

# Letters to the Editor

All letters should be addressed to the Editor and sent to Excalibur, Central Square, Ross Building, York University, Downsview, Ontario. Excalibur reserves the right to edit all letters more than 500 words long. Unsigned letters are the responsibility of the editors. All letters will be published however due to space limitations letters may not be published the week they are received.

## Red Rocket failed, rider wants \$4 for taxi

I am writing to you in regards to a problem I had at York early in the morning of Feb. 13. My girlfriend and myself went from Glendon to York in the early evening of Feb. 12 for social activities at the main campus. We intended to catch the 1:30 a.m. inter-campus bus as scheduled on the bus service list now in effect. We got at the bus stop at Winters College at 1:15 am, and waited until 1:45 am. Thinking that perhaps the bus missed us I left the Winters stop and went behind the physical plant to see if the bus had been parked. The bus was there and upon feeling to see if the engine was still hot, I found the engine dead cold. Obviously, the bus had not come from the Eglinton stop at 1:00 am.

I then went to the guards office in front of the Ross Building and telephoned emergency services. I gave the operator my situation. I had no money, my girlfriend was freezing, and I didn't know anyone well enough at York to stay overnight with. The only thing I could do was to hitch-hike. This was after 2 am if you can imagine hitch-hiking at that cold hour. After waiting over an hour for someone to pick us up, I finally flagged down a taxi. The driver was kind enough to drive us to Glendon. I woke up one of my friends here, borrowed \$4 from him and paid the taxi driver. We arrived at Glendon at about 4:00 am.

This is the fourth time this year I have been inconvenienced by the inter-campus bus service. All the other times, however, I caught a TTC bus to Glendon.

I wrote a letter last semester to C. G. Dobbin complaining that I had missed the bus on previous occasions. He wrote me back saying that I had written the only complaint this year about the bus, and inferred that since I was the only one inconvenienced by the bus he wasn't terribly worried about it.

I am really getting angry at the inconvenience and expense that the inter-campus bus service is causing me. I have contributed to this bus through my student fees, and as an advertised service to all York students, I feel that I have been an unnecessary victim of incompetence.

I feel that I am entitled to a rebate of \$4 from York for taxi fare as I should not have had to pay it if the bus had stuck to its schedule. I thank you, in advance, for your time and consideration in this matter and am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Alan C. MacDonald  
Glendon

### Just how honest is Ivan Cooper

Protestant Ivan Cooper, Northern Ireland MP for South Derry, told an audience of 200 here on Friday that, "We will not lie down under the boot." — which boot he proceeded to elucidate as the British army manoeuvre of "cool, calculated murder".

As on his Thursday night meeting at the Skyline, Cooper arrived half-an-hour late. This was due, we were told, to his not being used to having 20 bodyguards in his entourage. One wonders why he should feel he needs these Ulster "Cosa Nostra", for, until he came at least, we have had no violent rumblings in our Toronto streets over this burning question. Perhaps he is afraid that someone will try to apprehend the \$8,300 which he collected on Thursday and alleges will go to the wives and sisters of internees, to be added to the welfare benefits which they already receive.

However: we had tales of adventure: "I crawled 150 feet to the nearest body, on my hands and knees."

