

EXCALIBUR

Everything secret degenerates: nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity — Lord Acton

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Concentrate on issues this election

Student elections can be a drag. Like federal politics, they depend very much upon the candidates and the issues to draw the voters out on election day.

One of the greatest problems besetting the Council of the York Student Federation elections last year was the distinct lack of issues. The candidates themselves were the only interesting drawing card.

There was Ivan Zedel and Warren Clements who said "Screw us. Don't vote for us. Vote for yourselves now." It was the sort of campaign statement that was good for a laugh but certainly made you wonder just what the hell York student politics might be like if they ever were elected.

There was Robert Ashton and Steven Platts who ran on the platform that not everything was really right with York. Ashton had done a survey to prove that. And Platts felt he was the best because his "incognizance of things pecuniary would be one of the appurtenances upon which my incumbency would be built." There's nothing quite like a grand dose of confusion to know what you don't want.

The Young Socialists offered the only serious campaign yet were defeated on their student-faculty-staff control of the university. They fought on the issues that confront York today — the right to free education, women's liberation, guaranteed jobs and the de-Americanization of York. Just how CYSF was to guarantee jobs was never explained although it left the odor of gross patronage to come.

The Young Socialists came second to the Mike Fletcher and Dianne Moore combination which ran on a platform of free phones and more social events. They also ran on a campaign of a joint "treasury board" with the college councils and greater cooperation with them. Their promises have been partially delivered but that's not the point.

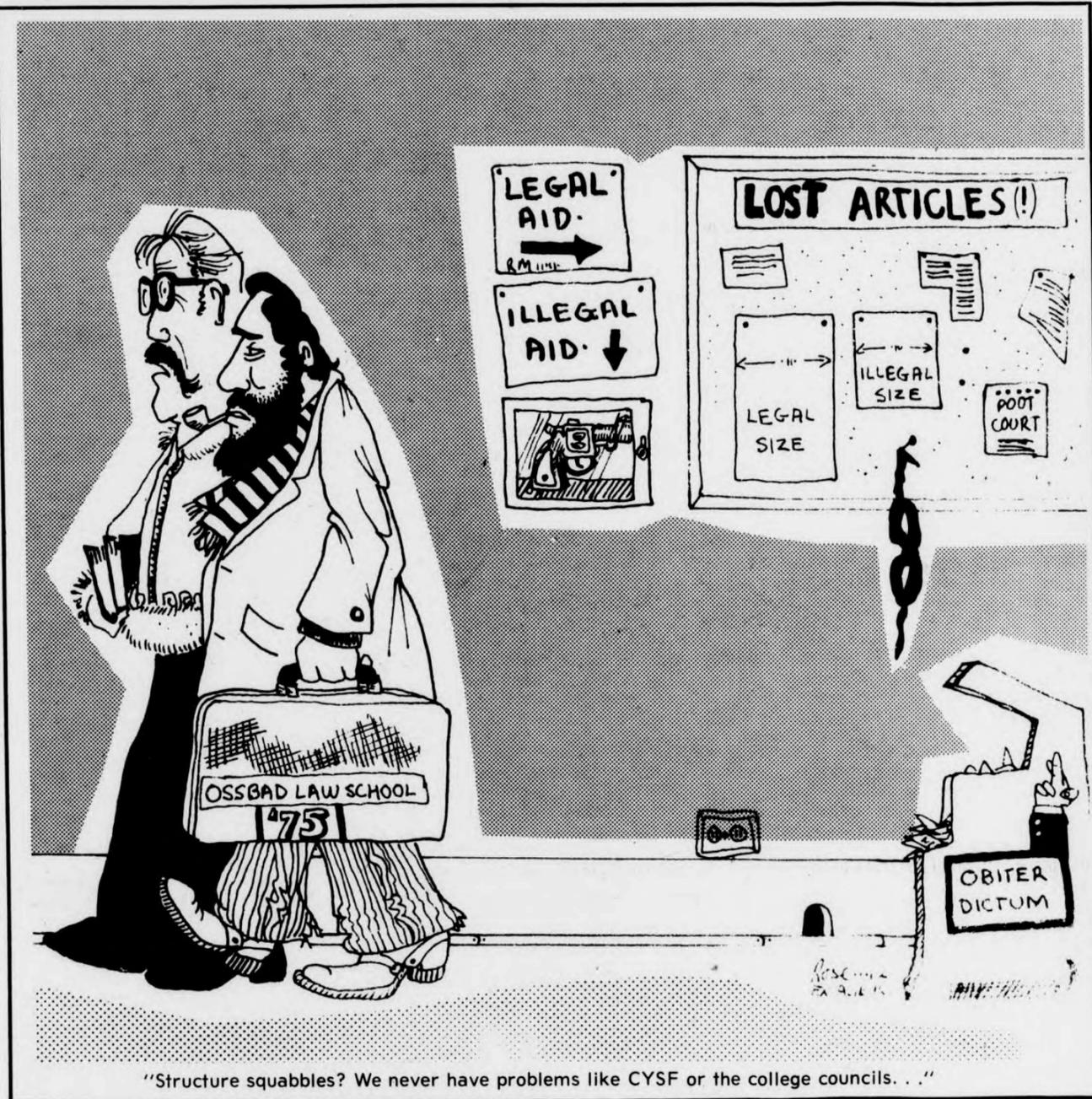
The election itself failed to revolve around the issues that confronted York students. There was no polarization of candidates or issues that would leave the voter with any clear choice in the direction CYSF would take.

