

Editorial

YUFA voters should hear both sides of strike aftermath

Following the York University Faculty Association strike last October the YUFA executive issued a newsletter containing feedback from members regarding the strike. Aside from a few modest criticisms, most of the material eulogized the work of the executive. As an afterthought five pages of snapshots of YUFA members on the picket lines were added. The effect of the newsletter, called "We Have Come Through" was to cast a nostalgic light on the strike as some kind of milestone union victory.

In fact, there was such poor support for the executive's decision to strike that the picket marshalls advised the executive to settle the strike because of poor morale on the picket lines.

With the YUFA elections coming up next week, YUFA members should also have an opportunity to hear some serious criticisms of the handling of the strike, contained in a recent correspondence between York economics professor Louis Lefebvre and YUFA Chair Hollis Rinehart. In a letter dated January 23, Rinehart agreed to publish the correspondence in the next YUFA newsletter. But with the YUFA elections looming, and the correspondence still not published we will give Lefebvre the opportunity to have some of his criticisms aired here.

- In the correspondence Lefebvre charges that when YUFA members voted to empower the executive to call a strike, it was with the understanding that the authorization "was requested explicitly for tactical reasons, as a bargaining chip." The wording of the executive's slogan—"vote YES for a settlement"—led members to believe they were voting for a settlement, not a strike Lefebvre says.
- Lefebvre criticises Rinehart for not giving enough notice of the meeting when the strike vote was held.
- Referring to a January 23 letter in the correspondence, Lefebvre thanks Rinehart for conceding that the strike was not undertaken for material gain but was motivated by anger and frustration. In that letter Rinehart wrote: "the strike was not undertaken for material gain...as several observers have pointed out, the strike was a response to many years of frustration with the negotiating process..."
- Lefebvre writes: "Had the administration chosen to take a strong stand in the last strike—and there was a very real risk that they would—YUFA could have suffered a debilitating defeat."

We would also like to note that Gottfried Paasche, who is running against Rinehart for the YUFA Chair, was one of two members of the executive who did not support last October's strike.

THE NEW ADVENTURES OF JAZZ ALMOND



Letters

Trivial disagreement from a Horseman

Editor: Re the article "York Poets diverge in *Antifaces*," *Excalibur*, January 30.

Though I am grateful for the attention Paulette Peirol has given the poems I read at the event described in her article, I would like to mention one trivial disagreement.

The "fewest amount of words"?
Ugh.
Did I not say "the fewest words" or, at the very most (but also un-catachrestically), "the smallest amount of words"? Well, if I didn't, I should have.

Rafael Barreto-Rivera

Icecube 'a success' claims organizer

Editor:
I think R.D. Macpherson clearly missed the spirit and intention of the 'Icecube' in last week's opinion. I have the feeling he may have only referring to the visual arts show in the IDA gallery and did not see the jazz, film show, dance lab, etc. that also were part of the festival organized and performed by more than "a handful of visual arts students." As whole, I think the 'Icecube' was a success, considering it was the first time a festival had been held in Fine Arts and judging by the response of the students, faculty and staff who attended. Macpherson seems to judge the 'Icecube' in relation to the OCA 'open house,' which the 'Icecube' had no intention of imitating. To under take a festival of that magnitude would have been suicide for the organizers in the Creative Arts Board, considering that this is only our first year of operation and is based purely on student volunteers. I do support Macpherson's opinion that a showcase for Fine Arts should be organized and run in conjunction with an administrator.

As for the "pathologically inept Fine Arts Student government" while I agree it is not yet 100 percent efficient, the five associations that make up the CAB have also undertaken recital series, funding of art shows, dance lecture series and more

throughout the year, as well as sitting on department and faculty meetings. Instead of putting down the efforts of students that try and enhance University life, we should all try and find ways to enhance that life as well, by getting involved.

I find it a shame that York's Community newspaper had to rely on a badly researched opinion instead of covering the 'Icecube' itself. Hopefully next year things will have improved.

—Simon Jacobs

Jews For Jesus demand rights

Editor:
With regard to Ms. Sperlings article in the Feb. 13th *Excalibur* on Jews For Jesus, I think that the record needs to be clarified. A lot has been said about Jews For Jesus, but not by us.

Jews For Jesus is a group which believes that Jesus is the promised Messiah of Israel. We have come to York University in the same manner as we have at the University of Toronto and others to raise an issue for consideration: Who is Y'shua (the Hebrew name of Jesus)?

It is surprising that in light of the Rights and Responsibilities On Campus in the student handbook, such blatant intolerance has been permitted by the administration as shown by some members of the Jewish Student Federation against Jews For Jesus. This has even gone to the point of intimidating of some of the Christian students to withdraw their involvement.

Furthermore, because York University is a public campus, it is clearly a travesty of justice and a violation of constitutional rights that any group would have to be told they can not be on campus to express their religious beliefs, whether they have one person or one hundred thousand people. Truth is not determined by a majority vote. As such, a campus is a market place for the free exchange of ideas. If someone is not interested in listening, then the polite thing is to simply not engage in conversation. Why should a handful of students prevent the larger York community as a whole from considering such issues?

Look at what recently happened at the U of T with the ambassador from South

Africa. We live in a democracy where we place a high value on our constituted freedoms. Let us not loose sight of our fundamental human rights to talk with those who want to know more about the Jewish Messiah.

—Steve Cohen

President Ali: 'I did not jump the gun'

Editor:
While I rarely find time to engage in polemics in letters to the Editor, I find it necessary to address the comments "'Jumped the Gun' claiming CYSF representative of all." When CYSF funds clubs, carries out projects, helps students with complaints and appeals, speaks to other universities, speaks to the provincial government and addresses the administration, we certainly do not say that we only wish these benefits for students paying into CYSF only. We certainly do not deny Bethune, Calumet or Atkinson students access to Reel & Screen or inform the Minister that only certain York students should get more funding. Thus we do act in the interest of all constituencies, however thankless a task it is.

At the heart of the matter is the dissatisfaction and frustration felt by Bethune and other non-CYSF member students at not being able to participate in CYSF elections and the political process—a frustration expressed every year. This, I see, was not addressed.

There was no jumping the gun, but rather one must seek the truth from the facts. This *does* entail looking at the facts.

Reya Ali
President, CYSF

Reader detests 'veiled threats'

Editor:
I found Mr. Himbara's letter in the last edition of *Excalibur* both distressing and distasteful. While I support the anti-Apartheid movement in that I think that its objectives are just and appropriate given the history of race relations in South Africa,

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excalibur

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