

## Letter To The Editor

### Ridiculous Affair

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who assisted in obtaining my release from the Marine Corps prison in Camp Pendleton, California.

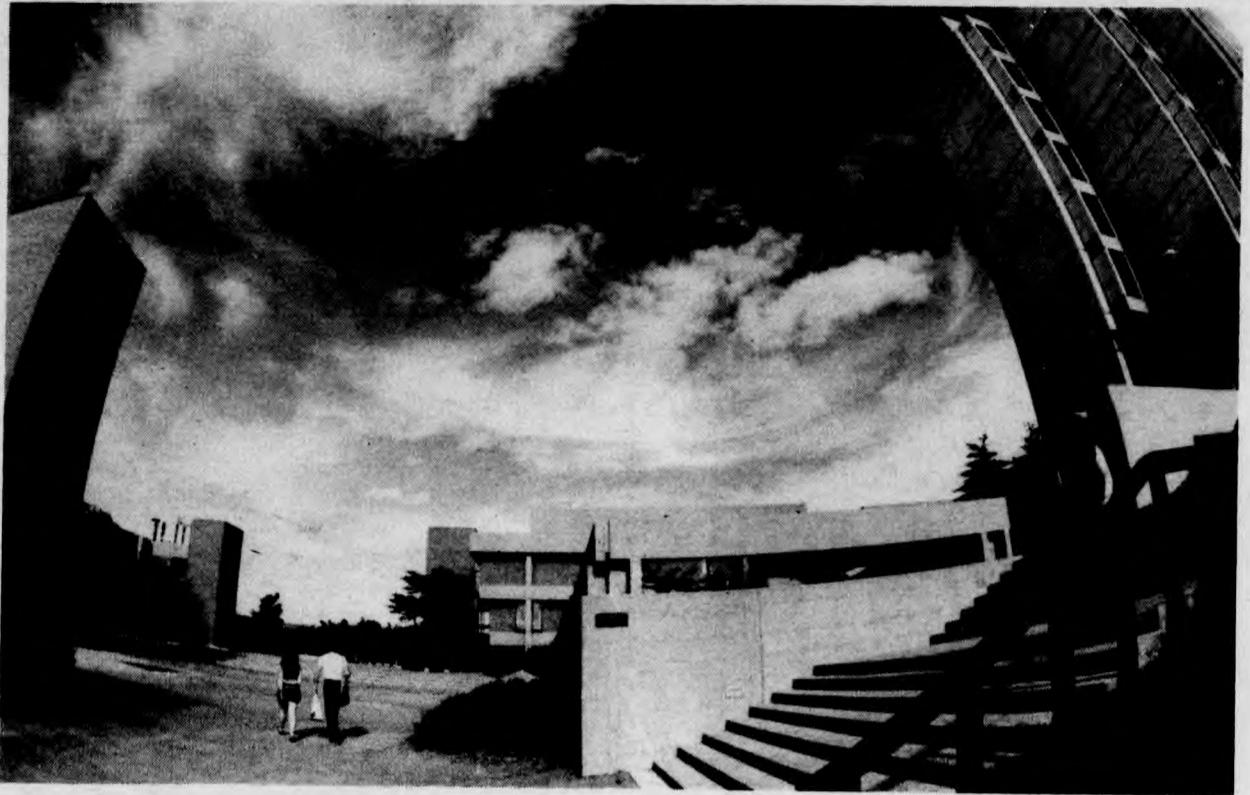
I can't thank each of you individually, but I feel it necessary to thank four individuals or groups especially: Maria DeWit and the Executive Parent Board of the York Daycare who circulated a petition through the Daycare requesting my release; Dale Ritch and other members of the CYSF who donated their time, supplies, and equipment; Paul Kellogg and other members of the Excalibur staff for their support and articles on my behalf; and Deborah Biddle, the prime motivator and organizer behind the movement to obtain my release.

The rest of you who signed petitions and letters, wrote letters, and donated money for my defence fund — what can I say? — THANK YOU!! As it was, I spent five weeks in prison — without the effort of everyone here at York, I would still be there, possibly awaiting another court-martial and looking forward to at least another fourteen months behind bars.

Now, in light of Jimmy Carter's statement that he will pardon all Viet Nam era offenders (Mind you, he said PARDON — not AMENSTY!!) the whole affair seems somewhat ridiculous. It did not seem so when I was there.

Thanks again to all of you.

Mark Biddle  
Vanier College



## Horoscope

**VIRGO:** You are at an emotional high today. Make friends by visiting a washroom of your opposite sex and talking about yourself. Argue with your houseplants.

