

Drunk prof will be missed: Hoyer

Editor:

I am a student of the Nat. Sci. course where the professor showed up intoxicated. I wish to rebutt both P. Hubbard's letter and Barbara Nyke's letter. In other words, I would like to defend this professor who can no longer defend himself because he has been removed from the classroom. (Satisfied now, Hubbard and Nyke?)

First of all, if it wouldn't have been for the idiot wielding the cane and ranting and raving about CIA agents, not an accomplice, then the lecture would have gone on as usual.

Secondly, if this professor would not have showed up at all, I'm sure no-one would have minded.

Thirdly, lots of people—the best people sometimes—have drinking problems and the worst thing to do to "help" them is to remove them from what they do when they're not drinking; i.e. they will probably drink more when they have nothing to do all day—depending on how advanced the problem is.

Fourthly, a vital point some people should re-learn while they are in university is TOLERANCE. One slip-up is not likely to damage anyone's brain. Unless you yourself are perfect, I would not be so hasty to jump on another's mistake.

Fifthly, this lecturer is the best we've had this year. He, at least, kept the class quiet, if not enthralled, where the lecturers before and after could not. I respect this man for what he had to offer and for conveying it with meaning and interest. He almost had me converted to a science major, he was that captivating and convincing. The vital point is that we look at the good side of people—as a part of tolerance—or we'll be nuked in no time.

Sixthly, instead of jumping on one professor for lousing up one class, we should be jumping on unions who go on strike for many classes, if our only concern is money!

Lastly, what type of learning are you here for, if not to learn as you live. I think this closed-minded attitude towards learning is what really jeopardizes the quality of education that real students—disciples—

expect and receive and institutions of higher learning. Students should not be deprived of such a valuable learning experience as this professor.

I rest my case. Let any more who wish to complain, do so at least to the man's face and not behind his back. This professor will be sorely missed by the majority of the class.

Eleonore Hoyer

English students at Glendon not phased out

Editor:

Please be advised that Glendon is NOT proposing to "phase out English speaking students by 1990," as reported on page 1 of the March 13, 1986, issue of *Excalibur*.

What the College's faculty council recently voted to do was to recommend to Senate the phasing out of its unilingual stream. In other words, English-speaking students are now, always have been and will always be welcome at Glendon, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

The only difference is that the new regulation, if accepted by Senate, will require Glendon students, whether English- or French-speaking, to take a minimum number of courses in the other language, starting with the class which enters in 1987.

This hardly constitutes "phasing out English speaking students."

We trust you will correct your reporter's unfortunate error in the next issue.

Philippe Garigue
Principal

Detractors of drunk prof 'prudes'

Editor:

The weekly rhetoric regarding the "drunken Prof. - student" incident in natural science has strayed far from the central issue of university teaching. University scientists are primarily researchers, however they are also required to lecture to students in their general area of expertise. Some professors find this transition difficult and hence are regarded as poor lecturers among the student body.

I support C. Moen's view that his Prof.'s exuberance and flair bring

life to an otherwise inanimate subject. He is articulate, enthusiastic, and always well organized. Surely these aspects of teaching far outweigh his occasional lack of judgement, when attending lectures intoxicated!

B. Nyke and her nat. sci. supporters are prudes to suggest that such behavior is unacceptable. Let the Faculty of Science and the University Administration handle the incident—And the next time you're feeling so self-righteous ask yourself about your performance in class. If you're doing your part (i.e. attending lectures, doing the readings, etc.) than one missed lecture or unfortunate incident shouldn't ruffle your avian feathers too much. You should spend less time taking exception to such incidents and get on with the task at hand—namely pursuing more academic endeavors.

Make no mistake, I am not defending this Prof.'s actions. I simply note that as a teacher he is above average.

Put an end to your childish whining about professorial conduct, and stop searching for impeccable role models. This is an institute of learning not a finishing school. Take some initiative yourself and get on with your studies.

—Bruce Barrett

Levy sets the record straight

Editor:

A number of comments attributed to me by Mr. Flagel in his article of March 20, 1986 were totally incorrect. I would appreciate if you could publish the following clarification in the next issue of *Excalibur*.

The point I made with regard to York's research can best be explained by the following facts. Of the 3 major granting Councils, Medical (MRC), Science/Engineering (NSERC), and Social Sciences and Humanities (SSHRC), MRC receives 30% of the funds, NSERC 63% and SSHRC 7%. York, on the other hand, has 84% of the faculty in SSHRC-type disciplines. In other words, 84% of

York's faculty must compete for 7% of the funds. The comment I made to Mr. Flagel was that measuring an institution's "research strength" by dollars, without taking into account the makeup of the institution is neither a measure of the quality of that institution nor its research intensity.

The Faculty of Science at York does extremely well in attracting major research grants and honours. In fact, in a number of areas York's scientists lead or are very close to leading the nation.

Now let me turn to the subject of accessibility. What I said to Mr. Flagel was that in the early 80's York grew as a result of doing its very best to accommodate the demand for places. The full cost associated with that increase in enrollments has never been recognized by the Province by way of increased grants to York. In the past, when we argued that we should have received better funding given our enrollments, we were told by the Ministry that the implications of trying to accommodate the demand and hence growing, was our problem to deal with and that we should have been aware of the funding consequences. As I said to Mr. Flagel, this response is totally unacceptable to York.

I trust that the above will be published to set the record straight.

—Sheldon Levy
Associate Vice-President
(Management Information & Planning)

Child-bearing and economic realities

Editor:

In "Day Care Comes Out of the Closet," Stephen Milton argues for more public money to be spent on day care. He quotes statistics on the demand for day care spaces and says "The pressure to establish some form of universal day care system has been a consequence of — the governments' reluctance to consider day care as a right, rather than a welfare provision."

For once I can agree with government. In Canada people are supposed to feed, clothe and care for their children. With birth control and abortion we are no longer in the era where women were forced to have children at the rate of one every year or so because there was no way for a married woman to prevent it. Having a child should be a conscious decision and take into account the economic realities. Because situations change people may have changes in income leading to reduced circumstances. This is where public agencies step in. In other words, publically subsidised day care is a form of welfare.

If a woman decides to have a child she is making a choice between the change in her economic position and the returns she gets from having that child. Why then should money be taken from the taxes of others to improve that woman's standard of living? She made a decision and should have to live with the negative consequences as well as the positive ones. Don't forget that some of the tax money is coming from other people who waited until they could afford children before having them and from some who did not have children because they could not afford them. Why should responsible people be forced to support the irresponsible?

The reason for the shortage of private day care centers is government regulation. The minimum wage laws and the limiting of children per caregiver to five increases the price. If these constraints are removed then more spaces will be provided. Again it is a matter of choice. If people want the government regulated standard of day care they have to pay for it. If they do not want to pay for that standard then they can use informal care. Why should all people, including those whose children are grown and those who have no children be forced to lower their standard of living so people who have chosen to have children will not have to lower their standard of living?

David Pengelly

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