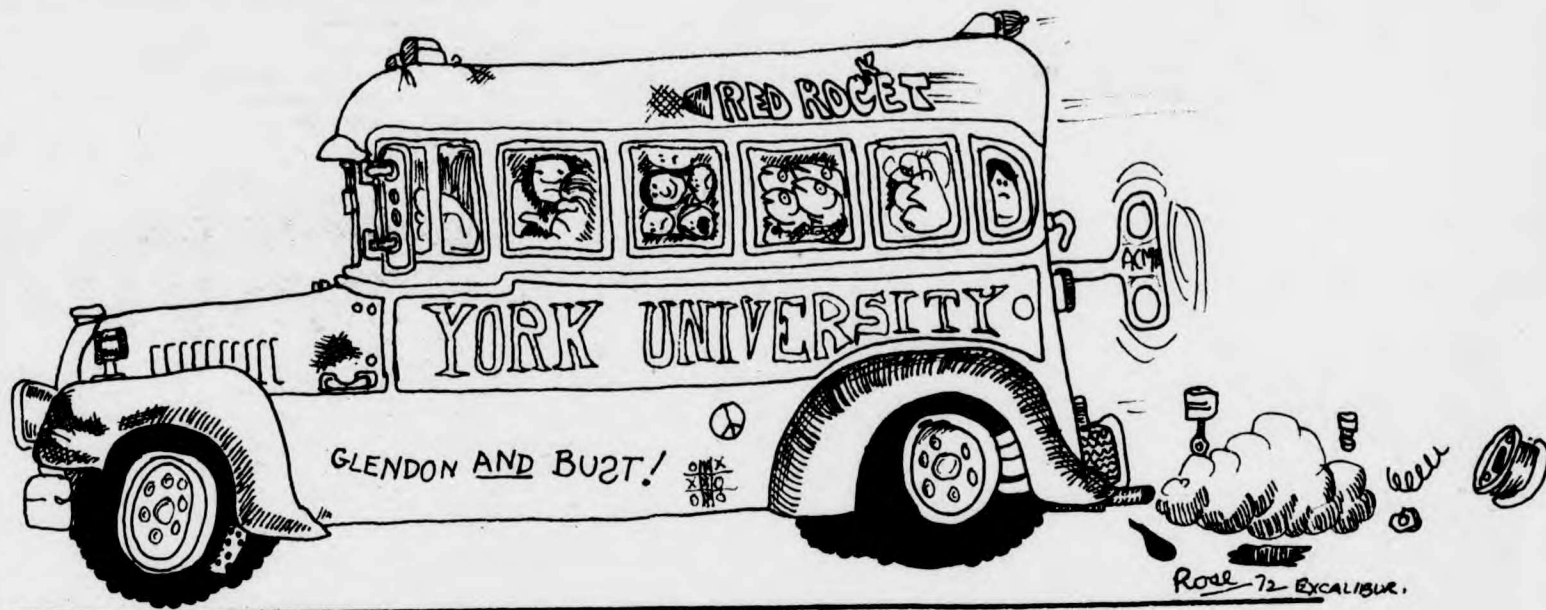
We heard tales of horror: "British troops ran into formation and . . . began shooting people down."

A young epileptic who suffered a seizure during a beating by British troops had a "bayonet forced down his throat."

There were tales to wet the ole hankie: "totally innocent people were taken from their beds", "if they came for Patrick McConnell and he wasn't in, they'd take his brother Michael instead."

Humor: "(Paisley leaned across the table) . . . I'm not a bigot (he said to Maudling), I just hate Catholics," or "The British army says that they only fired three shots. They must be using boomerang bullets."

Along with this went the assurance that the Ulster Volunteer Force (whoever they're supposed to be) (armed Protestants — ed) began the bombings in 1969 and are therefore responsible for the trouble now; that the marchers and internees are "totally innocent people" and that there are believe it or not tens of thousands of "good Protestants".



These tales are all very well for a midnight gab-fest, but come on, Cooper, you can't expect (one hopes) intelligent university people to swallow anyone's story without proof. I mean, supposing the other side had got to us first?

Where is the proof that the British army have sent a memo out to the effect that the entire Roman Catholic population are "the enemy"? Where is the proof that 95 percent of the Protestants are armed (oh, what the hell, we can't blame them for what the Irish Republican Army do — do you really think we can believe that they, who hate you so much, wouldn't have blown your collective skulls off before this if they were armed?). Then again, you said in the same speech that one out of every seven Protestants is armed — that's roughly 14 percent of the population. Which would you like us to believe?

Listen, kids, I'll bet you didn't know this: the terrorists are not the RCs nor the Prods. Oh yes, we were told this during the ensuing question period. Shall we suspect the Jews?

To some, the most frightening thing isn't the henchmen who stood continually casing the audience, nor the vehemence behind Cooper's words, nor the indifference with which the IRA's murders and tortures were treated, but rather the audience reaction:

In reply to a young man who was asking an apparently unanswerable question of Cooper someone towards the back called Casey said: "Don't give us that shit, "(among boos and laughter). From another student questioning an audience participant afterward: "I'd believe him (indicating Cooper) before I'd believe anyone from the other side."

"Why?"  
"Well, because he's the man the reporters get the news from, isn't he?" So is the army colonel they interviewed.

Personally, before I believe either side, I want documented proof and no personal asides from the speaker when he's presenting it. Facts should speak for themselves, and if they don't, we shouldn't have to listen to rumors.

