

# letters & comment

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, *Excalibur*, room III, Central Square. Please type letters, triple or double spaced, and keep them to around 400 words. Name, address and phone number must be included, but name will be withheld on request. *Excalibur* reserves the right to edit for grammar and length.  
Deadline Monday 4pm.



## Bryant feature blatantly biased

The students of York University deserve an apology from the staff of *Excalibur* for the paper's questionable reporting of Anita Bryant's visit to People's Church. *Excalibur's* attempts to be fashionable in condemning Bryant have resulted in standards of journalism for which York students may justifiably complain.

*Excalibur* professes that it "attempts to be an agent of social change"; yet, such an admirable stance is hardly a licence to engage in blatantly biased reporting. The articles on page 9 of last Thursday's paper seem to suggest that *Excalibur* supports freedom of expression for the gay community (see also *Body Politic* article discussed on page 4); but Bryant's attempts to exercise her right to freedom of expression drew only only disdain, sarcasm, and oblique insults from *Excalibur*. Reporter Paul Kellogg describes the "physical harassment suffered by Kinsman", a marshall at the activities who was assaulted earlier in the weekend in a march up Yonge Street. However, the same reporter conspicuously fails to mention that one of the protestors was charged with common assault for knocking down a 46-year-old woman who commented on the protestor's picket sign (was she not entitled to freedom of expression?). He further failed to report that one of the protestors smeared a pie in the face of Rev. Paul Smith, who had invited Bryant to speak at the church. (I am relying on the *Toronto Star's* reporting of these incidents since I was not present at any of the activities.)

On the same page, reporter Paul Stuart seems determined to portray Bryant's supporters as mindless, hate-filled idiots. Indeed, his article ends with an insightful description of one such woman who "shuddered with hate". In the same article, Bryant is referred to as a "juice peddler". Reporter Paul Stuart called the affair a "slickly produced piece of showbiz"; also, he "couldn't help wondering if she (Bryant) might turn up on a *Mary Hartman* spin-off" in a mocking reference to what was apparently a quasi-religious experience to many of the people in attendance. Such gratuitous insults smack of religious intolerance.

I wish it to be made clear that I do not support Anita Bryant in her campaign against homosexuality; however, one's views on gay rights are not at issue here. What is at issue is *Excalibur's* unacceptably low standard of journalism caused by the biases of the staff. If *Excalibur* can so vehemently condemn attempts to deny the *Body Politic* its rights to freedom of expression (in reference to the article entitled "Men Loving Boys Loving Men"), then why does the paper fail to even report attempts to deny Bryant her right to freedom of expression? Freedom of expression is a fundamental, timeless principle that must inhere in a democratic society. Such a right must belong not only to those members of a persecuted minority at selected points in history, but to all members of society. Intolerance on either side must be guarded against, lest the persecuted should become the persecutors.

Michael Rende  
Osgoode Hall

## "Reckless spending" was a loan

Ted Mumford certainly picked the wrong group when he accused Vanier College Council of "reckless spending" (*Excalibur*, January 19, 1978). The money given to the hockey team is a temporary loan and will be mostly returned. In the meantime I would be interested in Mr. Mumford's reflections on some other things financed by Vanier Council: Dean Krister Stendahl of Harvard, "Pluralism, Tolerance and Conviction in Religion"; Professor Malcolm Diamond of Princeton, "Relativism and Religion"; Professor Robert Funk of Montana, "The Prodigal Samaritan"; Professor John Dominic Crossan of Chicago, "Parables are Made of Glass"; Professor Arthur McGill of Harvard, "Shame and Admiration".

These are world authorities in Religious Studies and it impresses me (and them, too) that it is student money that brings them here.

I could also mention *Encounter Canada*, January 25 and 26, which will bring to the campus Hon. Claude Martin, Hon. Gerald Regan, Hon. Edward Schreyer - to mention just three of the notables who will join in debate with some of our domestic stars; or even the production of MacLeish's *J.B.* on February 2, 3 and 4 - an ambitious undertaking, evidence for which is clearly visible, now, in Vanier Dining Hall.

No! Vanier's business is in good hands. Because of our Council we are doing things which the university budget could not presently support.

I think their priorities are right. Keep it up, Council!

J. Ceri Stephens  
Senior Tutor, Vanier College

## Xcal a joke, they claim

I most strenuously object to the condemnatory tone of your editor's note to the letter written by the five girls victimized by a practical joke through your newspaper. How can you object to high school pranks in *Excalibur* which is itself a joke. One cannot be blamed after reading your editorial comments for assuming that *Excalibur* is a medium for frivolous declarations.

Bruce Dawe and 10 others  
MacLaughlin College

## Anti-gay crank calls & defacing gay signs: new York sports

Being anti-gay seems to be a favourite pastime these days. Harbinger has been receiving anti-gay crank calls, and posters advertising its gay men's drop-in have been defaced, with "fags" written in instead of "gay men". Posters advertising *Sebastiane*, a gay film, have also been defaced.

The Anita Bryants of the world are simply more sophisticated versions of anti-gay hatred. What is in common is the insistence upon seeing gays as deviants.

Why does the issue of homosexuality bring out the worst and the most irrational side of people? One reason could be sexual hang-ups; many straight people have strong gay tendencies.

Another possible answer is that the full acceptance of gays into society would require the end of the traditional nuclear family; more so than feminists, since many feminists marry, have children, etc.

In fact, the fear of gays campaigning for their rights resembles the fear of the similar struggles of women - in that both groups will "destroy the family".

