

Letters to the Editor

Ex-business manager offended, hurt, outraged

As an alumnus of York and the University of Windsor and a member of the Jewish faith, I was offended, hurt and outraged by your unfounded and undocumented insinuation regarding Dean Tarnopolsky. His record as a progressive individual and champion of civil liberties for all minority groups remains unblemished despite novice and clumsy attempts on your part for sensationalism.

Indeed, it is in part due to men such as Tarnopolsky that persons as yourself are in a position to play with such dangerous toys.

So it is your irresponsibility and unwarranted folly and that of the Excalibur itself that is in need of explanation.

Michael Garfin.

Prof wants help to remove editor

The recent incident in which blatantly false accusations impugning the character and integrity of Windsor law Dean Walter Tarnopolsky were levelled and later withdrawn exemplifies the worst kind of (in many respects criminally) irresponsible journalism. It is impossible to retain confidence in an editorial staff so grossly indiscreet and incompetent. No amount of apology can atone for such behaviour.

As a member of the faculty, alumnus of York and former editor of the first university newspaper (the Pro Tem), I urge other members of the University community to join with me in demanding the resignation of the editor and those on the staff who share responsibility for this incident.

David V.J. Bell,
Assistant Prof. of
Political Science.

Page 3 and 14 coverage not good enough

After the amount of coverage you gave the false charges against Professor Tarnopolsky in your Oct. 7 issue, I find it incredible that you would bury president David Slater's refute in the third to last page of your next issue. To tarnish a man's character is front page news, but to help repair some of the damage your paper has done to professor Tarnopolsky's reputation merits only third and 14th page space.

Because of the prominence Excalibur gave to the false charges the retractions should have been given similar treatment, even if it meant your lovely front page picture had to wait for another issue.

The statement by Slater should have been given first page not 14th page space.

Fred Thornhill.

Ad hoc committee no secret-Farr

Given Andy Michalski's handsome confession of journalistic incompetence in his handling of the Tarnopolsky affair (p. 3, Excalibur, Oct. 14, 1971), it seems almost cruel to again take him to task, but in that same confession, Mr. Michalski writes:

"Last month, York president David Slater announced to the senate of the impending appointment. This came as a surprise to Excalibur and Council of the York Student Federation. Neither knew anything of the appointment or of the ad hoc presidential committee to select the vice-president."

Quite apart from its labored diction, this statement requires correction as to the actual facts of the matter, which are as follows:

1. On Jan. 28, 1971, the senate executive reported to senate the president's desire to establish an advisory committee on the ap-

pointment of a vice-president (academic). At that same time, senate approved a slate of candidates for election to the committee. These facts are recorded in the senate minutes of Jan. 28, 1971. Copies of agenda and minutes of all senate meetings are sent regularly to all student councils (including CYSF) and regularly published student newspapers including Excalibur and Glendon's Pro Tem of which Andy Michalski was at that time editor).

2. In its Jan. 28, 1971 issue (p. 3), Excalibur reported on the establishment of the advisory committee and the president's invitation to senate to elect members to it.

3. At the Feb. 15, 1971, meeting of senate the secretary of senate reported the results of elections to the advisory committee. This information was, of course, routinely conveyed to Excalibur, Pro Tem and CYSF and was publicized in the March 25 issue of the York Gazette.

4. On March 8, 1971, a letter was sent to all faculty members by professor John Yolton, chairman of the advisory committee, asking for submissions and listing the members of the committee. Copies of the letter were sent to the entire senate mailing list, which includes Excalibur, Pro Tem and CYSF.

In short, the existence of the committee, its task and its membership were not secret, but were well publicized. That Michalski should profess ignorance of facts open to the community and even reported on in his own paper, establishes him as either writing out of malice, for reasons best known to himself, or totally lacking in the reportorial and editorial skills required for even barely competent work on a mediocre student newspaper.

W. D. Farr,
Secty. of the university.

Jewish students support Tarnopolsky

It has come to the attention of the Jewish students of the law school of this University (Windsor) that anti-semitic charges have been laid against Walter Tarnopolsky, dean of the University of Windsor's law school. We, the Jewish students, would like to state that this is patently untrue. Dean Tarnopolsky has at all times exemplified all qualities of equity and fairness that may be expected from any man.

(signed - 27 names)

Oxford tutor refutes 'libellous' attacks

I read with horror and disbelief your front page articles on Walter Tarnopolsky, dean of Windsor Law School.

As a former assistant professor at the University of Windsor Law School and as a Jew, I feel impelled to write from this distance to refute your libellous attacks on Tarnopolsky. Your articles were based on half-truths and hearsay and it ill befits students and, in particular, future lawyers, to allow such vicious attacks on a man's reputation to appear without checking the facts.

In my time at Windsor, Tarnopolsky was scrupulously fair in all his dealing and both in public and in private sincerely and deeply tolerant of all points of view and, it goes without saying, of all religions. He is himself a member of an ethnic minority and one of the prime movers of civil rights in Canada and the allegations against him would be comic were they not perhaps tragic in consequence.

The reasons for professors and students leaving the school in my time were legitimate and academic and there is absolutely no foundation for the implication that anyone was forced to leave because of his religion. Paper qualifications, as every student must have noticed, do not make a good teacher. I can only conclude that your informers are those who have had to leave Windsor because they were not up to standard and wish, out of malice, to

destroy that from which they are excluded.

