

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, c/o Excalibur, room 111 Central Square. They must be double-spaced, typed and limited to 250 words. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for length and grammar. Name and address must be included for legal purposes but the name will be withheld upon request. Deadline: Mon. 4 p.m.

BOG is honest and concerned over foreign tuition fee hikes, —BOG student representative

I always read Excalibur whenever I am in the mood for a little fiction. You imply I voted along with all the "evil corporate Barons" to raise tuition for foreign students. Let's get a few facts straight.

First there was no unanimous vote to raise these tuition fees. I certainly didn't vote for such a thing. The chairman instituted a discussion on cutbacks in education generally and more specifically as they relate to York.

All of the men and women on the board who you choose as a matter of course to malign were concerned with how the cutbacks will affect accessibility to higher education. I realize you and your leftist friends with your paranoid conspiracy view of society will be sceptical, but I was impressed with the frankness, concern, and honesty I've seen at those board meetings.

Believe it or not the board discussed what the best tactics would be to fight the cutbacks and what the likelihood of success would be.

When the subject of foreign student fees was finally brought into the discussion we discussed the alternatives suggested by Senate. I stated then and I do so now, that I would rather not increase foreign student tuitions if it is at all possible to avoid. However, I feel, and so stated at the board meeting, that if the University could not afford it, then at the very least we should with all haste establish a bursary fund for those York students adversely affected next year, who would otherwise not be able to attend. We were told at the board meeting that absorbing the total cost of the increases to foreign students could cost the University \$350,000 to \$380,000 in the first year alone, to be added on to the \$250,000 deficit budgeted for next year.

While we have benefited in the past from corporate generosity and other grants from those people you would have us believe are "greedy capitalist pigs," we have not had this advantage as long as the older institutions in Ontario. As a result our debt is larger and so is the cost of carrying that debt. To complicate this further we are expecting a growth in number of people who will want to come to this institution at a time when funds are being cut back. In light of this the board came to the reluctant conclusion that it could not absorb the extra burden imposed by the provincial government.

In recognition of the fact some advantaged students will be adversely affected, the board felt that a bursary system should be established. Given our limited resources, we should direct our efforts to those who need it most, not towards subsidizing a student just because he's a foreign student.

Finally let me point out that in using this issue to leap out on a diatribe against those individuals who selflessly give their time to serve this University, you do us all a disservice. I might also point out that your reports on corporate profits was a case of selective perception. Why did you only report until 1974? Could it have been that if you examined other years it would make your theories look blatantly ridiculous? It wouldn't surprise me at all...

Jay Bell
student representative,
Board of Governors



A few fencing foibles

In response to Rene Schmidt's social comment on the quality of York University's Fencing Team:

I feel Mr. Schmidt should learn a lot more about the sport, and more importantly its members here at York. His statements only prove that his knowledge of the sport and members reactions is limited to thinking all fencing should be conducted like an Errol Flynn movie.

As to the remark that one member even yells Helas, ha, ha, and finds this childish, then I am led to believe that Mr. Schmidt has never seen a Karate or Judo competition where shouting and cries of such nature are encouraged. This aids the competitor in reaching a "peak", and also to release built up tension which is the result in any personal combative sport.

As to the fencer's childish way of disputing judges, if you Mr. Schmidt had at any time to put up with the childish and autocratic manner of many of these judges then you too would resort to such measures to make yourself heard and understood.

The fact that other teams hate to fence this particular sabre fencer is a result of the fact that he is the best fencer that intercollegiate competition has seen in almost twenty years. Without fear of contradiction, calibre such as his will probably not be seen for another twenty years.

The member that Mr. Schmidt refers to as being childish and a poor sport, it should be noted, won the Ontario individual Sabre championship in 1975-6. This in itself should prove that this fencer is a capable and honorable one, above and beyond any fencer in his field.

As to Rene Schmidt's remarks such as "shitty and hell" this resort to such unnecessary language only proves that he is neither a gentleman nor a scholar.

Harvey Greber
York University Epée Team

Verbal abuse is obtuse, says writer

Mr. J. Philips Adams, recently incensed by my review on Toronto Free Theatre's "Me?", has shown himself to have a consuming interest in verbal abuse and a need to discredit those who harbour differing or disquieting opinions. Not wishing to indulge in a battle of wits with such an ill-equipped opponent as Mr. Adams, I will remain content to point out that his reactions are typical in areas such as politics, religion, and the arts, where emotional involvement runs high and where truths are a function of personality and persuasion. In these areas of thought, sustained by force of belief, any disrupting force must be immediately acted upon - hopefully with reason, but in this case, with a fascistic turn of mind.

