

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. 5 p.m.



If Versafood can't cope it should leave business

It is apparently disappointing that with the "rip-off" system operating this year, the university food service is going to have a deficit on the order of \$150,000. Much has been said recently about Versafood and I need not comment further.

Suffice to say that if Versafood cannot make ends meet under the present system, it might as well stay out of business altogether. Operating under a monopoly on the York campus, with a guaranteed level of business (through the script resident students are forced to purchase) and with prices comparable to commercial restaurants, Versafood would certainly have a difficult task convincing the York community how a loss of this magnitude could occur under such favourable circumstances.

I can only agree with Bethune Master Ioan Davies that our present contract with Versafood works much to the advantage of Versafood. It amounts to this: Versafood is given a contract to operate the food service on campus, with a guaranteed margin of profit. Whereas an ordinary business venture involves a certain degree of risk, this does not worry Versafood at all.

Despite the quality of food and service it may provide, Versafood is here to stay and it is here to reap a sizeable profit. Perhaps only by replacing Norman Crandles with a less pro-Versafood administrator can we hope to have better food at less cost.

It is just scandalous to note that some resident students are offering up to 50 per cent discounts for their scrip, and others are trying hard to spend all that is left before the value dwindles into mere paper.

PATRICK Y. MO
Founders College

There is hope yet, borrowers return furniture

Thanks for your little note (Jan. 10) regarding the missing furniture in the Graduate Student Association lounge. The tie-in with the vandals on campus was inspired. It seems that borrowers do not wish to be grouped with that breed. Why? Because we are now missing only:

- 2 sofas
- 2 armchairs
- 3 coffee tables
- 5 corner tables
- 2 benches

the stereo and the drapes.

The total dollar amount missing is now only \$8,715.15.

So the ideals of the university haven't really crumbled into dust. There is hope yet.

By the way, we do have the stereo cabinet.

P.J. SELECKY
President,
G.S.A.

Atkinson not a villain, cartoon is irresponsible

I object to your cartoon by Peter Hsu in last week's issue depicting Atkinson College as the heavy in the space squeeze affecting Calumet.

In effect, there is no real villain in this matter. It's merely a reflection of the current fiscal situation and the fact that Atkinson's student enrolment is already greater than the rest of York combined and is still growing.

Calumet and Atkinson have always enjoyed a close working relationship. Calumet owes its very existence in no small way to the generosity of the Atkinson community. Both of these

colleges are working together to solve their problems. They are not on opposite sides.

Excalibur's editorial cartoon was particularly irresponsible as it threatens the college system at York by driving a wedge between friends. I know the relationship between Atkinson and Calumet will not be affected by Excalibur's blunder.

CHRIS GATES

YUSA has its growing pains

I was, until recently, under the impression Excalibur was in sympathy with support staff at York University, in their attempts to gain recognition and an equitable wage settlement.

However, the last few issues of Excalibur make it obvious that sensationalism takes priority over sense in your reporting of recent events.

Most of us are aware that the staff association is having growing pains, but this is not such an unhealthy syndrome as you would have us believe. The fact that YUSA has grown from 200 to 700 in one year is very healthy. The fact that general meetings attract at least 300 members is healthy. The fact that they do not all agree is also healthy. The fact that we have the largest slate of candidates for the executive in our history is very healthy.

It is to be hoped that our election will produce an executive representative of all the differing points of view of staff members so that opposing views can be discussed in executive meetings, and not take up the very limited time available for general meetings.

It is also to be hoped that Excalibur will raise itself from its present rut and try to assist the support staff rather than presenting the administration of York with more opportunities to use our differences as an excuse for ending discussion of our grievances.

PAT O'NEILL

U of T code of behaviour is no problem for York

I would like to comment briefly on last week's news story about the Feb. 4 meeting of the Council of the York Student Federation ("CYSF condemns U of T code").

While it is true that I said the proposed Code of Behaviour of the University of Toronto "is not the problem of York University," I made this remark in the course of a prolonged debate on a number of off-campus issues, while the council was faced with a very long agenda which included more pressing internal business.

My main objection to voting on the motion to condemn the U of T code, as I stated at the meeting, was that no-one on the council had read the code. A summary of the code was not even available at the meeting. Your reporter also failed to mention that I proposed an alternative motion (which was defeated) to deplore the imposition of any code of behaviour without the full participation of students.

It was reported that I refused comment when asked by Colan Inglis to reveal the number of courses I am taking this year. I replied (with your reporter sitting only five seats away) that is was none of the council's business. The inanity of Mr. Inglis' subsequent comment would have been obvious if your reporter had identified the list of so-called "outside committees and projects" in which I am involved.

The list consists of the university senate, the Faculty of Arts council, the department of history council, the Green Bush Inn board (and various committees of these bodies). My participation on these "outside" bodies is an essential aspect of the CYSF president's job.