A Vanier student

### Course evaluation not American

It has been brought to my attention by a faculty member that a rumor is circulating York regarding the Council of the York Student Federation course evaluation program.

This rumor says something to the effect that this program is being conducted by an American firm. This is completely wrong.

The entire program is being organized and executed by students of this university.

Perhaps the confusion might have arisen from the fact that CYSF was, at one point, considering the services of "Educorp" (also a Canadian Company).

I am quite willing to discuss this further if anyone is interested.

John Theobald  
Academic Affairs

### Versafood feature well done

Congratulations on a very well-documented and completely informative article on Versafoods in your Jan. 20 issue. I am sure that the campus community will be much more familiar with the problems generated by this business which beset Versafoods in their attempts to please one and all on a restrictive operating budget. There are a couple of remarks which are quite incorrect and can be

strongly misleading to those who would read your article in its entirety:

1) The cost of replacing disappearing cutlery and tableware is borne by the Food Services budget, and is planned for each year. It is the excessive disappearance of tableware which adds to the annual loss figure.

2) The scheduled fee hike for 1972/73 is entirely for the residence portion of the fee. Mr. Jack Allen and I did not authorize the hike in the meal plan prices. The problem of raised meal plan fees was discussed at four or five food committee meetings and the costs (worked out by our ancillary services department) were thoroughly discussed with the food services committee.

Every resident student was given a ballot containing several meal plans from which they were asked to select two and then return the ballot. The ballots were sent out twice because of the poor showing on the first request. On the second request, ballots were mailed to each individual student. We received the very large figure of six percent replies.

3) The same apathetic attitude is reflected in our present food services committee; there are only three or four consistent attendees in spite of the responsibility given to the committee. The food services committee is not a decision-making body. However, decisions are based on the recommendations and strength of recommendations by the food services group. The minutes of each committee meeting are mailed within seven calendar days. The final note on each report advises when the following meeting is to take place. For our most recent meeting, a special advance notice of agenda was mailed to the students. The agenda for each coming meeting is also mailed approximately three to four days prior to the meeting.

4) Suggestions and criticism by the food service committee and by students and staff in the community are taken fully into consideration, and, where reasonable, changes are made immediately. If some suggestions require further discussion and clarification and exposure to other concerned members of the community, this is done in order that our action will have better acceptance.

As your article clearly states, the food department of any university regardless of how it is catered is generally the target for the community at large. Our office is actively watchful of university food services and we meet regularly with their principals with lists of desired changes and requests for reports back from them as to how they can correct some of the shortcomings which have cropped up.

Incidentally, is the picture of the Versafood tray (?) really the ceiling in Stong College Dining Hall?

Again, thank you for the time and effort put into what is a very informative article on our food service.

C. L. Kirk  
assistant to director,  
ancillary services.

Our photographer found the trays on the loading dock of Complex No. One. — ed

### Letter on research came from neurotic

The letter by Jack Klieb on "war research" mirrors the neurotic instability of the infantile mind that gave it birth. Your paper is consistently used as a vehicle by such mindless bleating boobs to inflate their own egos at the expense of rational thought and the reputation of this university as a place of "higher" learning.

Any of your readers who really belong here won't swallow this meaningless nonsense and if you and your staff had any concept of what is reasonable and what is not you wouldn't print it.

It would be appreciated by all rational people on campus if you would disassociate yourself from the university as a whole or start printing stuff that reflects an intellect above the present moronic level.

John S. D. Kennedy  
Graduate student

To promote free expression at York, it is Excalibur's policy to publish as many letters as space permits regardless of what we think of their critical value — ed.

### Library for York students only

What has been one of York's most hurting and perennial problems? You guessed it, the Scott Library.

Theoretically, the library was a place where a collection of books were kept so that they might be used by a segment of the population. Similarly, York's library is also made up of a collection of books which is used by a segment of the population — namely that of the York students. However, when libraries such as York's open up their facilities to the general population (at no fee, no less) the theoretical function of the library begins to lose its purpose. It's no mystery that books have vanished from our exquisite ultra-modern library.

But to compound the matter! It is presently hard enough to find the correct books for papers that we should now have to compete with others. Confronting an empty shelf in search of much desired books is very irritating and depressing. And when the facts of these events have been related to the professor, what does he say: "Well, I'm sure you have friends at the University of Toronto."

M. Wolfman

STAFF MEETING 2 PM

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