

Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity
— Lord Acton

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Banning books like Banfield's is bad strategy

Recently, a lot of fuss has been stirred up about a social theorist by the name of Edward Banfield. The Students for a DEMOCRATIC Society want his work banned, so he can stop getting royalties from what they consider racist theories.

Mixed in with the rethoric, however, are some important points. The simple fact is that Banfield is, at best, culturally biased and, at his worst, truly racist in his approach to social problems. More seriously, he is not an isolated lunatic spouting his ideas at Ku Klux Klan meetings. He is a highly regarded (in some circles) social scientist who has had a direct influence on U.S. urban policy and planning as government advisor.

But that's still no reason to ban the man's books. Students concerned about the matter, however, can take other steps.

They should refuse to purchase books with racist overtones. Moreover, no teacher should make the purchase of such books mandatory. A good teacher will use Banfield as an added tool, not as a definitive text.

Students should demand critical literature not just in Banfield's case, but as a general principle. Most instructors have a wide knowledge of their field. If there are views that differ from their own, they should know where to find them.

For those who don't, we offer some samples below of the wide range of available critiques of Banfield's theories.

Peasant Communism in Southern Italy, by Sidney Tarrow, is one book that should be read along with Banfield's *The Moral Basis of A Backward Society*. The differences in approach are striking.

Another critique of Banfield's work is provided by Gerrit Huizer in *The Revolutionary Potential of Peasants in Latin America*, published by D. C. Heath. A section on souther Italy refutes Banfield's concept of "amoral familism."

Staff party Staffers, pick up invitations in newspaper offices

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— Michael Lawrence

Admin. uses divide, conquer plan

Who says the York administration isn't generous?

Three weeks ago the student body was politely informed that all the York libraries would be closed for three additional days. The justification for the library closure (as well as all the university offices) was that the demand for these facilities was minimal. Therefore, without causing undue hardship, the university could do its part in conserving fuel during the "energy crisis" as well as saving money during a tight fiscal year.

What the administration failed to mention was the relatively small amount of money being saved, for the staff being laid off for those additional days are salaried. The real reason for the arbitrary closure lay in an attempt to "pacify" a staff that was shouldered with a lean contract at the beginning of this year.

This information comes as no surprise to the staff affected by the decision. They were made well aware that this pacifying scrap was being thrown their way. Bill Small, the vice-president in charge of financial affairs, admitted quite openly that the move was an attempt to appease a staff that had received an unfavourable contract, as well as being a measure to save money.

I would agree, as well as every York staffer, that the contract certainly left much to be desired. The additional days of paid holiday are well-deserved, but do almost nothing to rectify a contract that has already fallen far behind inflationary trends.

This new twist to York labour relations leaves much to be desired. In an attempt to patronize a staff on the verge of legally organizing, the administration has set the students' interests in direct conflict with those of the staff.

The situation is a perplexing one for all concerned. Certainly, the staff should not be denied this "Christmas bonus;" yet at the same time no student should be denied services promised at the time they pay their tuition.

IF YA GOT SOMETHIN'
IT'S CAUSE YOU'RE GOOD
IF YA GOT NOTHIN'
IT'S CAUSE YOU'RE
BAD...

ASK SANTA
CLAUS



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Perhaps the administration feels borrowing from John to pay back Peter is a wise policy after all.

STAFF FUTURE BLEAK

The future staff situation is less than cheery. President-designate Macdonald has demanded that the 25 per cent or more staff cuts take place before his spring arrival. He'd rather not be connected with the mess, which seems to be a wise political move.

As for the York University Staff Association, the best that can be said for it is that it's amazing it still exists considering all the infighting that has gone on there. For what little surprise it was, the administration gladly recognized YUSA as a voluntary association last week. But after all, they couldn't have designed a more watered down organization themselves.

The staff can thank their courageous executive for that.

The staff situation is of vital concern to every student. With at least a quarter reduction in next year's staff, the effects will be felt acutely throughout the campus community: Reduced library service, overworked, and consequently over-bitchy secretaries, less security personnel, and countless other deficiencies are bound to result.

It becomes clear that student support of The York staff is of great importance. Yet in a situation like the one the library issue presents, to support staff interests is to undermine our own.

The administrative decision becomes frighteningly obvious. When in financial trouble, divide and conquer.

AS FOR THE FACULTY...

The faculty's position must also come into question.

If the faculty senators who participated in the presidential selection are any indication, the teaching concern is more one of tenure than of quality education.

When I attended the questioning periods of the presidential candidates, the majority of queries I heard put to the candidates by faculty were ones concerning tenure. The occasional question on education policies cropped up (professional integrity I suppose), but the greatest concern of the faculty present at these meetings was one of personal security and availability of funds for their own research.

It was a most enlightening experience.

I must interject that the faculty's position is probably understandable. Made to feel increasingly insecure because of present and future financial cuts, it is only natural that their own self-preservation should be of utmost concern. Unfortunately, the students again pay the price, because as the faculty's self-concern rises, the consideration of quality teaching drops.

As for the faculty's support of the staff's position, it is less than formidable. Both staff and faculty get paid from the same piggy bank, so in this case, to help a friend is in essence to hurt yourself.

STOCKING STUFFERS

As the song goes, we're all in this together, so perhaps it's time we behaved that way. Faculty and staff clearly need each other as well as each other's support, particularly for demands of job security. The students' need for both a strong staff and faculty is of the utmost importance. The time of bickering amongst ourselves must come to an end before we all lose out.

Methods to achieve this end are present. Staff and faculty contracts that mutually force the administration to recognize each group's claim to job security is one way. Student support of such contracts would also be effective.

Christmas or not, little tidbits tossed into staff stockings must not continue. As long as the administration can continue to set the major campus groups at odds with each other, the future of a quality university is dimmed.