There is a possibility that might change this March. A polarization of issues will bring about a livelier campaign — and it's possible if the left decides to unite itself under a common platform. Those who profess themselves to be "liberals" should do the same.

Instead of having the usual mishmash of political diatribe that wafts about the air each year, we might actually have a simplified campaign where candidates can be recognized for the issues they stand on instead of their personal physical attributes or personality traits.

The United Left as proposed by the Young Socialists offers a great deal. But it will be senseless and even quite farcical if this one group decides to dominate the coalition. Bluntly put, their appeal, and that of any left leaning liberal to York students will depend largely upon the sort of cooperation the YS can generate rather than any sort of domination.

What we need right now is a campaign based on issues. There are several shaping up already: military research, abortion, the York University Newspaper Act and a possible student union building. The last two include fee increases.



"Structure squabbles? We never have problems like CYSF or the college councils. . ."

Reading Week for a mental breather

That great institution of universities is just ahead — Reading Week or rather Ski Week has finally arrived for the essay-weary and class-worn student and faculty.

It's a time when most get their chance to figure out just what they're doing at university and to formalize why they really don't think it's all that bad — or good.

It's a time when most people make those great intentions about reading the umpteen books they need to pass that course or when the realistic minority realize they really haven't learned very much so far.

For most, it's a time of relaxation and a bit of reading.

Some people go home with a gnawing headache that after seven months of university they still haven't found that ethereal goal in life. The holy grail is still the impossible dream that guides most of us through dull platitudes of academic concrete.

Some of us go through the old family reunion routine with the strangers back home. The place is depressing in the raw February wind when your mother finally realizes you're not acting like a virgin anymore and she either boots you out for your lack of inhibitions or decides to try and reform you.

It's a time when most parents finally realize that dope never was the worrier and that alcohol is what they should have bothered themselves about. And it's always the time when you find your room's been taken over by your imperialistic kid brother out to stretch his elbows a little more.

For some of us, it's just another week to load up another vein or pop down another pill. For others, it's time to down another case of ale before the Yeomen go off to fight another good fight.

Reading Week, like any other well-meaning thing, bears little relationship to its name and yet it's just as well. Because if we haven't sorted out our lives just a little during the coming week, then the whole system is just going to mold us in every way we don't want it to.

Staffers,
 come to
 the
 party
 today
 at 2 pm,