

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. 4 p.m.

Excalibur should adopt 'neutral' attitude says Dunn

Last year Excalibur purported to be concerned at an increase in acts of violence on campus. Regretably, the manner in which it chose to deal with a matter which was of concern to the community as a whole was something less than objective. I had hoped that under new management a more responsible attitude would prevail this year. Unfortunately there is little evidence of this.

The university, in response to proposals from interested and concerned students has now agreed to fund student security patrols. Instead of welcoming this supplement to campus security or at the outset adopting a neutral attitude, Excalibur saw fit to question the usefulness of such patrols even before they had commenced operation, or their duties had been delineated. ("Who will patrol our patrolling York Students")

This was a disservice to the community which was the more unfortunate because Excalibur is the main means of communication on campus. Other universities in Ontario utilize students in support

of their regular security and the experiment at least deserves a fair trial without being faced with carping criticism at the outset. All members of the university, particularly students, are asked to support these patrols, their effectiveness will to a very large extent depend on the degree of co-operation they receive, as does the effectiveness of the police or other agencies engaged in similar activities.

I do find myself in agreement with Excalibur on one point,

namely that members of the community should report any criminal incidents which they see or become aware of, or the presence of suspicious characters in residences on university buildings.

The policy of this department has always been to communicate information verbally to Excalibur with the assumption that matters of interest to the community would be reported fully and fairly. The quoting of statements out of context and particularly the partial

reporting of interviews, with particular emphasis on those matters which provide material for critical editorial comment are however a real cause of concern. I find myself in agreement with the president of the CYSF and regret that until Excalibur demonstrates clearly a more responsible attitude the only communication from this office in future will be in writing.

C. G. Dunn
Director of Safety
and Security Services

York has some exclusive rights

In reading the letter from Deborah and Kenneth Colburn in the September 23, 1976 issue of Excalibur, I became concerned that there is a misunderstanding on the part of the writers as to the university's usage of the tennis centre.

The contract between the Canadian Lawn Tennis Association and York university states that the

university will have exclusive usage for the months of April, May, September and October while the Canadian Lawn Tennis Association has exclusive rights for the months of June, July and August.

With respect to indoor tennis facilities, the Canadian Lawn Tennis Association hopes to erect an air structure over one or more courts within the next four or five years. When this bubble is purchased, it will provide indoor tennis facilities from October through April each year.

The contract calls for the university to have the exclusive rights of the covered courts from 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday and the Canadian Lawn Tennis Association will have the use of the courts the rest of the time.

I hope this helps to clarify the agreement between the university and the Canadian Lawn Tennis Association.

Dave Smith
Co-ordinator of Administrative
Services
Department of Physical
Education and Athletics

—Open letter—

FASC suffers from decay and infancy

In the past few weeks there has been a concerted effort on campus to promote what most students perceive as a totally new organization at York. To some extent this label of infancy is not altogether unwarranted as the vast majority of the York community are only just now coming into contact with what is called the Faculty of Arts Student Caucus (F.A.S.C.). The work of a seemingly invisible group of people has produced yet another blanket poster campaign to add to our hallowed walls as well as buttons and advertisements that would rival some political campaigns. And to top it all off a convention has been called for September 30th in what seems to be the pièce de résistance in a very calculated endeavor. But there are numerous questions that have left more than a few bewildered bystanders wondering. What is this convention all about, but more importantly, what is this F.A.S.C., this Student Caucus, that has descended upon our unsuspecting lot?

To begin with, one must first be familiar with the basic structure of the university. Briefly, at the top we have a Board of Governors which more or less deals with the financial viability of this institution. Next in the hierarchical order is the Senate which is ultimately responsible for the academic policy of York University and is chaired by the President. The next elements to fit into this structure are the various councils which are charged with deciding the academic policies for each respective faculty.

It is at this point that the picture begins to sharpen in focus. With an enrolment of over 7000 students and a faculty membership of some 550 full and part-time professors the Faculty of Arts is by far the largest at this university. The Council of the Faculty of Arts is made up of all these faculty members as well as a 10% student membership. These fifty-five student councillors not only sit and vote on the Council but also the committees which carry on the day-to-day workload. Committees such as Academic Policy and Planning, Curriculum Development, Petitions, Grants Research and Scholarships, Tenure and Promotion, Faculty-Student Liaison, all deal with the major

policy issues that encompass the faculty.

