

Excalibur

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

When a barrel falls on the head

The issue which is achieving prominence in the Haggar case here at York is not whether in fact George Haggar was discriminated against in not being hired because he is a socialist and anti-Zionist, but rather the reasons for the tremendous amount of paranoid waffling that our political science department is indulging in.

That was what was really noticeable at the political science union's meeting on Tuesday.

In fact, the meeting was really quite redundant. The students came prepared to pass a formal motion inviting Haggar to York today at noon regardless of whether or not Harold Kaplan and his department decided to participate.

The same was true of the political science faculty who were there. They knew that Haggar was going to come on campus despite them.

Why then, did the faculty come? Well, first of all they are true liberals; that is, they can't bear to take a stand, even if they were had the minute George Haggar was not hired.

Second, they were probably afraid — and fear tends to draw one to the source of the threat, in this case the inquisitive students.

There were an incredible amount of red herrings being thrown about — Benvenuto shat on one of the students because of his "odd" concept of "due process". "Odd", mainly because it didn't conform to Benvenuto's concept.

There was also an incredible amount (even for York) of patronizing rhetoric from Harold Kaplan. "We have always welcomed student involvement in departmental policy-making."

Kaplan really should have stuck to his first year social science jokes — overworn, but not so offensive.

* * *

Kaplan kept arguing that Haggar had not presented any written evidence to the university regarding the alleged discrimination. If he would do so, Kaplan implied that he might consent to debate.

A student correctly pointed out that it would be stupid for Haggar to give such an advantage to a group he seems to have some reason to distrust. The department, which is in reality the only one to have the real evidence regarding the discrimination, could take its time to fabricate elaborate excuses for Haggar's charges.

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Kaplan also kept complaining that to indulge in a public forum at this time would imply "somehow that this department is on the defensive." Oh, is there any reason it should be?

If anyone is on the defensive right now, it should be George Haggar. Outside of the fact that it appears that he is the victim of some huge ivory tower conspiracy (and that's scary enough — that's where he makes his living) what makes the political science department so sure that Haggar will be able to walk on to this campus without being subjected to some pretty rigorous cross-examination by the political science union — unless, of course, the department feels that Haggar will be able to substantiate his charges?

* * *

Another student at the Tuesday meeting came up with a very interesting argument supporting the presence of faculty at the forum today. He said:

"If you were walking along the street and someone dropped a barrel on your head, the fact that your ignorance can't tell you where that barrel came from doesn't mean that if you're the owner of a warehouse that happens to be the place from where the barrel dropped, I think that the owner of the warehouse has some explanation to make."

So do we, department of political science warehouse.

Parched throats aren't that funny

Since the sad (sic) demise of the night time cafeteria in the Central Square, we, the night people of the Central Square, have developed the distinct impression of being marooned on a desert island without food or drink.

This has hit the Atkinson people the hardest as they had been spoiled throughout September by being able to buy some form of sustenance between lectures. Not that the food was so particularly exquisite, but at least the Coke was good.

Most of the buildings on campus have vending machines (owned by Versafood) which by virtue of their innate ability, function (most of the time), regardless of the hour of the day or night. Founders College even has a chocolate bar machine in addition to its pop and cigarette machine.