However, the end of the nuclear family won't mean the end of the

world. People will continue to form relationships with each other, and some will raise children.

The only thing missing will be repression.

Rhonda Salsberg  
York International Socialists



## Same to you, CYSF

In the interests of keeping the York community informed on the continuing saga of Harbinger, and its financial difficulties, we would like to share some of the events that have taken place since Harbinger last made headlines.

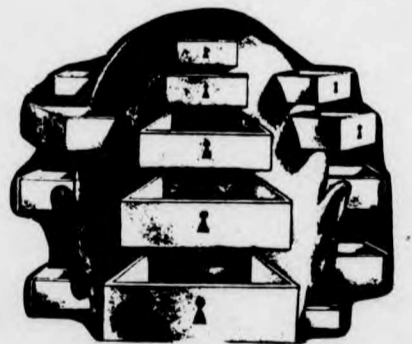
We would like to extend our sincerest apologies to the CYSF executive if either of us ever implied that they did not have the best of interests of Harbinger at heart. Their most recent proposal has made clear just what their true intentions are.

At the last Harbinger board meeting, their suggestion was to cut costs by eliminating the position of full-time coordinator and replacing

her with two part-time students. These would be fourth year psych students who would work at Harbinger for two hundred dollars a month and receive a course credit.

In keeping with this spirit of austerity, we would like to propose that similar steps be taken by the CYSF itself. Under the same guidelines suggested to Harbinger, the position of president of the CYSF could become a credit course in political science, to be undertaken by the president-elect. This person would take four other courses and receive a salary similar to that of the Harbinger coordinators. (The precedent of holding down the CYSF presidency while taking four courses was of course established this year.)

It might in fact be possible for some lucky student to register for both courses, thus coordinating



Harbinger while running the CYSF and taking three other courses. This person would earn the lucrative salary of four hundred dollars a month! What effect this would have upon the quality of services provided (not to mention the mental stability of the persons involved) remains to be seen, but such considerations must of course be put aside in times of economic need.

We are sure that the CYSF, in its unending quest to save our money, will recognize the true worth of this plan when it has applied the guidelines suggested to Harbinger to itself.

Janet McNaughton  
Mary Marrone

## Theatre types up to ears in work

Regarding last week's letter concerning Peter Creswell and his film department productions, may I inform the said Mr. Creswell of a few facts.

Out of a total of 189 theatre students, 45 are production managers. From this pool of 45, we design, build, maintain and dismantle the following:

- three major departmental shows
- all Cabarets (4 per term)
- all events in Burton Auditorium (be they Performing Arts Series (8 this year) or other (7 so far))
- most shows which tour in Mac Hall
- all independent projects into which most students habitually embroil themselves
- plus college shows usually have one or two techies connected as do many faculty of fine arts productions.

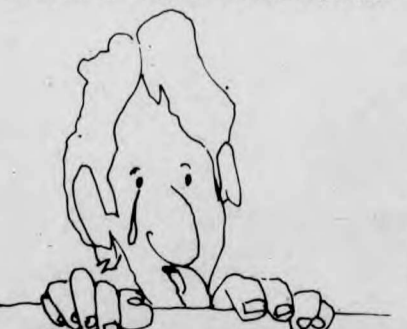
The department of theatre expects at least 30 hours of crew time from its Drama Studies and Performance students per term. Production students meet that requirement in the first week!

May I remind Mr. Creswell that we are all university students.

Therefore we are required to attend classes at least semi-regularly (often once or twice is the norm). Very often production students must settle for C-'s or C's, not due to lack of intelligence but to lack of attendance, stemming from a personal commitment to the theatre.

We are, basically, a working pool with a dwindling supply of hours and manpower. In other words, we haven't the time to schedule a pee break two weeks from Sunday let alone work on a film!

The accusation of lack of co-operation between departments is ludicrous. Does Mr. Creswell not know of the work done by such students as Patricia Nember, Peter



Dwyer and April Quan? Nor does he recognize the work of various theatre students who take film courses and are, presumably, involved in the production of films.

Continuing with his argument of lack of co-operation, might I remind Mr. Creswell of the conversation we held in late November regarding assistance to his film. Suzanne Johnston, Liz Hayden and myself held a long detailed dissertation as to the viability of using production students. A list of names was given to the man (both professional and academic people) who were probably available to aid him. To date, none have any recollection of his contacting them.

As to the comment concerning opportunities to learn without penalization, Mr. Creswell must not realize that that is exactly why we are here: to hone down our skills to their finest point - with a safety net to catch us. Our craft is theatre - perhaps we may or may not work in film but we must learn the basics in live theatre first, then branch out. We would indeed be foolish not to take advantage of the opportunity here - and we do - in theatre - just as

film students do in film.

The insinuation that we feel above film work is ludicrous in the extreme. Obviously Mr. Creswell has never seen theatre technicians at work; hours cannot be longer, work cannot be harder nor patience more strained. In film one may re-take shots if mistakes are made - in live theatre this isn't possible. As to working only in live theatre - of course we expect that - just as film students expect film or t.v. work to come their way. I haven't seen Mr. Creswell showing up on any theatre crew calls - or does he feel that when he graduates he'll do only films and t.v. work scorning whatever live theatre may come his way. If so, bonne chance!

Finally, may I suggest to Mr. Creswell that a time other than the week before and during Christmas exams would be most convenient to get volunteers - although it is difficult to re-schedule one's exams around filming - but I am sure the university community would co-operate.

Patrick Callaghan,  
Fourth Year Production  
Theatre Representative