It is too bad (for Excalibur readers) that the desire of a few reporters to push a particular viewpoint interferes with their ability to write a balanced news story.

MICHAEL MOURITSEN

Professor says he didn't say what we said he said

I was interviewed by one of your journalists about the situation in Chile. It appeared in the Jan. 17 edition of Excalibur, page 8.

In the article, some of my statements were misinterpreted and there also appeared things that I did not say.

1) The PU knew that a coup was being prepared by the right and it counted on an important section of the army, loyal to Allende, to defend the Constitutional government, but Pinochet's betrayal disorganized the loyal officers and soldiers. In Santiago alone, 1,200 loyal militars were killed without mercy, Sept. 11. The loyal military in defending Allende, were defending democracy in the country; they were acting according to the 1833 Constitution.

2) I did not ask for a position for Luis Corvalan who has never been a university person. So I did not ask the Canadian government to guarantee a position for him at a Canadian university to put pressure on the junta. And I did not produce any statement in connection with the Canadian government other than saying that the

refugees are very grateful for the opportunity we have had to come to Canada, and that we would appreciate it very much if the government kept the doors of the embassy open.

I told the journalist when he asked me whether Prof. Luis Vitale was in prison or not that I did not know. It is a bit irresponsible to have mentioned his name because if he is not in prison (and neither the journalist nor myself are sure of that) then mentioning his name outside of Chile could bring problems for him in the country.

Now, I did ask that positions be sought for university people from my country, especially for those who have arrived recently.

3) I said in the interview that the actions of the left would lead to a "general insurrection" because 60 per cent of the population are already against fascism. The terrible economic, political and social conditions will become increasingly worse up to the point when a vast majority of the people will revolt including military men.

Now it could happen that the insurrection takes the "armed" form, depending on the fascist resistance. There was a similar situation in Chile in 1931, but general Ibanez (elected president in 1927) did not resist in front of the strong insurrection and he ran away from the country.

Professor CLAUDIO DURAN.



Cock & Bull pub can join Bethune a reader says

We may infer from his letter to your paper last week that the Master of Bethune, Ioan Davies, does not intend to live like a "puritan hermit".

On the other hand the twelve Founders who contributed last week's "OPINION" column would clearly like to inject an element of puritanism into the Cock and Bull.

They say, rather wittingly, "the reason why The Cock and Bull does not attract many women students (and even many men are put off) is because it is the nearest thing to a bunny club on campus. Only girls with the right kind of looks get jobs there and the very name, Cock and Bull, gives a pretty accurate idea of its atmosphere."

Doubtless, the Cock and Bull people are a thoroughly unsaintly outfit, but the reader may surmise that the lady signatories feel that they themselves do not have the "right kind" of looks and that the male signatories are not getting the Bunnies.

Perhaps these grievances would be resolved if the Cock and Bull were to move its operation to Bethune College where it might also be less of a square

JAMES LAIDLAW

Staff meeting

Room 111,
Central Square

4 p.m.

Librarians complain of misrepresentation ask reporter not to throw around figures

We are writing to protest the recent article concerning library staff (Excalibur, Jan. 17). It was very poorly researched and misrepresented the facts.

Mr. Forman, reporter, makes charges of "administrative top heaviness and at the same time seems to equate this with a supposed superfluity of professional librarians. There are two major weaknesses in his claim.

Firstly, in the library system, the word "administration" is not synonymous with "librarians"; very few professional librarians in fact hold administrative positions. Further, there are some librarians who do not hold supervisory positions, while many non-librarians do.

Secondly, the proportion of professional librarians to support staff is not out of line with corresponding proportions in other Canadian academic libraries. The Canadian Association of College and University Libraries has carried out a salary and budget survey in which they gave the numbers of librarians and support staff in Canadian academic libraries as of July 1971. We quote, below, figures for the six libraries whose staff size is most similar to that of York, plus the University of Toronto. With the exception of the U of T we have included all universities whose total library staff size is between 200 and 330.

University	Total library staff	% of professional librarians of total library staff
Ottawa	208	28.8
Montreal	265	28.6
University of Toronto	619	25.6
Western Ontario	324	23.7
Laval	271	23.6
York	262	20.9
Waterloo	1211	19.4
Calgary	231	18.1

The other question raised by Mr. Forman was the "highly uneven distribution of professional staff in some departments." He seems to feel this is evidence of mismanagement. This claim would be more acceptable if Mr. Forman had considered the varying functions of each department. Different departments have very different functions and very enormously in their need for professional librarians.

We are asking Mr. Forman not to throw around figures with such total disregard of their context, and with such ignorance of the job functions of the people who staff this library.

JANET HALL - Librarian,
Cataloguing Department
VIVIENNE MONTY - Librarian,
Government Documents Department