Ontario.

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Want to have a lecture in Maple Leaf Gardens?

If there ever was a time to raise awareness about the financial squeeze facing post-secondary education in Ontario, that time is February, 1978.

And no one knows that better than the Graduate Assistants' Association, principal organizers of next week's week against the cutbacks.

The GAA represents, among others, York's 400 part-time lecturers. And, if the York administration insists on attempting to balance the budget next year, at least half of those part-timers will lose their jobs.

So the GAA is concerned about the cutbacks because their jobs are on the line.

And many other people are concerned because such a decimation of the ranks of York's part-timers would have a horrible effect on the quality of education at York.

Many courses would go by the boards, seminars and tutorials in first-year courses would go the way of the dodo bird, and our already over-crowded lecture halls would be asked to accommodate even more students.

There's even speculation that Maple Leaf Gardens will be rented for a few of the more popular first year natural science courses.

The picture becomes even more horrifying when it becomes clear that this is just the first effect of York's lack of money.

All indications are that enrolment at Ontario universities will continue to decline for the foreseeable future, the inflation rate is not getting any better, and doling out funds for university education is not the most popular past-time of the Ontario government.

Firing part-timers is the easiest way to save a few hundred grand. But when they're gone, you can bet that our secure and tenured full-

time faculty will begin to feel somewhat less secure. They will be the next bunch to feel the cold breath of 'budgetary restraint'.

The cutbacks have an impact upon us all, students staff and faculty, full-time and part-time, and unity between us all is absolutely essential, if we ever hope to turn the cutbacks tide.

That is why the cutbacks week is an important beginning, because it gives us a chance to begin building that type of unity. We can begin to see that we are all in the same boat.

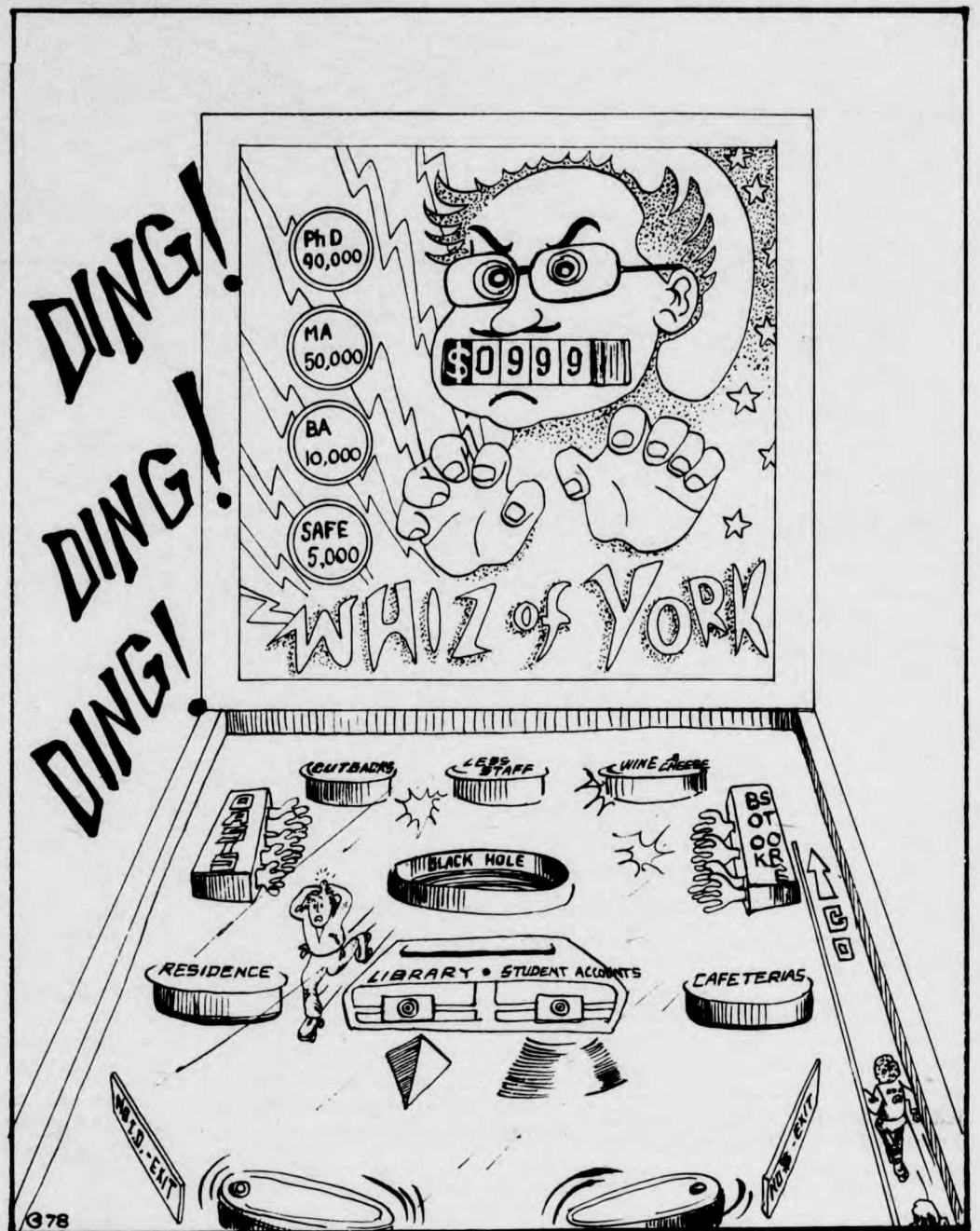
Bearing this in mind, we would like to question the wisdom of the line of argument the GAA has taken in their brief to the Board of Governors concerning the budget problems. The centrepiece of the brief's argument is that part-timers shouldn't be fired because they provide teaching services at a much cheaper rate than full-timers.

