

# LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

## EMPTY EXISTERE

I would like to register my dissatisfaction with *Existere*. Since you are the only voice of all the students, I turn to you for exposure.

*Existere* is a patently futile exercise in superfluity and pretentiousness. Its snot-nosed garbage appeals to no one but its own list of contributors and the rest of the intellectual aristocracy. And even that is a very dubious honour.

To say it is for the birds would be an insult not only to our fine-feathered friends, but to wildlife lovers the world over. It is about as welcome to the senses as albatross shit. I wouldn't even line my bird cage with it for fear that Polly would take one look and keel over with laughter.

Poetry is one thing; it's a fine expression of emotion and artistic intention. This avant-garde mucous would likely cause the great poets to bore an additional six feet underground.

If this is how my student funds are being misspent, I demand a full and prompt refund.

Yours very truly,  
Glen Lawrence

## GRADUATE POLICY

Regarding "Rule has serious implications" (Oct. 28, 1982), we feel the article which states "that any student entering their third year of the M.A. programme, or the sixth year of their doctoral programme must register as part-time students" understates the seriousness of the regulation. First, the regulation affects PhD students in their fifth year, which is referred to as Ph.D.V.I.

Dean Bell did not delay the implementation for one year. He chose to make exceptions on the basis of individual petitions. In fact, no official word was (or has been) received by graduate students from the administration. Those affected discovered that the regulation was being enforced when they attempted to register. Although you state all students, except some overtime PhD students, had their petitions granted, MA4's were also turned

down. We feel strongly that since the regulation affects the entire graduate school, both in terms of academic and employment status of its students, an individual solution is inadequate.

This issue has been the main concern of Stewards' Council this fall. CUEW has a representative on the ongoing Ad Hoc Committee on Part-time/Full-time Student Status. CUEW has submitted a position to

the committee, reflecting the general dissatisfaction of graduate students toward the policy.

Stewards' Council  
Canadian Union of Educational  
Workers

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS should be sent to Room 111, Central Square, Ross Building. All letters MUST be typed, and should not exceed 300 words (we want to provide space for everyone).

# EXCALIBUR MEETS MONDAY AT 1 P.M.

## Parenting is hardest job any human can undertake

It is with great horror that I am responding to Marco Cipriani's letter to the editor (January 6, 1983). It is on the level of birth control counsellor, mother and concerned human being that I must reply to Mr. Cipriani's comments.

"If the mother did not want the baby, she should have taken precautionary measures." As of the present time there is not a one hundred percent effective method of birth control. Amongst the most commonly used birth control methods, the diaphragm, contraceptive foam and condoms are approximately eighty percent effective, the IUD is ninety-five to

ninety-seven percent effective and the pill is ninety-nine percent effective. (Mr. Cipriani is welcome to check out these figures in the most recent edition of *Contraceptive Technology*). Even the birth control pill has many problems. If the pill is taken with tetracycline, the effectiveness level drops and pregnancy can occur. If the pill is swallowed and the woman becomes sick and vomits within two hours, pregnancy can occur because the birth control pill has not been properly absorbed into the blood stream. Only one pill needs to be missed for ovulation to occur.

Mr. Cipriani appears to believe that birth control is the total

responsibility of the woman involved. If "the very act itself, in its purpose, is for the reproduction of human life" (I quote Mr. Cipriani) then, it is the duty of both partners to use birth control. It is not merely "she (who) should have taken precautionary measures" but also he. Mr. Cipriani's views on this subject should be pointed out to any female considering entering into a relationship with Mr. Cipriani.

If the pregnant woman is selfish and not willing to accept responsibility for another human being, then she would appear to be a poor candidate for motherhood. Parenting is the hardest job any human can undertake in their lifetime. One does not become a parent because their method of birth control has failed.

If Mr. Cipriani were as concerned with the rights of the fetus post-natally as pre-natally I would be impressed. Why not expend energy on lobbying for back up services to assist women who are having difficulty caring for their children? This would surely do more good for society than debating whether a two inch fetus has a soul.

Women most certainly have a right to determine the fate of their own bodies. The fact that biology has ordained women as the bearer of children does not deny us the right to determine the destiny of our lives. Until modern medicine develops a

totally effective method of contraception that is universally accessible to all, there will be birth control failures. Those who support abortions do not see abortion as a method of birth control. The anti-abortionists put these thoughts in our mouths. To ban abortions, except to prevent the death or danger to the woman, will only result in banning abortions for the poor. What sort of justice is this?

(Mrs. Gaye Stein)  
Glendon Student

Mother of two  
Birth Control Advisor &  
Counsellor  
Pre-School Teacher

## IT'S MURDER

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate and thank Cipriani for his insightful and humane words. Hopefully, more will come to realize that, any way you look at it, abortion is murder.

