

letters

All letters should be addressed to the editor, Excalibur, Room III Central Square. Letters must be typed, triple-spaced, on a 66 stroke line. Letters are limited to 300 words (seven column inches). Name, address, or phone number must be included or the letter will not be published. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for grammar and length.

Deadline Monday 4 pm

"Closed society" or individual choice?

D. Wilson's letter to *Excalibur* last Thursday is an admirably concise and forceful statement of an unpopular (unfashionable) but nevertheless substantial view: viz., that people can at most be expected to fight their own battles (though support may be volunteered). Ours in an age in which the "closed shop" (cf. the "closed society") and the ideal of "worker solidarity", which are at marked variance with the ideal of individual choice and action, and therefore with ideals of freedom, grip the imagination of most people and curtail such courses of action as those of employees' making individual settlements with employers and people's freely deciding to opt out of strikes without incurring the opprobrium of their colleagues.

Those of us who disbelieve in the two ideals named above, and who also do not happen to worship the almighty picket-line, are roundly and uncritically condemned as "strike-breakers". (I suppose this means that people who do not participate in strikes do not work! This is strange logic, since it is those who do not strike who continue to work while their fellow refuse.)

Ironically, it is certain workers who are being most systematically victimized by this strike: Atkinson students are frequently "workers" who put aside or save up their tuition fees so as to be able to better their lots as workers; students often work to put themselves through school; taxpayers shell out good portions of their hard-earned wages to support institutions like York University where, with depressing frequency, ideas inimical to their interests are purveyed.

All these people are paying for this strike, both as workers aspiring to study and as taxpayers. And the fault does not lie automatically, or obviously with the administration....

Michael Haynes
Department of Philosophy

An appeal to the faculty

We represent a large and growing movement of students on

Ryerson may fire blabbing BOG members

TORONTO (CUP) — In an effort to curb a flood of leaks to the press, the board of governors at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute is considering firing members who divulge confidential material.

At an in-camera meeting September 20, the board discussed a draft by-law that would penalize members who divulge sensitive material discussed at in-camera meetings.

According to a source close to the board, this could include removal from the board and from the institute. Ryerson president Walter Pitman refused to comment on the proposal September 27 because he said, talking about it would breach board security.

According to the draft bylaw, he explained, he could then be removed from his position.

Pitman said a proposal was being discussed but emphasized no decisions had been reached about its specific stipulations.

However, he said, some sort of action had to be taken to stifle the seeming flood of secret information to the media.

campus who are dissatisfied because of the current dispute between the Administration and the York University Staff Association. We feel, however, that the continuation of some classes, which allows the pretence that the educational process is functioning, relieves the pressure on the administration to reach a speedy settlement.

The cancellation of classes is impeded by the moral and legal obligation which professors have to their students. In the current situation, however, the faculty is relieved of its legal and contractual obligation because of the existence of clauses which obligate the administration to provide adequate ancillary services. (e.g. clause 18.33) Classes that continue as originally scheduled are detrimental to the students' interest, since many essentials of an educational environment (e.g. bookstore, library services and class handouts) are absent and students are denied that which assists his grasp of the material. The course races blindly ahead while the student falls hopelessly behind. Furthermore, since, as already indicated, the continuance of classes prolongs the strike, the long term interests of the students are being sacrificed...

We are therefore urging you to join the many faculty who have

already agreed to cease conducting their classes on Thursday, October 5th. We also urge you to attend the Senate Meeting to be held on the same day at 4.30 in the Senate Chambers on the 9th floor as an expression of your concern.

The ones ultimately being hurt are us, your students; please cooperate, thank you.

Faculty Liaison Committee
Sit-in Support Group

Catholic council urges patience during strike

The Council of the York Catholic Community calls for a just end to the strike of the support staff. We believe that unless the parties quickly agree to a fair settlement, the University community will suffer irreparable damage. The welfare of the University as a whole is in jeopardy due to the strike's disruption of services and damage to morale, and the public image of the university as an integral part of society is losing credibility.

We respect the positions of each of the parties engaged in bargaining and we urge them both to renew their commitment to arriving at a settlement.

We recognize that in the immediate past, the support staff has not been remunerated equitably in relation to the community as a whole. We accordingly call upon the entire academic community to recognize this fact, and to realize that in redressing this injustice, the greater good of the community will be assured now and in the future.

We urge the York community to be patient and understanding of the real differences separating the parties and to support them in their efforts at a reconciliation of these differences.

Statement by the Council of
the York Catholic Community

On Dr. Forest's "human concerns"

I hate to say, "I told you so," but to quote my letter which appeared

in *Excalibur* on 26, January, 1978: By allowing (Dr. Jeffrey Forest, convicted or not, back on our campus, the President has invited further unfortunate incidents.

As I write, a York professor lies injured, allegedly assaulted by this same Jeffrey Forest.

Last term, in the same issue of *Excalibur* in which my letter appeared, was another by Tony Woolfson, Chairperson of the GAA which read, in part:

Most disturbing of all, I think, was John Becker's resort to arguments having to do with Dr. Forest's allegedly 'violent nature', as a way of belittling the very real, human and political concerns of Dr. Forest.

I think most of us at York have had enough of Dr. Forest's "very real, human and political concerns."

Richard T. Linley
Stong College

McGill


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