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# Actors, where are you?

To whom it may concern:

As a fourth year film production student I feel compelled to voice, what I consider, is a serious rift between the theatre and film departments in the area of interdisciplinary co-operation. On numerous occasions my colleagues and I have posted flyers requesting the availability of actors, stage managers and technicians. These requests have, for the most part, been met with abysmally small turnouts of interested students.

Am I to assume that the vast majority of York theatre students are so highly skilled and talented that they do not need the experience of working with a motion - picture style of acting?



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Perhaps they feel that when they graduate they will do nothing but work in live-theatre scorning whatever film and TV work may come their way! Good-luck!

Or maybe it isn't even their fault. Possibly they have been led to believe that film isn't er.... well it isn't really acting is it? Sour grapes? No!; because as I mentioned before some acting students have cooperated with us, which is certainly more than can be said for the theatre production department from whom we've never had any co-operation, **EVER!** 

Please do not interpret this letter as a condemnation of your talent and skills, but more as a gentle hint that your creative skills are needed and can be utilized in a productive and worthwhile learning experience. Furthermore it is an opportunity to learn without being penalized; an opportunity that I don't think exists in the outside world!

One last note, we love theatre people as I am sure they love film people!! Therefore why don't we

beoth come to an equitable working -agreement?

P.S. I am aware of your commitments and schedules; still .....?? P.P.S. If you are interested in working on or acting in a film please call me at 667-1526. Thank you.

**Peter Cresswell** 



## Writer over-edited

While the main body of my review last week of Austin Clarke's new novel The Prime Minister was faithfully printed, the exclusion and-or alteration in the editing process of numerous sentences left the reader to form opinions other than those intended by me. In the review I said that the Clarke novel was worth reading as an insightful story of an expatriate West Indian's return to his native land and his subsequent disillusionment. However, in my original copy I also included reservations about the work - all of which were edited out.

For example, in the printed copy one collection of sentences is reduced to this one: "We get the impression that the island's unions will always be as hopelessly corrupt as the government". In my original draft I had this immediately preceding it: "Yet Clarke...is pessimistic that any viable alternative will emerge. Hence, we get the impression that the island's unions etc...." Quite a difference.

Excalibur chose to edit in such a manner as to imply that union members are the same as the career politicians — an outlook which is more in keeping with a Toronto Sun editorial writer than with that associated with a responsible student newspaper.

What I wanted to suggest in the review was that Clarke's disillusioned tone came partly from a failure to come to terms with a realistic appraisal of what is happening in the West Indies. It is therefore clear that I questioned Clarke's tendency to place the blame on all and sundry, to lump opportunistic politicians together with the trade union movement as a whole (the latter formed as one of many means to fight for and protect working peoples' interests).

In another instance you cut out my criticism of Clarke's handling of the tourism issue. In the printed copy you did include the following: "Clarke explores the economic and psychological impact of the tourist industry.' Yet in my original copy, but excluded from what was printed, I later asked the question "But are tourists all that bad as Clarke makes them out to be?" Also deleted from the final copy, but necessary in my opinion to give more substances to my reservations about Clarke's stereotyping of tourists in the West Indies, were my thoughts on Cuba — once the brothel of the Caribbean but now once more a sunny vacation land for winter-weary North American tourists.

Although I recognize the problems Excalibur editors have with regard to space limitations, grammar and readability of submitted material, it is equally apparent, especially in journalism, that this must not be at the expense of constructive criticism.

Norman Faria

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