Now the GAA doesn't say this, but the logical extension of that argument is that it makes more sense to fire full-timers than part-timers.

And that's no solution at all. It doesn't matter who is fired first, if we accept the necessity of cutting back, the part-timers will eventually get the axe. The end result will be the same, a decline in the quality of education at York.

A line of reasoning like the one in the brief isn't going to help build any type of support for the part-timer's plight amongst faculty members.

Hopefully, the leadership GAA has shown in initiating the week against the cutbacks is more indicative of their approach to fighting the cutbacks than their brief to the Board.



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Going Going Gonzo



• With Fine Arts Phase III there's plans for the first time since 1972 to put up a new faculty building at York. In that year, the master plan which called for York to be completed by 1980 had to be put aside.

Included in that plan were: buildings for administration and student services, the university press, "central food services," art, music, environmental design, engineering science, graduate science, social work, pharmacy, medicine, nursing and dentistry. Add to this separate structures for a medical library, a teaching hospital, several new professional schools, four more colleges, a museum and art gallery. Finally, there were to be nursing, married students and graduate residences (eight more), and a president's house which was to overlook a quadrupled-in-size Stong Lake complete

with a floating amphitheatre.

The model of York including all of the above used to collect dust on the second floor north lobby of Ross, but it seems to have gone into hiding...

• If you've ever noticed words spraypainted on the wall at each landing of the south tower steps in Ross, but never pieced together the entire message, here it is for your convenience: "There is perhaps nothing more profoundly subjective than the experience of time. It is the medium of consciousness itself. As such it is indissoluble and inseparable from consciousness. To understand time is to understand the laws governing the unfoldment of our own mind." Now, who said that?

• Readers, you're in good company. Excalibur is among the university papers which the Prime Minister's office subscribes to, as of last fall...

Photographers and poets take note. The first Excalibur poetry and photography contest is coming this term. There'll be big bucks prizes. Judges for photos will include Jack Dale and Shin Sugino, and for poetry, Eli Mandel. Details to follow, please don't send us anything just yet...

• Murray McKie served as Moncton, N.B. fire chief for 22 years before resigning and being appointed fire deputy chief in charge of fire protection in 1971.

Obviously McKie had more than a touch of nostalgia for the old thrill of action: in late August he was found guilty of setting fire to a three-storey apartment building and boarding house.

Someone should introduce him to Atlanta native Edward Elson. Elson, a former member of the Presidential Commission on Obscenity and Pornography, was arrested last summer for distributing obscene material at his "adult" newstand in Atlanta's International Airport...

• Catfish Hunter for \$750,000 last year for throwing baseballs for the Yankees. Reggie Jackson was paid \$580,000 for hitting baseballs for the same team.

But according to Chicago Tribune columnist Jack Mabley, the young Haitian women who made the baseballs that Hunter threw and Jackson hit were paid \$10 a week in a good week.

American baseballs - almost 20 million a year - are made in Haiti, where the minimum wage is \$1.30 a day.

On the topic of baseball, Baltimore Orioles manager Alvin Dark is worth quoting. Says Dark, "Any pitcher who throws at a batter and deliberately tries to hit him is a communist."

More loose talk, this time from John Wayne: "I don't feel we did wrong in taking this great country away from the Indians. There were great numbers of people who needed new land, and the Indians were selfishly trying to keep it for themselves." Now we know why he always played cowboys...

• Talk about qualified superlatives. Al Fox dropped this off from the Revue theatre's January schedule; "...perhaps one of the dozen best pictures made anywhere in the past half-dozen years..." (The NY Times Richard Eder on the film Chac.)

• Thanks to Ed Benjamin, who brought in a copy of a little-known Toronto paper: The Toronto Herald.

The particular issue carried front page stories on Mr. and Mrs. Clay Hakeman's golden anniversary, Mr. and Mrs. Norris Bergjord's holidays, and various births, deaths and anniversaries in Toronto, Deuel County, South Dakota (pop.300). He also brought in the photo below...

Readers are invited to send in to Gonzo any trivia and scandals they find interesting. Just mail your stuff or bring it in person to 111 Central Square. Don't forget sources.

Ted Mumford



Staff meets
today 1pm
Tues. 5pm
Enlist!