

editorial

Clark's comments not relevant enough

Former Prime Minister Joe Clark has been at York all week, teaching classes in the Faculty of Administrative Studies, and (mostly) doing a lot of talking. And one of Clark's most pervasive themes this week has been his pet issue of parliamentary reform.

The question arises: Just how relevant is all this to York students?

True, a restructuring of the electoral process to give more power to private members of parliament would have far-reaching effects on our system of government. But is that what graduate business students expected to hear Monday afternoon, for instance, when Clark was guest lecturer in Professor James Gillies' Environmental Framework of Management course? Not exactly.

Most probably, students in the course expected Clark to provide information on the link between government and business. Gillies, in fact, introduced Clark as someone who could untangle the mysteries of how legislation gets approved, and how effective legislation and parliament are.

Instead students got Clark's views on the electoral process and how he feels it should be restructured. Clark *did* acknowledge that the lecture was a chance to test some of his views, and in any case, one could draw a link between government and business from Clark's speech, in the form of new forces which would have increasing influence in the passing of legislation.

But was Clark talking to York students in his speech? Or was he simply using the facilities and bodies at his disposal to express his current views to the media?

In recent days, Clark has mentioned that York has provided him a forum for public discussion and a chance for him to get back into public life without moving the spotlight that now shines on current Progressive Conservative Party Leader Brian Mulroney.

But while York students should certainly consider themselves privileged to have access to a man of Clark's stature and experience, the question remains—could he not find a topic of more relevance to the students he has been addressing?



letters

No condoning

Editor:

As a result of events taking place at present and because of unclear information emanating from Grenada, the Executive Council of the Caribbean Students Association would like to inform its members and interested parties, that it is not as yet able to form a definite opinion of the action taken by neighbouring countries and the U.S.

However, it must be understood that we in no way can condone violent action or the inflicting of suffering of any kind on humans anywhere in the world.

We are in the process of trying to provide a forum for discussion on a bipartisan level on the issue. This should take place sometime next week when appropriate speakers and possibly clearer information can be provided.

Roger Pulwarty
President

Caribbean Students Association

Pornography

Editor:

Attitudes are created and reinforced by images. In view of this I found it necessary to react negatively to a situation recently. The Oasis variety store in Central Square is blatantly displaying and selling pornographic material.

By this I mean stationery and magazines that portray women in a dehumanizing and degrading manner. In other words solely as sex objects, slabs of meat. Women are confronted with this form of stereotyping every day of their lives whether they are conscious of it or not.

I approached the manager of the drugstore to express my serious concern with the availability of this material. The manager was humored by my concern

since she felt that the presence of the material is justified since it is available all over Toronto and people do buy it in her store.

It is very disturbing to me that women should be subjected to this material since it perpetuates negative attitudes towards them. In an institution where we are taught to rationalize, explain, and analyze ideas and situations I fail to understand the presence of this material. I don't believe outright censorship of this material will resolve the problem.

Furthermore, to quietly allow this material to exist in my environment without consciously questioning its presence is also a form of censorship. If it concerns you let the drugstore know and if you are actually buying this material ask yourself how this affects your attitudes towards women.

I am often told we are living in a democracy. However, I question this when more than half of the people in this country are insulted and degraded by the production and sales of this material. If you have not questioned the existence of this material—do, and if you have and don't care—why not?

Vesna Josifovski

Tame group

Editor:

Thank you for your coverage of our Quality and Access Alliance, "Profs Ally" (see 29 September 1983 *Excalibur* lead article). In that article you reported that "Some Ontario professors have formed a *contentious* alliance with students and other staff members to do battle with the government's university funding policy . . ." The alliance is, however, a very harmonious one; that our organization is "likely to cause contention" we have no doubt.

Janice Newson
Chairperson,

York University Faculty Association

Resignation

Editor:

This letter is to be regarded as an open letter to the Political Science Students Association (PSSA) and Political Science students at large.

I regret to inform you that I must resign my position of Internal Director of PSSA immediately. My reason for resignation are that a conflict of interest presents itself as Internal Director and Finance Director of the Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF).

I thank all those who supported my appointment and wish the PSSA well in all future endeavours.

Darren Chapman

Sonic relief

Editor:

After first reading the views of Alix Dobkin ("Sexism and Violence Pervade Music Business," *Excalibur*, 20 October 1983), I felt compelled to write her and thank her for providing me with some comic relief. Her paranoid, self-righteous views were so laughable I could barely concentrate upon accomplishing anything realistic for quite some time.

Upon closer analysis, however, I discovered her rambling to be pathetic and ultimately came to the conclusion that she must have formulated her opinion while under the influence of a reality-distorting drug.

Although the opportunities abound, I will refrain from commenting upon the actual text of the article (although I encourage all to read it).

Although *Excalibur*, historically, has provided a forum to those with the latest in moronic thoughts, this article rises above all others in idiocy. I encourage *Excalibur* to continue printing such articles but only under the guise of a humor magazine.

Sean McKenna

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