

# Letters to the Editor

All letters should be addressed to the Editor and sent to Excalibur, Central Square, Ross Building, York University, Downsview, Ontario. Excalibur reserves the right to edit all letters more than 500 words long. Unsigned letters are the responsibility of the editors. All letters will be published however due to space limitations letters may not be published the week they are received.

## York's Soc. Sci. has no regard for student opinion

We are very much concerned about the fact that York's Social Science department has a complete lack of regard for student opinion. Not only are students subject to a monopoly educational system but they are not even given the opportunity to evaluate the faculty and methods of the system.

This fact has come to our attention through an incident which occurred in Social Science 175. Apparently it was decided very early in the school year that Soc. Sci. 175 would be dropped from the curriculum and course director John B. Ridpath would not be kept on the staff. The real reasons for this incident and the persons responsible for these decisions have remained elusive.

Ridpath was told the reasons for these decisions were:

- (i) the course concept was too general and the students could not relate to it;
- (ii) he, as a teacher, was not considered to be competent enough to be kept on the staff.

However, the facts have proven to be to the contrary. Last year, a course survey was taken and the results showed that generally the students liked the course and specifically, they thought that Ridpath was an excellent teacher. Another survey was conducted by some of the students in Soc. Sci. 175 this year and the results were that:

- (i) more than 50 percent of the students in the course thought that it had good to excellent potential;

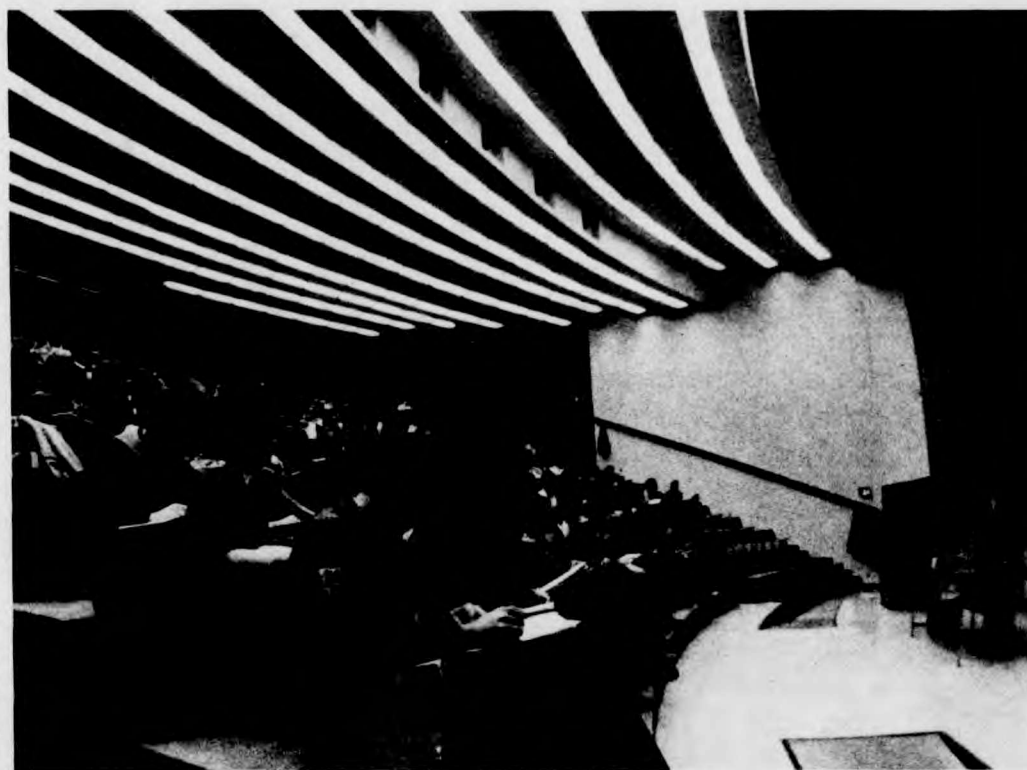
(ii) Ridpath was rated as the best lecturer in the course (one of the other lecturers, who is being kept on the staff, received a very bad rating);

(iii) in his tutorial sessions, Ridpath received an evaluation of excellent in more than 50 percent of the criteria suggested and good in another 20 percent, giving him a total rating of 70 percent good to excellent (no other tutorial representative received more than 35 percent excellent, plus another 15 percent to 20 percent good).

The only conclusion that can be drawn from this disgraceful attitude on the part of the Soc. Sci. is that there are other motives or criteria for these decisions which are being withheld. It is obvious that student opinion has not been taken into consideration in this matter.