INFORMALITY LED TO DECAY

Where then, one is bound to ask, does F.A.S.C. come in? The Student Caucus is simply that, a caucus of the student councillors on the Faculty of Arts Council. The reason so little has been heard about it during its six year life span is that generally it has been a totally informal body with only a chairperson to make some sort of attempt at organizing the students. As the story goes it was the general student unrest of the late 60's that prompted the resolution to adopt student membership. This unrest was more or less perceived as heading north from the ULS, and consequently York students were allowed to participate within the sphere of academic policy making somewhat prematurely in that they hadn't actually got around to asking for it. As a result of this, and the sheer size and diversity of the Faculty of Arts, much of the potential input has largely been unused or even forgotten as informality and disuetude have led to gradual decay. Last year with less than a third of its total membership fulfilled some student councillors were having to sit on two and sometimes three committees, while some committees were left with student vacancies.

A TALL ORDER

Last March, realising the sad state of affairs, F.A.S.C. elected and executive and gave it a mandate to construct a constitution and to conduct a publicity campaign in preparation for its annual elections in September. With some forty vacancies to fill, the job will not be an easy one. In the end it will be up to the Arts students of York University to decide whether or not the existence of F.A.S.C. shall remain as a viable entity. As the proposed new constitution states, the purpose of the Faculty of Arts Student Caucus is "to develop and maintain responsible student representation within the decision-making process of the Council of the Faculty of Arts. Also, to foster and encourage a closer relationship between students and Faculty members and the community at large". It is indeed a tall order that surely deserves support.

Alan Uren

parasites

starring oscar
tottenham, the maggot



A stitch in time may save society

By EVAN MORRIS

This year a new club has been formed at York — the Preventive Medicine Society. Originally organized by a group of students in the faculty of science, the Society now has members in the other faculties, as well as some campus workers.

Many of the club's programmes involve films or talks on subjects that affect our health directly, such as the safety and effectiveness of patent medicines, food additives, etc. Some members are interested in carrying out activities that could lead to immediate health benefits. One example is enforcing the rights of non-smokers on campus.

In addition to such short-term activities, the club also has some long range projects. Many decisions are currently being made which will determine the quality of the environment for many years.

These issues are being decided by government agencies, corporations, and experts of various kinds. There is much debate about the safety of nuclear reactors, and recently the benefits and hazards of genetic engineering has become a much publicized subject. In these cases even the experts can't agree on what the possible harmful effects will be.

Regardless of the actual level of risk involved, the decision to take that risk is presently in the hands of a small group of people. The Preventive Medicine Society feels that since it is ordinary people who will suffer if things go wrong, they must be the ones to decide whether the risk is acceptable. The society is holding a series of talks and discussions on these topics in order that members of the York community will have information on which to base such decisions.

OPINION

We are the losers

By CHERYL PRUITT

Last week's Excalibur reported that the York local of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, as well as the executive of YUSA, have decided to participate in the cross-country mobilization against wage controls initiated by the Canadian Labour Congress. Throughout Canada, schools and businesses will shut down as participants in the October 14th Day of Protest demand that the wage controls program of the Trudeau government be ended.

Through the restrictions imposed on hundreds of contracts, and the rollbacks of many more, wage controls have saved big business a sum estimated at \$200 million. On the other hand, the August report of the Anti-Inflation Board noted finding excess profits totalling only \$5.8 million. This is during a year that saw an annual increase in profits of 30 per cent for Bell Canada, 17 per cent for the Bank of Commerce, 30 per cent for Cadillac Fairview and other real estate developers, and 25 per cent for some of the major media corporations. Not one of these companies has had any form of price or profit rollback.

In its call for protest action in October, the Canadian Labour Congress made a special appeal to students for support and participation. Many student organizations, such as the National Union of Students (NUS), Ontario Federation of Students (OFS), and the Ryerson Student Council have voted to support the day of protest.

As students, we have been hard hit by the "anti-inflation" moves of the federal and provincial governments. Student unemployment reached nearly 20 per cent this summer, and those of us who did have jobs found our wages held down by the 8 per cent guidelines of the Anti-Inflation Board.

The other side of the anti-inflation program has been a massive cutback in education spending. The results of this have been tuition increases, cuts in student aid, price rises in supposedly low-cost student housing, and a massive fee hike for international students. As in the case of the wage controls, there is a winner and a loser. Big business receives millions of dollars in "incentive" handouts from the government.

We, on the other hand, are the losers. Hit with everything from fee increases to wage rollbacks, it is workers and students who must unite on October 14th to show our opposition to governments that put profits before human needs.

In addition, Grace Hartman, the president of CUPE will be speaking on labour's view of the wage controls program in Curtis Lecture Hall "L", October 7th at 3:00 pm.