

Editorial

Existere fiasco met with puzzling indifference

"York deserves a literary magazine, since we have one of the largest Creative Writing programmes in the east," said Matthew Corrigan, chairperson of the Creative Writing department. We agree. But actions being louder than words, no such literary publication has surfaced since last January. Not even *Existere*, which for the past seven years has been York's "literary anthology."

Why former *Existere* editor Peter Alexander suddenly "disappeared" from campus last spring, manuscripts in tow, and never returned with his promised second issue, remains a mystery. Yet it is a mystery which neither Vanier College's Master, student council, nor Board of Publications is interested in solving.

Perhaps, months after the fact, the question should be re-phrased. *How* did Alexander get away with such a stunt without anyone caring to notice?

The Vanier council "assumed that (*Existere*) was at the printers." The Board of Publications "assumed that the students were acting responsibly." Meanwhile, the college Master and her assistant knew nothing about the situation, having "forgotten about *Existere*."

If this were an isolated example, then maybe we too could "forget" about *Existere* and quietly "assume" that such irresponsibility will not recur. But unfortunately, this is not the first time a York literary journal has been mismanaged and ignored.

Last year York played host to a new "definitive campus fine arts magazine"—*Fuck Poetry*. After donating \$550 worth of student money to the cause, the Council of the York Student Federation and Office of Student Affairs were thoroughly embarrassed by the outcome and halted its distribution.

In 1984, *Existere* editor Chris Keep also promised several issues of the publication. When only one appeared, again in second term, hardly a whisper of complaint was heard.

Yet Keep at least had the integrity to return to York and help edit his successor's issue. Perhaps it was Keep's precedent, coupled with Vanier's apathetic response, which prompted Alexander to feel he could jump ship and get away with it.

If Vanier College constituents do not feel directly responsible for their editor's actions, then why do they continue to fund such a project? To be supporters in name only? What about the students who have submitted manuscripts and are likely still awaiting responses?

York *does* have one of the largest Creative Writing programmes in eastern Canada, fostering many talented authors. And it *does* deserve a "first class literary magazine." But who, by now, would have the incentive to carry it through?



Letters

Author clarifies results of study

Editor:

I do not want to leave the impression, as was left in the *Excalibur* of September 25th, that students from Hong Kong are undergoing so much stress that it causes them psychological damage.

In the process of studying what factors aided their adaptation, I discovered that these students from Hong Kong admitted having stressful symptoms as indicated on a stress scale, such as restlessness, upset stomach, lack of motivation, worrying, etc. These are normal symptoms for anyone who is trying to succeed in an educational environment in an extremely different culture.

This stress is exacerbated by a pressure to succeed imposed by their relatives and parents as well as their own cultural belief in the importance of education. Their exposure to our culture can be a disorienting experience caused by language barriers, a different educational system, different humour, unusual intimacy between men and women, parental treatment of children, even different recreation and leisure activities.

What is important to realize about these students is that, despite this stress, most are able to put it aside and concentrate on their school work and do well.

What I did find in my study is that their adaptation is aided by length of time, lack of perceived discrimination, and social support, both from their own co-nationals and Canadians. What we must do is make students from Hong Kong and other places feel welcome.

Dr. Kathryn Mickle

Security for both men and women

Editor:

I find it very shocking that after an attempted sexual assault on a woman and the mugging of a young man recently, that the resulting rally organized by the Women's Centre was protesting for the safety of women only on campus.

There is enough segregation on this campus without polarizing the sexes. Men really aren't any safer on campus than the women are, in spite of the myth that they can "take care of themselves." How tough can one be when one's arms are pinned back with a knife held to their throat?

The University should spare no

expense in making this campus safe, meaning security people should always be visible at night, burnt out lightbulbs on pathways leading to parking lots replaced, even surveillance by the police. Two attacks in one week is too many. Men's and women's rights against unwarranted attacks should prevail.

—Deirdre Morrison

Bricker misses Centre's goals

Editor,

Cal Bricker's letter reacting to an article about the York Women's Centre indicated a clear incomprehension of the issues the article was dealing with and of the purpose of a women's centre. Bricker asks, "Is it the case that environment at York University prevents women... from speaking their mind?" No it doesn't, but the Women's Centre is definitely not a place for debate style discussions. It has a totally different focus.

The fact that a woman was indecently assaulted on campus recently, reminds me that in spite of the equality I desire between men and women, right now there are some fundamental differences in the way that we must live our lives. I know that it is impossible for me to imagine what it would be like to have to live with the fear of being raped. Simply the fact that we, men, are the rapists can make us threatening. There are many other examples of how our lives differ. Women need a place to talk about the problems that we, men, can't understand.

Mr. Bricker also asks: "Am I to understand that the 'environment' at York harbours a large number of males who systematically engage in 'harassment and sexism against women' to the extent that women require a safe haven to interact?" The unfortunate answer to this question is yes. York is obviously a part of the larger society we live in and there is no doubt in my mind that it is quite sexist. The fear of being raped is the ultimate harassment, and there many more subtle but very demoralizing and degrading ways that women are harassed.

Mr. Bricker also comments that "articulating policies that serve to separate the sexes and breed misunderstanding and resentment" does a disservice to the York community. The process that will lead us away from a society whose fundamental classification is by sex, is long and complicated. A critical part of that process is encouraging the sex whose lives, and hence problems, have been

systematically put down and devalued, to talk with each other and discover that many women have similar problems with our society. This segregation is not an end but I know it can be a bit threatening without some understanding of the overall situation.

I would ask Mr. Bricker to try to be subjective on the road to being objective by imagining himself in a woman's position. Just watch and listen for a while. He may find that their is at least one more world out there than he imagined.

Don Sinclair

Excal puppet of Tory masters!

Editor:

Democracy, fair play, being unbiased? Are these the foundations of *Excalibur*?

In the last issue of *Excalibur* (Oct. 2, 1986), somewhere in amongst the clutter of advertisements, donning the title "NEWS cont'd," I vaguely recall an article about John Turner's visit to York University—I think! Considering the overall success of his visit (Moot Court was filled to capacity), I find the coverage appalling.

If my memory is correct, I do remember, some two weeks earlier, a front page article covering the visit of Mr. Peter Lougheed to York University when he spoke to a select two political science classes. Do I smell PCism in the air? Mr. Lougheed did not even come to speak to the York University public, but rather only to TWO specific political science classes, whereas John Turner filled Moot Court purely out of public interest.

Aside from this issue of possible favouritism, let's look at the front page of the October 2, 1986 issue; maybe there is justification for the lack of proper exposure. Let me see—three fish in party hats celebrating *Excalibur*'s 20th anniversary? "Globe trotting Chancellor retires" (a definite must), and "Computerized voice to greet off-campus push-button callers" (the title of the article would have given more space to John Turner than what he received on page 3. Obviously *Excalibur* seems to want to fashion itself after the explosive *Sun*).

I am led to wonder what sort of coverage Prime Minister Brian Mulroney would receive should he show up at York University one day, but for a haircut. Front page coverage? Surely you jest?!

—Cheryl Peteherych

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EDITORIAL: 736-5239
ADVERTISING: 736-5238
TYPESETTING: 736-5240

MAILING ADDRESS:
Room 111, Central Square
York University
4700 Keele Street
Downsview M3J 1P3

