

Excalibur

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

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Ottawa decision to ban professor seriously threatens free flow of ideas

John Dean of Watergate fame last year went on a speaking tour on campuses across Canada. Dean got his passport and permission to travel through Canada with no questions asked.

John Dean is a convicted criminal. Not that we think he should therefore have been kept out of Canada. But it makes another action of the federal Department of Manpower and Immigration hard to understand.

That department has barred West German professor Andre Gunder Frank from coming to Canada to speak on a conference on underdevelopment at Queens University in Kingston.

And professor Frank is not a convicted criminal. Frank is a world-respected authority on the problems of development in the Third World. Books of his can be found all over the York bookstore, on the reading lists of many social science and political science courses.

Speaking of Watergate, the excuse used by the government to bar Frank from Canada is that he is a threat to national security. But don't ask them for details, because they won't give any.

We can only guess that Frank is being barred because of his socialist ideology. Apparently, having a different

ideology from the government is a worse crime in the eyes of the feds than John Dean's nefarious activities in the Nixon administration.

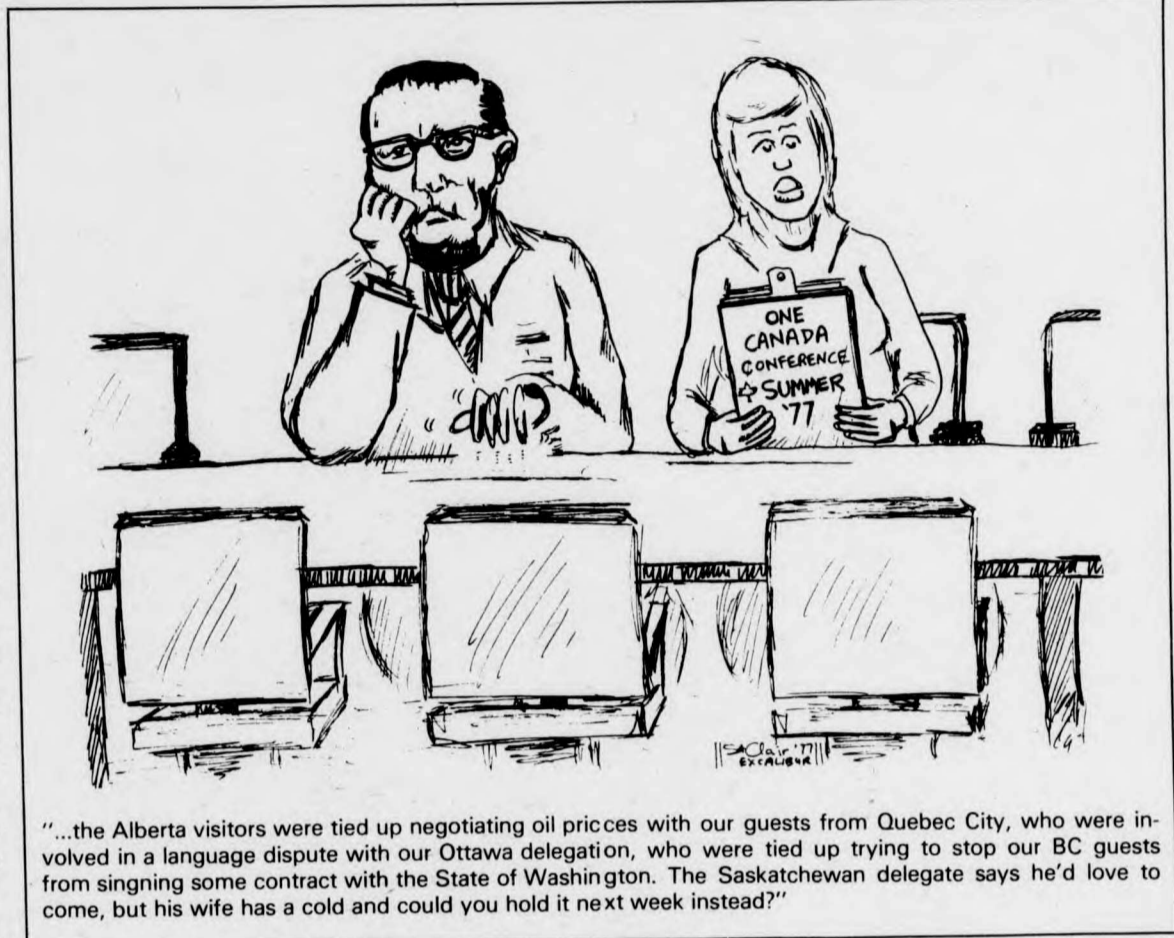
In light of this, we applaud the actions taken by York professors Judy Hellman and John Saul. They were among a group of Canadian academics who boycotted the conference Frank was to have attended.

