

# letters

All letters should be addressed to the editor, Excalibur, Room 33 Central Square. Letters must be typed, triple-spaced, on a 66 stroke line. Letters are limited to 300 words (seven column inches). Name, address, or phone number must be included or the letter will not be published. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for grammar and length.

Deadline Monday 4 pm

## A plea to someone's conscience

This is an appeal to the person who removed my brown briefcase from one of the carrels in the Scott Library last Friday afternoon. You must have been awfully desperate to take my locked briefcase—one in which there was no money—only textbooks and notebooks which I desperately need to finish this, my third year at York. As a student, these books cost me a great deal and I cannot readily afford to replace them.

One would have thought that "educated intellectuals" attended this university — adults who have some sense of respect for other's property. Apparently not.

Won't you please return my briefcase — contents intact? Drop it off to the lost and found located in the T.O.B. or anywhere else, just so long as it finds its way back to me.

Signed,  
A dim future.

## Excalibur needs intellectual content

Excalibur gives - rightly, I suppose - extensive coverage to the arts (e.g. "Teenage Head"), politics (e.g. "BOG"), sports (e.g. homecoming), and such events as the return of alumni at York. Yet little or no coverage is given to the focal concern of the university, namely, the presentation and the interchange of ideas and theories.

Some of your readers, no doubt, find little charm in intellectual events. Yet numerous other readers, I can assure you, find this primary aspect of the university their major concern. And so, all things being equal, I suggest that a considerable portion of your paper might begin to deal with the mental "history" of York. That things are otherwise is, surely, a grave matter.

Michael McGrady  
Philosophy Dept.

## Praise for Homecoming

On behalf of thousands of York alumni, I would like to express my sincere compliments to the organizers of the First Annual Homecoming; in particular to Mr. Ian Dawson and Mr. Norbert Wirkowski.

It seems that my earlier suggestions on spicing the York football games were taken quite seriously by our organizers. Cheerleaders were provided, even though they were imported adolescent thighs and busts from a neighbouring high school. A band played on; despite the reality that it was the Mickey Mouse mousketeer choir led by my alumni.

Nevertheless, lubrication for many loyal supporters was provided. Many fond memories were restored. The yearning for York and the bonding of the fans had taken effect.

I look forward to the second Homecoming with eager anticipation. Meanwhile it is the varsity football and hockey season that hopefully will bond our fans in diligent support. I am confident

that our own busy cheerleaders will be found and that rousing musical entertainment will be echoed at our league games. Can we have "Big Mac" back, just in case I can't find any willing cheerleaders or musicians.

A Proud Alumnus  
Mike Zickowski

## A criticism of Homecoming

What a drag! Images of wine and cheese filled my head, as I prepared for the York Alumni Homecoming on October 14. The first ever! And I would be privileged to attend.

The reality was a depressing downer. Cheap wine and cheaper cheese. And, in Bethune College at least, no more than twenty or thirty graduates. *Twenty or thirty!* There are 30,000 of us!

Everything that I have always disliked about York was incarnate in the Homecoming. HOME-COMING? Would that it were! I fear that the vast majority of York students regard university as a business. They have little interest or motivation in making it into anything more. York is an accidental association of flotsam and jetsam, of individual isolated human fragments - a nose here, an eye there (a music student here, an English major there)....

The movie was something of an improvement. At least here was something to do. "The Turning Point": as art it is B-minus. Admirable photography, coupled with a consistently shallow and irresolute plot, nevertheless entertained for two and a half hours.

The only consistent theme of "The Turning Point" seems to be the preoccupation of the writer/director with disproving the homosexuality of male dancers, by slick Hollywood pornography and disparaging sleights at homosexuals. "I married you because I wanted to prove that you weren't gay", she confides to her dancer-husband with great bitterness (her mouth contorting with distaste). "I know," he confides, "so did I." Not one theme is dealt with honestly, openly, and with true emotional depth. As a gay person I find this undercurrent of hostility and contempt especially offensive. Indeed, the whole movie reeks of chauvinism and stereotypical simplicity.