This kind of injustice is disgusting in any field of activity and is inexcusable from an institution of higher learning which claims to be a hallmark of knowledge and truth. York is definitely defeating its purposes by dropping Soc. Sci. 175 from the curriculum (and by not keeping Ridpath on the Soc. Sci. staff). We hope that this letter may serve to enlighten other students of the problem and will encourage effective action in regard to the issue.

Susan Heyes  
Natalie Orenzuk  
Brenda Engelhardt  
Soc. Sci. 175



Professor David Shugarman's Soc. Sci. 175 class was cut short 20 minutes on Tuesday so that Professor J. Hutcheson

could explain why the course was being dropped. Photo by Lerrick Starr

## Upset over last week's CYSF edit

I am writing in regard to the statement in your editorial of March 16, 1972, page 6, "The five CYSF members — Michael Fletcher, John MacCallum, Bev Fink, Neil Sinclair and Dennis Lee had already made up their minds before the meeting had begun. They wanted no new election. They wanted no United Left Slate heading the CYSF".

This is simply untrue. First of all, I voted for the United Left Slate's Bryan Belfont in the election. I wanted him to win. Your statement "They wanted no United Left Slate heading the CYSF" is therefore not only ludicrous but unresearched (thanks for asking me).

I voted for NO new election for a variety of reasons. First there are no election rules (or no one seems able to find them) so how are there irregularities? Don't irregularities arise out of regularities? Second, there was as much bullshit in last year's election as this year's, the only difference is that this present year's was more blatant.

But these are not the major reasons for my voting to veto a new election. I did not feel we had time in this academic year for a new election. Granted we could have put CYSF into a receivership (into the hands of the colleges) for the summer. Considering the fact that I am in favor of a central government with a faculty system, I could not give the colleges added power.

Also I felt that if there was a new election, Stong and College G would pull out. Calumet is already out. This would make a totally College Complex One, CYSF. I had known when I voted for Belfont that his anti-college attitude would probably result in a few colleges withdrawing. The question now became one of how many colleges could withdraw before CYSF would collapse. After working for CYSF for an entire year, I could not turn around now and crucify it, either at the hands of the colleges or by withdrawals. So, Andy Michalski, your editorial was up to its usual standard of audacity. I phoned you after I saw your article to complain. You told me it was on your editorial page and there was nothing I could do short of sending a letter. I don't care what page it was on and I don't particularly want to sue you (even if I could).

The damage is done. It would appear to me that no matter where in the paper an item appears that it is up to Excalibur to print as near to the truth as possible. If not, what does this campus need you for? There are enough gossip and scandal sheets in the world already.

Beverly Fink

## And some more election irregularities

I saw the following election irregularities:

- (1) An unlocked ballot box at Stong.
- (2) Balloting took place in beer lunch, on Thursday.

(3) John Theobald was present at poll and watched each voter .... I call this indirect pressure.

(3) Unlocked ballot box opened, to facilitate entering of ballots.

(4) Polling employee is alleged good friend of Theobald.

(5) No attempt made to determine validity of College affiliation.

(6) Very poor poll supervision.

I found the way this election was run very unsatisfactory.

Dave Boyer,  
Stong.

## Would the silkscreen thief return the goods?

This is my plea to the person who removed my work, about 15 poster-sized, silkscreen prints of three dancing figures and some other prints that a friend of mine did, that were mine also, from the room S167 in Ross where I was working on them. I would appreciate very much if you would return the prints, my prints and the prints of Toller's that were with mine.

To you those prints mean nothing, an attractive design or a fast buck, if you are that type; but to me those prints mean everything. You obviously are not an artist. You would have never taken my work if you were. You would have understood the great attachment an artist has for anything he creates. You would have seen the great amount of work and care I put into printing them and realized how much they meant to me.

I developed them from a mere sketch, carefully prepared the screen, laboriously worked on printing them, putting up with the frustrations of the printing process, experimenting, changing, altering, always striving to attain the desired effect that I had in the back of my mind, waiting painfully and patiently to see it come out on paper.

After an average five to six hours printing session on them, I would trudge home physically and totally exhausted. Finally after over a month of working on them, I finished them March 14 and discovered them gone on Thursday.

It was nice of you to wait until I had finished them before you took them. It makes it only harder for me to bear. I had a brief chance to see my efforts completed; to realize my mistakes and start developing ideas for improvement on certain prints; to be relieved that finally all my hard work on them was at an end for a time, until I started again to develop a certain print further; to be pleased that my inspirations worked out to meet my hopes and to be optimistic for the prints that had failed; to be proud and happy with my work and be able to say, "Here, this is what I can do".