Indeed, when a murderer is found guilty, he is punished regardless of his reasons for killing. Similarly, anyone partaking in an abortion is guilty of having deprived an individual of his or her right to live!

Miss Rebecca Galanis  
4th Year York Student

P.S. If this letter cannot be printed in *Excalibur*, perhaps you could pass it along to Marco Cipriani.

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## The boys are only there for the fun

Dear Mr. Cipriani:

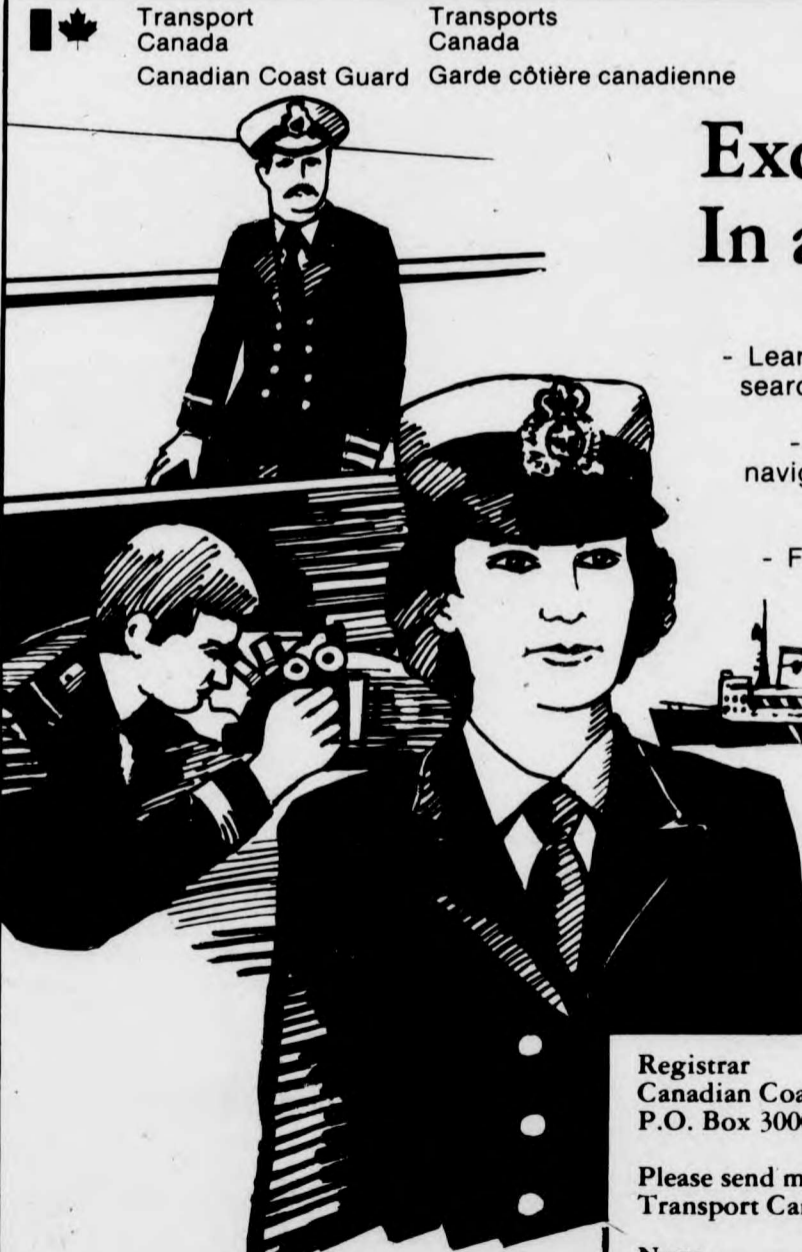
It is not my intention in this reply to pass judgement. Nor is it my purpose to support or denounce any stand that may or may not be taken with respect to abortion. Let each person be left to his or her own belief. I am merely writing to inform those who may wish to be so, that your letter to the editor, published in *Excalibur* last week, stating that "it is the selfishness of the mother who wants to rid herself of her responsibilities through abortion", brought to mind a particular story.

A little boy and a little girl had stolen into a farmer's orchard. The

little boy climbed one of the trees. He picked some pears and tossed them down to the little girl below. After they had three pears each they crept away back out onto the road. They had not walked more than one hundred yards when a car pulled up. It was the farmer. The little girl had a pear in her mouth, and the other two in her coat pocket. The little boy had already eaten his three. The farmer, on seeing the little girl's bulged coat front and half-eaten pear asked where she had gotten them. The little boy, hearing the farmer's question immediately replied, "She did it."

David Cochrane

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