The rest of the evening was a bummer. Having exhausted a bad scene, I went home and went to bed. York Alumni, Good-night.

Alexander Duncan, B.A.

## A Marxist attacks the CPC-(ML)

York University strikers have had their fill of the so-called Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist).

Throughout our strike there had been repeated clashes between CPC (ML), strikers and the union executive who objected to their presence on the picket lines. Carrying their "make the rich pay" signs, half a dozen CPC (ML) ers tried to create the impression to in-coming students that the strikers were led by the CPC (ML). Asked to stop distributing their literature, the CPC (ML) — ers

refused and physically intimidated strikers.

In their latest provocative action, a member of CPC(ML), Jeffrey Forest, jumped a fellow picketer who had asked him to stop handing out CPC(ML) literature, fractured his skull and continued to pound his head on the pavement until the police took him away in handcuffs.

What should we do about them? Ban CPC(ML) from our picket lines - by force if necessary - on the following grounds:

1 - CPC(ML) seeks organizational hegemony over the strike with not a shred of political support;

2 - Through its violent and provocateur type action, CPC(ML) has intimidated strikers, weakened support for the strike, and discredited genuine communists. It waves the red flag in theory, but in action cooperates with our very enemies.

It would be wrong however to go further and adopt the union executive's position that no political groups should be allowed to distribute their literature.

As the crisis deepens in our country, more and more workers are looking for political solutions. Freedom of speech is a fundamental right that must be defended if we are to discover the truth about the social system we live under and its only alternative - socialism.

The union executive cannot, in all honesty, give Michael Cassidy, Ontario leader of the NDP, a platform on our picket line and at the same time refuse a group like IN STRUGGLE! the right to peacefully distribute its newspaper to those workers who are interested.

A YUSA Member &  
Supporter of In Struggle

## Solidarity with YUSA

Although I am in no way connected with York University I am prompted to write this letter as a result of walking the picket lines for a short time nearly every day during the recent strike of the York University Staff Association. I am a retired power plant engineer, a member of Local 101, Canadian Union of Operating Engineers, who fully supported the strikers and which, like YUSA, is affiliated to the Confederation of Canadian Unions.

Strikes are nasty and unpleasant affairs and are not entered into lightly by working men and women. Strikes are not for the faint of heart. The strike is the weapon of last resort used against an intransigent employer's refusal to consider improvements in their employees' wages, hours, and working conditions. When about a thousand York University employees, most of them women, took strike action one may be sure that they had good reason to do so.

While women traditionally are rather difficult to organize into unions, we old fellows in the labour movement have always known that women, once they decide to become unionized, are among the very best people we have in the trade union movement. The YUSA women proved this once again. As Lauma Avens, president of YUSA,

said at the October 3 ratification meeting: "They thought we couldn't do it....". But they did do it and they will do it again if necessary."

To the men and women of YUSA, the faculty members, students and others with whom I walked the picket lines, my respect and these lines from "Solidarity Forever" the great battle hymn of organized labour: "When the union's inspiration through the workers' blood shall run, There can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun. Yet what force on earth is weaker than the feeble strength of one? But the union makes us strong."

Douglas Carr, Executive Board member,  
Local 101, Canadian Union of Operating Engineers.

## A reply to a critic of YUSA

In response to Mr. Kaczala's letter of October 19th claiming that a YUSA member "etched a profane inscription" into the side of his car as he crossed the picket line. Were you the one driving the new Mercedes or the Lincoln Continental? Maybe you were the one driving the Yellow Firebird who hit a striker from behind, knocked her onto the hood of your car and then sped off/ Are you sure the person was a YUSA member? We found on our picket line that more trouble was caused by student picketers who claimed to be "supporters". They purposely intimidated drivers trying to cross the line, pounded on cars and yelled obscenities, deliberately stood in front of cars and urged drivers to hit them. They obviously had been sent out by some group to make us look bad. If you think we loved picketing, think again, or maybe even try it, you won't like it. Of course classes were disrupted, that was the purpose of striking. If more students like you had joined our fight against the administration, the strike might have been over long before it was. Thank you—Mr. Kaczala.