Mr. Adams would have made better use of his opportunity for expression by defending his disturbing view of the theatre which minimizes the import of the script in favour of increased stress on the performance and production values. He does not understand the manner in which production elements are subordinated to the intent of the script: one cannot censure the script and condone the production. A historical example will demonstrate Mr. Adams' error.

I'll ask Mr. Adams to put himself in the role of reviewer. In this case he is a foreign news correspondent attached to Berlin in 1939. He is asked to report on a Nazi military parade and must keep in mind he must limit his observations to a slender column of print only 7 inches long. The kind of review that Mr. Adams suggests I use for theatre would be paralleled if a report here was restricted to the discipline and sincerity of the troops, the finely wrought quality of the armaments, or the visual impact of the marching soldiers which are the production values of the spectacle. What is significant about the event? Isn't it the script, the perverse ideology which motivates these disturbing visions, that gives the event meaning and makes this sight more than a benign show of nationalistic feeling. Would Mr. Adams describe, or would he warn of the real significance of the event seeing that space limitation denied him but one choice.

It was my choice not to condone Mr. Kinch's play. If you want to see credits for the actors or the production team I suggest that you consult the programme available in the theatre. When Mr. Adams cries out for me to "become involved" in theatre he is asking me to wear his uniform and become a member of Toronto's self-serving and - as his defence of Mr. Kinch's play demonstrates - self-satisfied theatre initiates. As a full-time drama studies student in Canada's foremost comprehensive theatre school I do not know in what other sense I can become more involved in theatre.

My personal critic is also dissatisfied with Excalibur and expects "a university newspaper to be in touch with the community it serves", and then goes on to say that this can be achieved simply by silencing Mr. Christ. Excalibur, or the Toronto Star which also prints reviews not to Mr. Adams liking, does not propose that they have the liberty to speak on behalf of the community.

Michael Christ

Lakehead bows to deficit, not to government proposal

I refer to an article on page three of the Feb. third edition, issued by the Canadian University Press, as a shoddy ploy. The article states that Lakehead University has "bowed" to the government proposal of fee hikes for visa students.

My disagreement is that the article is irresponsible to the facts in omitting a rather essential detail: that Lakehead University is presently operating on a two million dollar deficit. The seriousness of the situation is such that the University, my old alma mater, was visited by a Government committee two years ago to determine whether Lakehead was worth keeping open at all. Lakehead University is the only university serving the people of Northwestern Ontario.

The purposeful juxtaposition of the fact that three Ontario universities have decided to object to the increase and that Lakehead has refused to join ranks, is a deliberate pressure tactic. However, the universities that have decided to reject the selective hike are capable of absorbing the costs and still coming out ahead. How does an institution two million dollars in the red do likewise?

Though I do not necessarily sympathize with the politics of the L.U. Board of Governors, the university and their situation is rather desperate.

In light of this, the article seems to be a rather low blow. What Mr. Mason says is probably so. One need only visit L.U. and look at the remnants of a dying Arts Faculty to appreciate just what government pressure can do. However, this is separate from my intended point: that the media can often mobilize

people into constructive action, but too often it is negligent. Of what purpose is it to distort the situation of a University that needs all the students it can get and that will suffer as a result of the government's policy, look like it is run by a racist band of political reactionaries? In fact Lakehead's situation is aggravated largely because the government and smart ass student politicians (both feigning a sincere interest in 'the people') don't care enough about Northern Ontario to know the actual situation. And so we suffer at the hands of the government, as well as those who are supposed to act in our defence. Fortunately there are a few conscientious objectors in my midst.

Elaine Lynch
4th year English
Rover of Northern Ontario

University City and Cadillac Fariview

The Four Winds Sentinel, an independent community newspaper circulated within University City and to a few interested outsiders (circulation: 3,000), hereby requests permission to reprint the article that appeared in the Excalibur of February 3 1977 under the headline "University City Not for Students and the byline of James Brennan.

Naturally, if we reprint the story, an introductory note would give full credit to Excalibur and Mr. Brennan's byline would be shown.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Lenore d'Anjou
Editorial Committee
Four Winds Sentinel

AS THE CAMPUS TURNS WARREN CLEMENTS