By taking those prints, you have taken all this away from me. I am left with absolutely nothing. I'm depressed as hell about it too. I have nothing to show for all those hours of work and frustration. I have nothing to show to my art professors as work for this term,

consequently I will have no studio art mark. Studio art is my major. If anything, those prints are priceless for the worth of that mark.

I have neither the time, nor the money, nor the heart to do it all over again. Please, if you have any sense of humanity in you, please put those prints back from where they were taken. I beg you to return them. I ask no more and add this one warning: if the prints aren't returned by the Friday after this publication appears, I will consider them stolen and proceed to take serious action.

Rhonda Svarick  
Fine Arts.

## Ukrainian students want language taught here

York students have become involved in introducing Ukrainian language courses into the language and linguistics department. A petition of 54 signatures was presented to the faculty of arts dean, John Saywell. This petition expressed the desire of York students to establish and enrol in a Ukrainian language course in the next academic year 72-73.

Presently there are about 80,000 Canadians of Ukrainian descent in the Toronto area and surrounding suburbs. Many of these young people arrive at York only to discover that Ukrainian language courses are not offered. Recently action has been taken in several Toronto highschools to implement Ukrainian language studies. The result has been that four Toronto highschools will commence teaching Ukrainian this coming fall. York students have recognized this need for Ukrainian language in the curriculum. The Ukrainian Canadian Association of York have sought student and faculty support and produced a petition of 250 names endorsing their support on this request.

The principle of this issue lies with the manner and effectiveness the administration exhibits in handling such a matter. This issue pertains to the question of to what extent York administration is receptive to student requests. As yet it is not known for sure whether the Ukrainian language courses will be passed. The onus rests with Saywell to meet the requests of the student body.

Natalie Orenzuk,  
UCSA Rep.

## Why didn't gov't keep promises on airport site

Among the many issues and questions raised by the March 2 announcement of the Pickering site for Toronto's second international airport, one of the most important is that of the way the decision was arrived at. The choice of the Pickering site came as a surprise to everyone.

After assurances from government that there would be consultation with citizens of any proposed site before the final decision was made, the decision was announced suddenly, from behind closed doors, and without any gesture toward keeping the promises that had been made. This leads to a

number of serious questions. Why were those promises not kept? Why has there been no public discussion of various alternative sites? Why was Pickering, an area of excellent farmland, cohesive communities and historic buildings, chosen over all other sites?

There are more questions raised by this rather strange way of doing things. Does Toronto really need another airport at all? If so, where are the reasons? Again, no answer from government (although since the public uproar in the Pickering area, federal transport minister Don Jamieson has promised to give details for the reason behind this choice). Where is the projected increase in air traffic to come from? Isn't it reasonable to suppose that it will indeed increase if a whole new airport is built? What about alternative modes of transport, high-speed trains, for instance, for the Toronto-Montreal run that comprises a large proportion of the flights leaving Malton?

And what will happen to Montreal's new second-largest-in-the-world airport, St. Scholastique, if this one is built? If St. Scholastique is already going ahead, why does Canada need yet another international airport of a size equal to that new being built in Montreal?

There are more questions about the unexplained workings of government on this issue. If, according to the Toronto-centered Region plan, the Pickering area was zoned agricultural, why is an airport being put there? Why is the plan being reversed to include not only an airport but a new town, to be called Cedarwood, of 200,000 for which an additional 25,000 acres are to be expropriated? What will happen to the greenbelt which is supposed to be kept between Steeles Ave. and Highway 7, when the connecting line between Malton and Pickering airports is built? What about other access routes which will have to be built to the new town and airport?

In view of these rather important questions, to which there is no satisfactory answer, and in view of the widespread resistance to the new airport among citizens in Pickering and elsewhere, a citizens' group called People or Planes has been formed, with headquarters near Brougham. They are trying to get the plan stopped, at least until these and other questions have been answered.

One of the most effective means we have of letting our opinions be known to government is to write letters and lots of them. The Pickering group is trying to get as many people as possible to write letters, especially letters to MP's and MPP's, with questions such as those above. Representatives are required to answer such questions. Below is a list of people to whom to write.

A group of students in Environmental Studies is interested in this issue and has been in contact with the "People or Planes" group. For more information or discussion, call Tim Lash (635-3150) or Howard Baker (635-3160). We need all the help we can get. In the meantime, write letters!

Ilze Jaunzemis  
Environmental Studies.