In a statement released March 4 explaining their actions, the group said that the government's barring of Frank "is a blatant violation of freedom of thought which requires the free flow of ideas and intellectuals across international boundaries."

They felt that attendance at the conference while Frank was being refused entry to the country, would legitimize the actions of the government.

In a covering letter accompanying the text of their statement, the group urged all interested parties to promote "positive action" on the case and promote discussion to discover the appropriate stance to take in the face of a situation such as this.

We would urge all organizations at York to do just that. We believe that for a learning institution, there are few things more important than promoting and protecting the free flow of information and freedom of thought.



Snips and snipes

It was the largest mandate for any referendum or election in York's history. Almost 1,000 students voted to retain our membership in the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) and the National Union of Students (NUS).

Recognizing the will of the electorate, president-elect Paul Hayden has indicated he will work within OFS and NUS, despite his vigorous campaign to persuade York voters to pull out of the organizations.

Hopefully that's the last referendum on OFS and NUS we'll have in a while (we had one last year). The energies of the two organizations would be much better used pressuring the provincial and federal governments to listen to student's concerns, rather

than campaigning in referendum after referendum.

To president-elect Paul Hayden, and presidential candidates Alice Klein, and Tom Diotte congratulations for surviving this year's campaign.

To Paul and the rest of next year's council, good luck, we hope you work things out.

To the new board of governors representative, Harvey Pinder of the ULS, good luck but don't expect a warm welcome from the rest of the board at your first meeting. In line with your promise to end the secrecy of the board, consider this an open invitation to be our correspondent for BOG meetings until they let us send our own.

And to everyone else who participated in the various campaigns, we hope your professors accept your late essays.

Who is William Daniels? His name appeared as a candidate for CYSF president on the ballots last Wednesday and Thursday, but that's the only place it appeared.

He put up no posters, submitted no statement to Excalibur, appeared at no candidates' meetings, and generally ran what you might call a low-key campaign.

Anyway, despite having no campaign, Daniels impressed 23 Yorkites enough that they voted for him as president.

Maybe one of them will tell us who William Daniels is.

When the end of term crazies hit York, students across campus desperately

search for ways to beat the pressure. One of the tried and true ways of beating the essay blues is by hitting the pinball parlours.

Next time you make a mad dash to your favourite pinball emporium take a close look at the Captain Fantastic game. Real close. If you look carefully at the graphic on the top of the machine you will see more than a crazed drawing of Elton John. It seems the people at Bally Pinball Co. were not satisfied to settle for the basic variation of the busy beauty beaming passively at a dashing male. The folks at Bally decided to go one step further.

Take a closer look at the graphic. In the right hand corner peeking in is a picture of Adolf Hitler. And over to the left, a leering SS officer with a skull on his cap. The rest of the graphic is dotted with cheering women in torn clothes holding signs calling for 'death', and 'Win or Die'. A nice mix of skulls and snakes top it off.

It's interesting what people will do to make you spend a quarter.

We at Excalibur owe our readers an apology.

We apologize for having absolutely no coverage of the Maggie Trudeau/Mick Jagger controversy. There is not one mention of Maggie's New York trip on any page in this issue.

And we don't know what she was doing at the El Macombo or why she was staying at the Harbour Castle Hotel. We don't even know what Pierre was doing on their anniversary night.

Sorry.

Staff meeting today at 2 pm.

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