

Excalibur

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

editorial

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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Two small stories of a big problem

I hadn't seen the old fellow (call him Joe) for a couple of years. For as long as I've been around York, he's been working as a cleaner in Complex I.

"How're you doing Joe"? I asked, and we shook hands and exchanged pleasantries.

He hemmed and hawed a bit, scratched his head. "It's my last day on the job, you know," he said. "I'm going to a job out East."

I took him to mean he had found another job, better than the one he had here at York. "We'll miss you", I said "You've been here a long time."

That was the wrong thing to say. Joe didn't have a job out East, and that's not surprising *No one* has a job out East these days.

Joe was being laid off. Budget cutbacks you know, means we can afford less cleaning staff.

And Joe had tears in his eyes. Because he *had* been at York a long time, and I guess he really didn't know what he was going to do next.

"Well, I didn't really like my job anyway," he said. "It's such a long way to go to get here. I'll find a much better job somewhere else. I know a few people out East. And I can probably make more money than I make here".

But I didn't believe him. He still had tears in his eyes.

Joe's not going to find a job out East. He's middle-aged, unskilled, not too good at speaking English — and those attributes don't exactly make him a marketable commodity in a country that has over one million unemployed and fewer than 50,000 job openings.

And although Joe was talking bravely, he *knows* that he's not going to find work that easily.

It's not very pleasant being unemployed.

I guess it grates a bit more on the

nerves when you've trained long and hard to acquire a particular skill, and there's just no market for it.

Take my friend Bill (not his real name). Bill can do just about anything related to print. Layout, paste-up, design, shooting negs, making plates, running presses—you name it, Bill can do it. He's been at it for some time, and he spent a few sessions (and a few dollars) at a technical college learning the trade.

For six-months now, he's been living on \$60 a week, working part-time as a night-watchman.

He just can't buy a job in his field, and \$60 a week doesn't put much more than bread on the table.

"It's not so bad in the summer," he said. "You can entertain yourself for free. There's lots parks in Toronto, and it's sort of nice taking it easy for a few months."

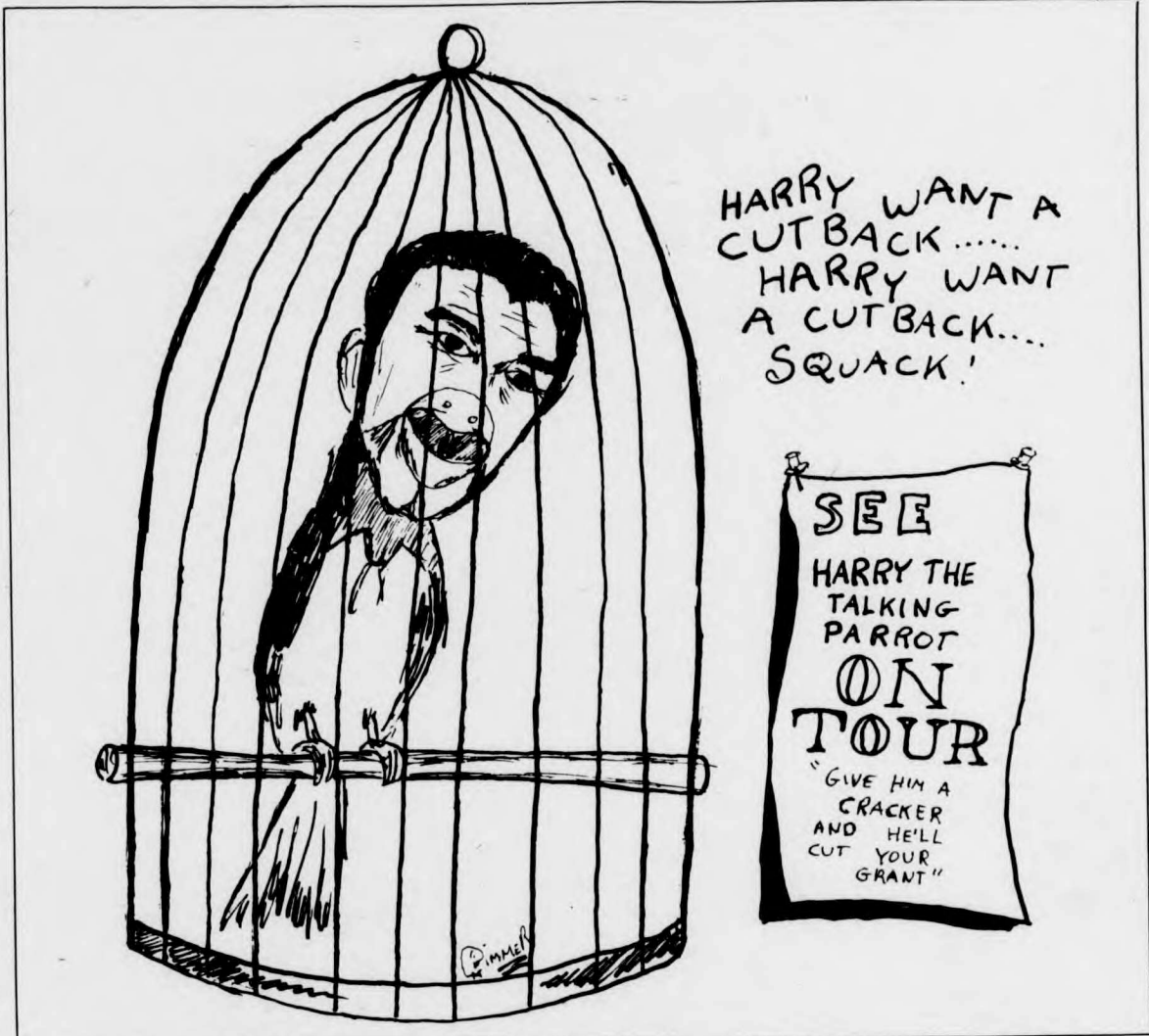
"But come September, it gets depressing. All my friends are either starting jobs, or going back to school, and I'm sitting here with my life in neutral, living from paycheque to paycheque."