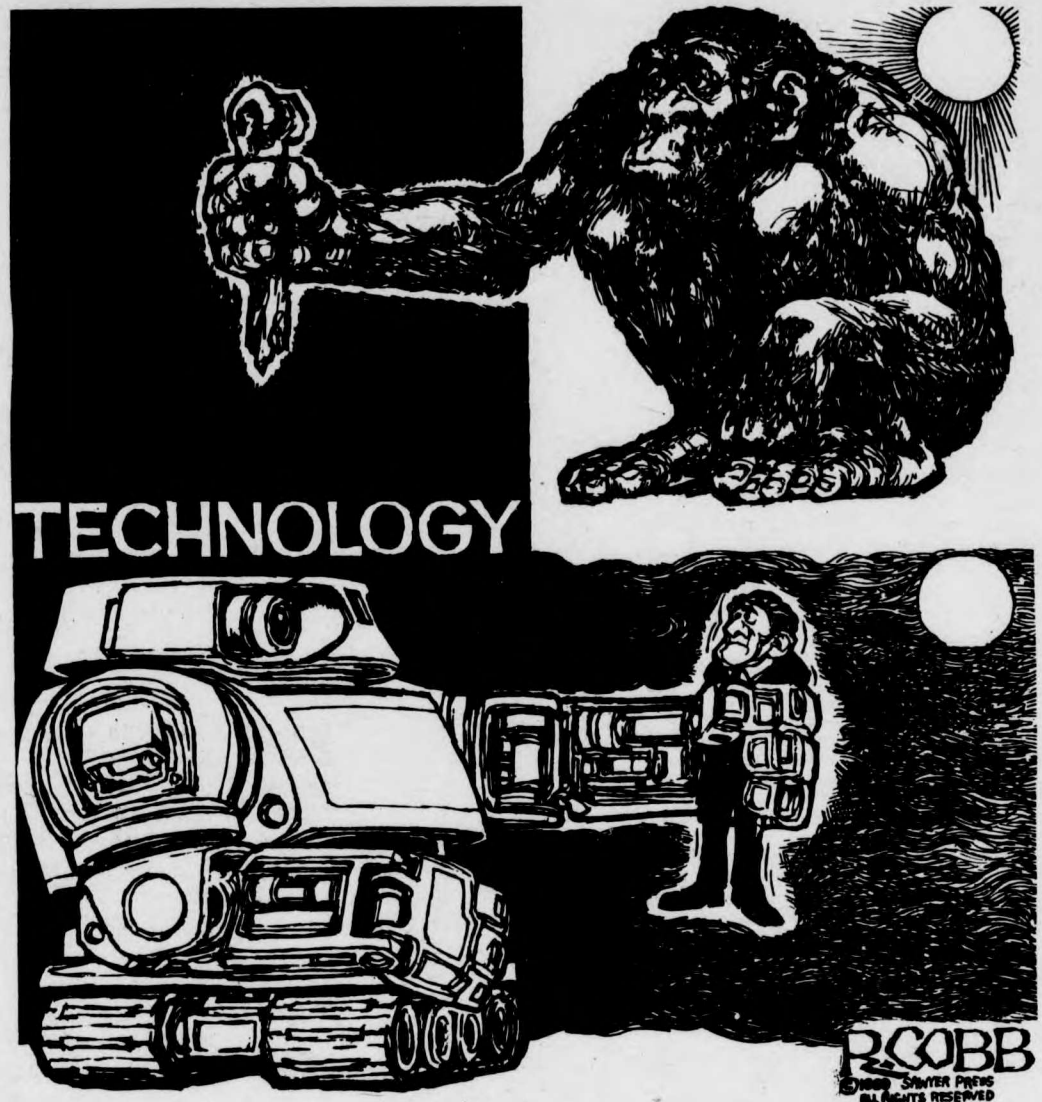
Versafood in its infinite wisdom has installed a cigarette machine, two in fact, in the Central Square which are accessible day or night, but remember man does not live by cigarettes alone.

At a time when the university community is fighting for such trivial matters as democratization and political and social awareness, it is about time we started to consider some of the more important issues, such as getting a Coke machine in the Central Square. If you are concerned about your university and the society in which it exists then you cannot help but see the importance of this issue.

As a result of this glaring social problem an ad hoc committee for the installation of a Coke machine has been formed. Its first open meeting will take place in the Central Square cafeteria at 3 am tomorrow. See you there.

This space is left in memory of those who have passed this way following a hectic layout due to a bourgeois holiday called Thanksgiving.

— giving thanks



Know your university

Universities have become key components of contemporary capitalism. They are an outstanding instance of the way in which the economic system — the base — has become integrated with the political, social and cultural institutions — the superstructure — of the corporation state. This integration is nowhere more evident than in the training functions of the mass education system.

The growth of capitalism in the present period depends upon the availability of a large highly-skilled technical-scientific labor force. No one corporation can afford to train its own labor force for there is no way to insure that its investment, once trained, will not seek employment elsewhere.

The costs of training, therefore, have to be socialized. Universities, subsidized-collected taxes, have taken on the social function of training skilled personnel and developing knowledge for the needs of advanced capitalism.

Far from merely 'serving corporate capitalism' by providing occasional research and consulting services, the universities have become a basic point of production.

— James O'Conner
Leviathan, April, 1969

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3 today

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