You also draw unwarranted conclusions from the possibility that the Dean may leave Windsor. The hostility and falsehoods given currency in your newspaper would be sufficient reason for any man to leave. The dean's departure would be the loss of the law school; his presence was the major factor in the success of the School.

Ruth L. Deech,
Fellow and tutor in law,
Oxford University.

Windsor SAC pres backs Tarnopolsky

The students at the University of Windsor and particularly those in the Faculty of Law, have followed the career of Walter Tarnopolsky since 1968 when he was appointed dean of the Faculty of Law to replace Mark MacGuigan, MP, Windsor-Walkerville. Having sat on various "councils of academe" with Dean Tarnopolsky, I can assure you that he is the fairest man that I have ever met.

Tarnopolsky has been chairman of the senate committee on university government for the past two years and in that period he has exhibited his talents as arbitrator and administrator to the highest degree. There have been many issues concerning students, faculty and administration at our university that the dean has dealt with and in all cases he has provided a fair hearing for the students involved.

Let me illustrate my point by citing an incident that occurred at the Ontario Government Conference on Economic and Cultural Nationalism held in Toronto last June. During the debate that was chaired by Tarnopolsky, a long-haired individual with a dog bone tied around his neck tried to speak at one of the microphones; upon seeing this man, an official of the conference had the microphone turned off. Tarnopolsky immediately ordered the microphone turned on again, claiming that everyone would have the right to express their opinion at the conference. This is only one example of Tarnopolsky's fair-minded attitude to all individuals.

To claim that Tarnopolsky is anti-semitic is an absurdity in itself; for anyone who knows him will vouch for the high integrity of this man. As for MPP Tim Reid's charge concerning Americans in our Faculty of Law, it cannot be said that Dean Tarnopolsky is responsible for this. When he arrived, the American faculty had already been appointed and it was up to Tarnopolsky to work with them. I might also add that these American professors are excellent teachers and well liked by their students. We at the University of Windsor are well aware of the problem of American influence in our Canadian society and Tarnopolsky is one of the champions for the cause of Canadian Nationalism.

In all honesty, I might admit that

we will be very sad to lose a man of the calibre of Walter Tarnopolsky, but our loss is your gain. I strongly support the candidacy of Walter Tarnopolsky for vice-president, academic of York.

Brian Ducharme, pres.
Students' Adminis. Council,
University of Windsor.

Excalibur needs public inquiry

The extremely low standard of journalism evident in the Oct. 7 edition of Excalibur demands that the editor be called to account to the York student body. We refer of course to the scurrilous front page articles about the pending appointment of Windsor law Dean Walter Tarnopolsky as academic vice-president of the university.

The substantial number of factual errors, unsupportable inferences, reported rumours, unattributable comments and heavy innuendoes cast severe doubt upon the editorial sophistication and the technical competence of Excalibur's editor-in-chief, Andrew Michalski, the author of the libellous pieces, which subsequent apologies cannot correct.

The Environmental Studies Students' Association of York University formally demands that Council of the York Student Federation conduct an open inquiry into the methods by which the substance of the articles was gathered and verified as to accuracy — if indeed such verification was attempted. We wish to know who is the author of the Editorial on Page 6 (Tarnopolsky is Not for York) and to raise questions about the appropriateness of non-student editorial control of Excalibur. Furthermore, there is good reason to assess the competence of the editor-in-chief on the basis of earlier editions of Excalibur this term and we will raise these questions during the proceedings which must be held as soon as possible.

Of course as the official organ of the student body of York University, Excalibur is obliged to publish this letter, a copy of which we have sent to the editor-in-chief in time for the Oct. 21 edition.

Stuart Marwick
The Environmental Studies
Students' Association.

Oct. 14 letter incorrect says Sy Langer

I wish to set the record straight as regards certain incorrect statements and implications relating apparently to me in a letter which you published on Oct. 14 over the signatures of Harry W. Arthurs, Allen M. Linden, et al.

In the first place, as the editor of the Excalibur has stated in the Canadian Jewish News, the theme of anti-semitism in the charges of Oct. 7 was not gotten by the editor from me. As the editor further states in last week's Excalibur, the charges of anti-semitism upon which he based his articles and editorial of Oct. 7 were contained largely or wholly in statements written and signed by, not me, but a totally different party. All that I have raised publicly, (several times,) is the issue of the Americanization of the Windsor Law School; for this situation I continue to state that the present dean is chiefly responsible and that this responsibility cannot be fobbed off onto a committee or anyone else.

Furthermore, some alleged facts given about me in the letter of Oct. 14 are so wildly wrong that I judge them to be cut from whole cloth of a familiar Windsor weave. They raise strong questions about both the credulity and credibility of the signatories. I have taught only at two law schools (not three), both being in Canada and I have never been denied tenure. I have never even applied for tenure or a permanent contract (is that supposed to be different from tenure?) True, I have never been offered the Nizamate of Hyderabad either. So what? The four students who were adverse to me were totally unrepresentative of the Windsor law student body, which supported me by petition and by personal representations to Tarnopolsky.

If anything makes me disaffected, it is such misstatements by so-called authorities.

Sy Langer.

With letters still coming with support of Windsor law dean Walter Tarnopolsky as academic vice-president, Excalibur regret that it does not have the space to continue publishing them. Anyone interested in reading them is welcome to visit the Excalibur offices.

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