

Letters to the Editor

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, c/o Excalibur, room 111 central Square. They must be double-spaced, typed and limited to 250 words. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for length and grammar. Name and address must be included for legal purposes but the name will be withheld upon request.

York student claims distortion by Toronto Star

I demand that the article, "Hemophiliac is Thankful for 1,000 units Free Blood" in the Toronto Star, October 8 be retracted. It was a gross distortion of what I did say to the reporter and, in part, pure fabrication.

Perhaps the most glaring example of this distortion appeared in a long quotation accredited to me which contained this statement: "Excessive bleeding and even death can come to a hemophiliac as the result of a small bump or cut".

This popular myth is contrary to medical fact; it is a misconception which hemophiliacs are continually explaining to those ignorant of the disease. The problems of external bleeding are minimal; what is dangerous are long episodes of internal bleeding, resulting in deterioration of joints. If the bleeding is uncontrolled in the liver, eye, throat or brain, even death can result. Small cuts and bruises are not dangerous — if they were, I would have bled to death years ago just from the many needle punctures in my arms.

It happens every summer — hemophiliacs are on short rations of blood products, no operations can be performed and preventive care becomes very difficult. I was thankful this Thanksgiving for the end of this period of seasonal deprivation of blood concentrate; for in autumn the supplies again become adequate.

I am not thankful "for the United Way and its partner, the Red Cross" as the article states. The Red Cross attributes these shortages to the reduced volume of blood

collected in holiday periods, but this is misleading. The authorities have set an arbitrary figure of around 20 per cent of all whole blood collected which is set aside to convert to a number of fractions, including that needed by hemophiliacs. I believe this percentage should be raised to meet the need. It is also well known that approximately 30 per cent of blood collected by the Red Cross is thrown out as outdated. There is no reason why most of this blood couldn't be fractioned down and saved.

It is difficult for me to be thankful to the United Way since they refused to accept the Canadian Hemophilia Society as an agency with the excuse that there were too few sufferers to justify its membership.

It is heartening to me to see that people are seeing through this fund-raising circus. Several articles detailing this realization and opposition to the United Way have appeared in Excalibur, the Varsity, and the Toronto Citizen. The article which The Star published is an excellent example of the way handicapped people are paraded out annually to coerce the public into providing a subsistence life for "creeps" who are hidden the rest of the year. If a handicapped person overcomes a dependency, it isn't because of a charity — it is in spite of it.

If you really want to help, demand that the federal government include handicaps as a group which cannot be discriminated against under the Bill of Rights. We want to be accepted as contributing members of society with jobs. We do not want pity or charity. **RON ROSENTHAL**



Ron Rosenthal

—Anthony Gizzie—

Crisis on the Campus

Recently, I received a letter which expressed a certain concern and anxiety over an aspect of the current Middle East war. It read:

Dear Ace,

I just want the people of York to know that due to the recent quarrel in the Middle East all shipments of hashish will be cut off until a ceasefire is made acceptable to both sides of the conflict.

Regretfully,
Zonker

Now the implications to the average student concerning this letter would be insignificant. Yet to the many degenerate types this recent new development could mean serious consequences. To establish the truth of my letter and also to check the state of hashish on campus, I spoke to a few of these degenerate types.

Joe X was one example. He stated, "You know, man, you can't even get red Lebanese anymore. Things are getting tough." As another example, Rachel Y claimed this profundity:

"War is bad, killing is wrong, no one wins this conflict and everyone loses; besides there is no more black Moroccan around."

Thus establishing that there was a crisis on campus, I proceeded to investigate the state of hashish in the city of Toronto.

I first went to Stanely Z., formerly of Rochdale College, now living in T.E. Eaton's mansion on Post Road. His words: "You know, everyone suffers during a war of this type — even the innocent. What more can I say but hope for better times."

I then proceeded to the docks on the lakeshore to speak to an acquaintance I once met during a study of the correctional institutions in Toronto. When I asked what was new he told

me the woes of the drug shortage and the hard times he was having as a result. He mentioned as an example the difficulty he was having in affording a paint job for his Ferrari. It would only be painted twice this year. In spite of their personal misfortunes both men expressed a deep concern and inner frustration over their inability to help the cause of peace.

The question arises of what the average degenerate can do in such a crisis. To this question, a number of possibilities have been brought forth. The most radical is to leave Toronto to fly to the Middle East and volunteer as a runner.

Another suggestion is to have a UN supervised airlift of hashish from Vancouver to Toronto supported by funds collected in Toronto and the rest of the degenerate world. The third suggestion to lobby Ottawa to press for a favourable settlement for both sides is not only humanitarian but narcotically speaking, wise. The last suggestion is to resort to home grown marijuana, which many connoisseurs of illicit drugs would find unbearable.

All these actions are serious but, then war is a serious business. Already from the Arab hotline we have heard that unless the U.S. stops sending arms to the Middle East the supply of hashish to the free world will be cut off initially five per cent and another 50 per cent a month thereafter.

This situation leaves everyone in a state of deep anxiety, and if you actually believe this article the situation is worse than I thought. But there is one thing everyone can get off on and it isn't as costly as you may think. Its called peace.