**LIBRA:** Things are uneven for you, as Pluto has gone on sabbatical. Make friends with as many accountants as possible, but stay away from stray bats and the number four.

**SCORPIO:** Time to be sociable; go out of your way to visit old acquaintances to show them your essays. However, be cautious and do not trust people with hooks.

**SAGGITARIUS:** For a good time, go back to your old stomping ground and count cracks in the sidewalk. For a better time, call 667-2515, ask for Barry.

**CAPRICORN:** A downer. Because Mars was diverted from going east, stay home and regain confidence in yourself by writing a critique of Mary Hartman.

**AQUARIUS:** The best you've been in weeks: study Sagittarius message. Stay away from flat beer and penicillin. Don't eat yellow snow.

**PISCES:** Sow your wild oats. Count your change at the bookstore, and go home. Take plenty of aspirin, and get lots of rest. If trouble persists, consult your gynecologist.

**ARIES:** Your name will appear in this Sunday's New York Times. Make friends with a civil servant, but don't tell him your Social Insurance Number. A stitch in time saves nine.

**TAURUS:** Reread The Joy of Sex and test yourself. Look in the Grad pub for a woman carrying some potted plants: she will tell you next year's Irish Sweepstakes winner. Ignore her.

**GEMINI:** Become famous by streaking at the next Board of Governors meeting. Carry a map of Orillia but do not unfold it. This will prevent Excalibur from coming out before next Thursday.

**CANCER:** Attempt to express your feelings toward Jimmy Carter in one world. Write it in a residence washroom without being seen. Give an inch and they'll take a metre.

**LEO:** Ignore horoscopes. Quote Monty Python at your next lecture. Your approaching case swine flu will only be prevented by eating a pound of brown vegetables and burping loudly in the Bearpit.

**YOUR BIRTHDAY TODAY:** Congratulations: This year promises many new developments. Prices will go up, some of your blackheads will finally vanish, and you will be unimpressed with the new library system. The months ahead indicate that you can expect many major advances. From that pervert on your left, for instance.

## Faculty unions tripling

OTTAWA (CUP) — Almost a third of Canada's 25,000 university faculty members have organized themselves into 16 certified bargaining units, more than triple the number of units in existence two years ago.

At the annual meeting of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) in May, delegates were told that 50 per cent of Canada's faculty would be certified — or undergoing certification — within a year. Five new faculty associations are now awaiting certification decisions by various provincial labour boards.

CAUT delegates cited three reasons for the faculty organization push:

—government cutbacks in university funding that threaten certain jobs and departments as administrations cut corners

—uncertainty surrounding upcoming revisions in the Fiscal Arrangements Acts, which indirectly controls federal funding of universities

—student demographic trends towards decreased enrollments in the 1980s.

"The administrations' knives will be out" delegates were told,

"and faculty should organize to brace for inevitable confrontations over maintaining existing programs, let alone developing new ones."

Charging that "higher education in Canada is the least planned of activities" newly-elected CAUT president Jill Vickers argued collective bargaining units will protect academic standards while providing needed job security.

She said student-teacher ratios have increased "out of bounds with anything except the size of the rooms." And as student enrollment declines, the number of teachers should not be cut, Vickers said, so that as the ratio gets smaller the quality of education will meet necessary standards.

In the last year the CAUT executive has been stepping up efforts to provide its 18,000 members with money and resources in bids for certification. Besides input from CAUT workers, a collective bargaining handbook and clause finder guide have been published and over \$15,000 given to five locals.

However, CAUT has yet to resolve whether to create a strike fund or affiliate with the trade union movement.

## Andras' programs attacked

Ottawa (CUP) — The unemployment rate for students this summer may reach 25 per cent, but the department of Manpower and Immigration has scuttled the only method for determining that figure, the National Union of Students (NUS) has charged.

Senior department officials cancelled a five-year old supplementary survey on student employment, meaning the government has no way of determining if its summer job programs are adequate, according to NUS president Pierre Ouellette.

This year the department slashed the budget of its Student Summer Employment and Activities Program (SSEAP) from \$60 million to \$24 million, eliminating some 40,000 jobs normally provided by the cancelled Opportunities for Youth (OFY) and related projects.

Without an accurate assessment of this year's program there will be no firm basis to plan job programs for next year, Ouellette said in a letter to Manpower minister Robert Andras in July, asking that a survey be done in September.