Val Toole  
YUSA Member, Stong College

## Excalibur "critics" criticized

Amazing! After reading Evan and Warren Adelman's article on Teenage Head's appearance at the Tap'n Keg I reached two possible conclusions. Either the band had taken guitar lessons over the summer along with some major vocal coaching for Frankie Venom, or, Excalibur's entertainment "critics" need glasses and their ears cleaned out.

Teenage Head opened for a band I worked for during the summer. This "new-wave group extraordinaire", as the article's authors refer to them, are a starving bunch of kids from Hamilton who admit to be doing so badly that they're taking any job they can get their hands on.

I couldn't believe these "critics" were writing about the same group. Quote (this) seasoned, polished and outright professional Canadian attraction Unquote is such a disgusting batch of noise

that anyone's 14-year-old kid brother's high school basement band could blow these guys right off the stage.

I'm specifically writing to complain about the "critics" who wrote the article on them. The article itself reads like it was lifted straight out of a Music Shoppe/Epic Records press release.

There is no room for sensationalism in journalism. A "critic" is allowed to write it as he sees it according to Excalibur's front office staff, but what makes them or anyone else think these guys are critics?

A "critic" should be able to justify his commentary. Relying on over emphasis, exaggeration, and sensationalism to make something look better than it is, puts Excalibur in the league with such journalistic gems as CFTR and the Sun.

Suggest that Evan and Warren and anyone else who read their article check out ROSE, at any number of the downtown clubs. This 10 year old band has 3 albums out and just oozes professionalism and good taste...

Spare me your "critic's" criticism.

David Zelcer  
Bethune College

## Support for postal workers urged

The attack on the postal workers by the government raises real questions about where this country is headed. The government and media have launched the most concerted and vicious campaign against the postal workers and their union. As a result the postal workers have been forced to defy the law in order to defend their union and their democratic right to free collective bargaining.

Because the post office management systematically ignored some of the contract clauses won in the 1975 contract, postal workers have filed tens of thousand of contract grievances against management. Knowing all along that the government could simply pass back-to-work legislation, management negotiators have not seriously negotiated with the union. As a result the postal workers have worked without a contract or pay raise for 18 months.

Under Canadian law the postal workers have the right to strike. By a 78% majority they elected to exercise that right, but even before the vote was taken, the government announced that it would force them back to work with special legislation. After only one day on strike, the threat was carried out.

The attack on the postal workers is also an attack on public sector workers in general and the entire trade union movement. At this point the full force of the Canadian state is being used to intimidate postal workers into returning to work without a contract. The extremely punitive legislation is a direct attack on fundamental union rights. If the term "illegal" is to be pinned on anyone, it should not be the actions of the postal workers, but rather the actions of the government.

Robert Albritton  
Dept. of Pol. Sci.

## Quebec white paper: students have right to quality education

QUEBEC CITY (CUP)—Students have a moral and financial right to quality education, according to a White Paper on CEGEP Education released by Quebec Minister of Education Jacques-Yvan Morin October 5.

CEGEPs are Quebec technical and junior colleges.

The paper recommends two

changes to increase accessibility to the CEGEPs: free tuition for mature students, regardless of the number of courses for which they register, and increased funding for bursaries for those students entering the three-year pro courses.

Until now, mature students have been required to take four courses before qualifying for free tuition. The lifting of this restriction is

expected to cost the government \$10 million, according to Morin.

The increased bursary funding is only one change proposed to beef up the professional schools. According to the white paper, funding will also be provided to construct buildings to accommodate the increasing number of students enrolled in these three-year programs.