"And on \$60 bucks a week, it makes the winter look pretty damn cold."

What can one say about the plight of one middle-aged Italian cleaner named Joe who's come into a bit of hard-luck, and one 22 year-old young WASP who's having difficulty making a career for himself.

Joe's losing his job because York can't afford him any longer (at least that's what we're told). York can't afford him because of inflation and dropping enrolment. Enrolment is dropping because people like Bill can't find work and thus can't afford to pay for school, because of inflation, because the international economic order is on the skids.

What can one say about Joe and Bill except to say that something is wrong.



staff meeting 1pm) today

- ### AGENDA
- 1) assignments
 - 2) review of paper
 - 3) discussion of ORCUP and Youthstream
 - 4) press gang enlistment for Friday filling bee

letters

The paradox of pacifism

The author of the sad letter of October 6, which bore the headline "We need nuclear deterrent", maintains that force must be met with force. If we don't respond to aggression, our society will be destroyed and even the slightest hope of a utopian future will disappear, he writes.

His argument, as such, seems to withstand the test of logic, but the question necessarily arises: what kind of force? I ask that gentlez?)man to consider with me the seeming paradox of the force of pacifism. He despises men who would allow themselves to be "used, trampled

and spat upon". Am I to understand that he despises men like Jesus Christ and Mohandes Gandhi? These pacifists did more to lead men towards international co-operation than did any of history's warriors.

Judge ULS by its program

I would like to correct an inaccuracy and add some information to the article in last week's *Excalibur* on the CYSF by-election all-candidates meeting. One of my opponents accused the left of printing ideas but not participating because I didn't attend a meeting for candidates in Stong.

Unfortunately that did not give me enough time to reschedule a commitment I had already made. Unfortunately my answer as to why the United Left Slate should be given a second chance when it had power in CYSF two years ago and was decisively rejected was misquoted. I did not say the slate should be judged as individuals. That's what every careerist candidate who does not have a program that you can hold she or he to says.

"Where such deep-rooted and widespread differences exist, no reconciliation is possible except by the destruction or radical transformation of one side or the other." In his own words my anonymous friend seems to be saying he recognizes violence is not the only method by which we may settle our disputes. I wonder at his use of the word "or". Perhaps he didn't consider how radical a transformation it would be if both parties in the dispute refused to use violence to resolve their problems.

Not only was the all-candidates forum in Stong College very small and totally divorced from commuter students (as pointed out by my running mate on the ULS in Stong, Ian Kellogg), but it was also not very well organized. I was never personally contacted by its organizers about the fact it was taking place. I did, accidentally, find out the day before from Paul Hayden at a downtown Toronto hotel where the Ontario Federation of Students conference was being

I did say the composition of the ULS had changed since 1975 and it should be judged on its current program of how to defeat the tuition fee increases and the new restrictions on student aid, that is, through organizing students in action against them.

Since much of his letter concerns itself with a McCarthy-like fear and loathing of the communist countries, I ask that he remember that there are pacifists in the USSR, and reflect upon the following: Hath not a communist eyes? Hath not a communist hands, organs, dimensions, affections and passions fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons...

Joanne Pritchard
ULS candidate in Stong

Cyril Cathcart
Winters

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, Excalibur, room 111, Central Square. Please triple or double space the letters, and keep them to around 250 words. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for length and grammar.

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From your student gov't

Every year it is the responsibility of the CYSF vice-president of student services and communications to create a communications committee, the purpose of which is to advise him in decisions concerning this area.

In this academic year, the major interest of the communications committee will be to discuss the present situation at Radio York, to research the status of the college papers and student handbook, and become involved in the structure of *Excalibur*.

If you are interested in becoming part of this year's committee, contact David Chodikoff, or come into the CYSF offices located in 105 central square and fill in an application form.

UNIVERSITY SERVICES

The CYSF university services committee - which concerns itself with food services, housing, parking, transportation and daycare - will meet Thursday, October 20 at 2 pm in the meeting room of the CYSF offices.

The purpose of the meeting is to initiate a group of concerned students in the aforementioned areas through which students' concerns may be voiced to the administration.

For further information, contact Gary Empey, vice-president (university services) at CYSF.