### NO RETURN

NUS and other student organizations have repeatedly said that without adequate summer savings, many students will not be able to return to their studies. This year, the organization estimates that the rate of student summer unemployment could run from 12 to 25 per cent.

Andras has not yet replied to Ouellette's letter, but in a press release August 16 disputed the 25 per cent figure. The minister said his department placed 158,000 students out of 502,000 who registered, calling this a 4.46 per cent increase over the same period last year.

Manpower counts as a placement any job with a minimum of three days. One student could conceivably count as five placements and only have worked 15 days. Andras said there were still 6,000 jobs available, although he didn't indicate the wage level or duration of employment. Instead, he said, "these vacancies may not be exactly what students are looking for, but in a period of austerity things are not always easy."

NUS executive secretary Dan O'Connor called Andras' attitude "callous, because he is using low-level vacant jobs to imply students don't want to work."

### NO ADVANTAGE

He said the minister's claim that students are not taking advantage of his department's "mobility assistance grants" for travel to jobs not in their immediate area reveals "a complete lack of awareness" of students' financial situation, citing the higher cost of

living away from home.

Finally, Andras can only speculate what the student unemployment rate will be because his department has scrapped the special survey normally done for May, June, July, and August.

Andras denied his department dropped "certain Statistics Canada surveys" to cover up high unemployment figures, but maintained that the absence was due to funding cutbacks.

### STATISTICS CANADA

A Statistics Canada official estimates the four-month survey would cost between \$40,000 to \$50,000 out of the \$24 million budgeted for SSEAP '76.

Stats Can had been funding all special government surveys, but last year passed on the costs to those departments requesting the information, according to a NUS background paper. Senior manpower officers decided to cancel the survey along with OFY, but did not tell SSEAP evaluation officials.

The only information this year comes from the 1976 Labour Force Survey, which does not accurately determine which of the 14-25 age group it questions are students. Last year's special survey was directed specifically at students.

The NUS paper says the new system is particularly faulty in that it does not determine if people looked for work, which "artificially lowers" the numbers in the labour force, ie. people who didn't bother registering with Manpower and didn't find work. The paper claims youth participation in the labour force has declined by two per cent.

A research paper of the Official Opposition based largely on earlier work by NDP MP John Rodriguez, says the unemployment rate for the 14-25 age group is the highest since 1953.

H. Moenting, director of the SSEAP evaluation said his group will not be able to determine if the government's response to the unemployment situation is appropriate unless the supplementary survey is done.

### NO SURVEY NO NEWS

Andras claimed his various programs including SSEAP would employ 22,000 students over the summer, and that special Student Manpower Centres would place 200,000.

The 12,000 employed by SSEAP would account for 1.2 per cent of the jobs needed, the Opposition paper claimed.

## Summer Doldrums

By IAN MULGREW

The summer doldrums have yet to blow over at the CYSF meetings which was evident Monday night at the first council meeting of the academic year.

At the meeting, which lasted over three hours, several items worthy of note were discussed: National Student Day (NSD); Radio York; support for the Canadian Labour Congress's (CLC) national day of protest; and the resignations of several council members.

Plans for the NSD, to be held November ninth, were discussed and some of the scheduled speakers were announced: NDP leader Stephen Lewis; Minister of Colleges and Universities, Harry Parrott; York President H. Ian McDonald; and York Chancellor Walter Gordon. All will appear at York.

It was also announced that council had spent \$75 on distribution costs of the National Union of Students (NUS) paper, The Student Advocate, which expounds, in detail the purposes of the NSD.

Council passed one significant motion Monday night: the Radio York resolution. This resolution will establish a new chain of command at the station and prepare it for the switch from a club to a business.

Council recognised five resignations at the meeting, all from the Edson team. The five: Richard Lichenstein and Karen Milen, Vanier; Paul Lima, Calumet; Phyllis Firestone, McLaughlin; and Cal Martin, Founders, resigned for personal reasons.

By-elections to replace them will be scheduled for the fall by the CYSF.

Evan Leibovitch, independent representative, from McLaughlin, announced the TTC was considering re-routing the Steeles bus so it would run through the campus. The TTC will conduct a survey and if enough students are using the route, the change could be in effect by mid-December.

It was also announced that the CYSF had contracted Wilson's beverages to install a pop vending machine in its office to dispense cans for 25 cents.

There was also a major surprise at the Monday night meeting: a motion to support the CLC's day of protest was defeated. The CLC which planned the protest for October 14th had called for student support. With many of the council members claiming to be NDP'ers, and the five ULC members all committed to supporting it, it is unlikely this will be the end of this subject.