—Presidential Search—

Ivor E. Tauer is perfect

By JUDITH NEFSKY

Presidential candidate: Ivor E. Tauer

Professor Ivor E. (for Eligible) Tauer is after the "discerning" vote in the race for the presidential pot. And with his qualifications he stands a good chance indeed.

Coming to us from the darkest of deepest Africa after several years studying the mating habits of snakes, Tauer knows how to slither his way about with spineless creatures of various types.

His administrative abilities stem from his experience as vice principal of a junior high school in North Bay. After receiving his B.S. degree at Princeton, South Dakota — a highly-reputed mail-order school—he continued at the University of Orlando, Florida where he received his degree in geography. Although he was offered the position of president at the University of Peru, he declined for the greener stashes of York.

If elected, Tauer's self-image would be as a kind of guiding force, a spiritual leader for the community at large. He is well aware of how the university community is grappling for such a figurehead right now, in these times of turbulence and financial fiasco.

Tauer's political platform makes him a stiff competitor. Primarily concerned with the internal organs of the university, Tauer will leave external affairs to his subordinates. When asked how he would curb the financial crisis, Tauer proposed

to cut the faculty by 50 per cent leaving the geography department as it now stands.

Any difficulties with the high student-teacher ratio would be checked by the use of such academic tools as bull-whips and barred cages. His other tactics toward improving faculty-student relations include the use of mace in the case of student invasion of faculty offices, and barbed wire fences around the sacred shrines of the institution, such as the faculty bar.

Professor Tauer is anxious to become better acquainted with the York community. After being assured that CYSF wasn't a social disease, Tauer attended one of their meetings where he learned that certain colleges were questioning the value of the council as a central student body. When asked his opinion of the matter, Tauer suggested using Complex II for nuclear testing by the science department.

Following a tour of the Scott Library, Tauer proposed that upon election he would encourage armed security patrol of the stack areas. Although impressed by the listening room, he suggested all table-thumpers and Gregorian chanters be transferred to behavioural sciences, where therapeutic programmes could be made available.

If he does win the much sought-after position, Tauer plans to invite suggestions and questions from all the students and faculty at York, and promises that he will "always keep one ear open".

—The CYSF Column—

National union is wrong focus for student council

By MIKE MOURITSEN
President of CYSF

To conclude my three-part series on the York Student Federation's budget, I shall discuss the Council's external policy. The amount involved is \$3,000: \$2,000 in membership fees to the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS), calculated at 25 cents per member-student, and \$1,000 in miscellaneous conference expenses.

I find this section of the budget the most difficult to justify, particularly when one considers the dismal record of the year-old Ontario Federation of Students. Its sole activity last year was the OFS-sponsored "tuition fee strike", which only served to discredit university students.

On the basis of this past performance, the CYSF executive was unable to accept last Spring's increase in the OFS membership fee from 25 cents to 40 cents per member-student, and the council supported the executive's decision last month. We are adopting a wait-and-see attitude: if the OFS improves, the council will probably remain a member.

There are, I think, two potential benefits to be gained from membership in a provincial student organization. Student councils are provided with a structure which facilitates the collection and exchange of information. We can find out, for example, how other councils conduct their course evaluations, and learn from their successes and mistakes. The OFS can also perform a useful liaison role between university student councils and the Ontario government, as well as with other provincial bodies such as the Council of Ontario Universities, the Committee on University Affairs, and the provincial faculty association.

The Ontario Federation of Students is valuable, however, only as long as it services its member institutions as an impartial secretariat. It becomes useless — and indeed, dangerous — when it establishes itself as "the spokesman" for Ontario university students, and when it adopts a "student position" on issues on which students themselves are very much divided.

As indicated in last Thursday's Excalibur,

no money has been budgeted by Council for membership in the National Union of Students (NUS), which would cost an additional \$2,400, and which would certainly increase conference expenses.

Ontario universities have nothing to gain from membership in NUS, because the national union will simply duplicate much of the work that the Ontario Federation is now doing. The OFS (backed by fourteen universities) has the potential to participate at the national level, if it is necessary.

Excalibur, in an editorial published last week, claims that "CYSF has a clear responsibility to the students of York and of Canada to join the (national) union and to help resolve the problems plaguing all Canadian students," such national problems as "the financing of post-secondary institutions, student housing, the inequality of Canada student loans and student unemployment."

I would never want to be accused of shirking my responsibilities to the "students of Canada", but just how are student councils going to "resolve" these problems — by sending delegates to national conferences to

debate and pass resolutions? The only way in which NUS can (and does) "resolve" the unemployment problem is to hire three or four ex-student politicians to work as full-time coordinators in Ottawa (their main responsibility being the organization of national conferences at which delegates from student councils debate and pass resolutions deploring national problems like unemployment).

Excalibur argues that these problems are "political issues, requiring political solutions on a national scale." If so, they are the responsibility of Parliament, not an organization of student councils.

A student president is usually in office for one year, during which time he can only do so much. He is most effective tackling problems that exist on his own campus, where he at least has a good chance of solving some of them. If he spends his time worrying about national problems, he will have accomplished nothing (either nationally or locally) by the time his term expires.

External affairs must take a back seat to a council's campus responsibilities.