

Excalibur

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

Excalibur founded in 1966, is the York University weekly and is independent politically. Opinions expressed are the writer's and those unsigned are the responsibility of the editor. Excalibur is a member of Canadian University Press and attempts to be an agent of social change. Printed at Newsweb, Excalibur is published by Excalibur Publications.

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Opinions on this page are those of the editors

What is a fair share of education costs ?

Not wanting to shirk its duty, the Council of Ontario Universities took upon itself the herculean task of answering the question, "What is a fair share of the education bill for students to pay?"

It comes up with no clear answer. This was expected. However, it does give an indication that a 65 per cent increase in fees, as was recommended by the Henderson report, could be too heavy a burden to place on the shoulders of students. It suggests 25 per cent instead.

For many students this will be a more palpable figure, especially after having been shaken by projections of \$1,000-plus fees for the past few months. However, it misses the point of the exercise.

True, the sub-committee members were working within a very strictly defined parameter, and were wary of the prevailing political currents regarding skyrocketing education costs. And within these confines, the members bend over backwards to avoid framing proposals that will be a disincentive to students coming from poor working class families.

On the all-loan student aid programme recommended by the Henderson report, the sub-committee states: "An all-loan plan could be acceptable if repayment was made contingent on future income and if loans could be forgiven for those whose income over a reasonable period of time did not reach a level where repayment is practical."

A fine recommendation, if it were not that the sub-committee sees itself from the outset as finding a reasonable tuition hike which would both be acceptable to students and appease the government.

But at issue here is not, if we can borrow a phrase, what students owe the government, but what the government owes the students. Every government must provide certain basic guarantees.

In an advanced, industrial society such as Ontario, it is not unreasonable for its citizens to ask for equal access to educational institutions. This cannot be achieved through increased tuitions.

We have never had equal access to a university education, but the government of Ontario should at least be striving to attain it, rather than drift further and further away from it.

Perhaps that's what the COU sub-committee report should have said. It might have reminded the government of its responsibility to its citizens.



On re - routing TTC

It has come to our attention that the best TTC route to the Yonge subway station, via Steeles Avenue, is not the most easily accessible route for York students. For one thing, the Steeles bus never even sets a wheel on the York campus.

Excalibur is more than willing to right this wrong by petitioning the TTC for a re-routing of the Steeles line into the campus. Come add your name to the petition by entering our plush newspaper offices, room 111 in Central Square, and asking, "Where do I sign?"

SPECIAL MEETING

of Excalibur staff

today 4 p.m.

room 111 Central square

Constitution vote

every one is asked to attend

Editor-in-chief
Managing editor
News editor
Entertainment editor
Sports editor
CUP editor
Photo and Graphics editor

Staff at large — Paul Stuart, Ira Micay, Steve Hain, Paul Kellogg, Warren Clements, C.T. Squassero, Ted Mumford, Shelley Rabinovitch, Frank Giorno, Gary Cook, Bill Gladstone, Paul Hayden, Debbie Pekilis, Michelina Trigliani, Maxine Kopel, Ian Mulgrew, Ross Freake, Doug Tindal, Brenda Weeks, Rich Spiegelman, David Saltmarsh, Theresa Johnson, Gord Graham, Michael Hollett, Gerry Corcoran, Dave Fuller, Betty Hutton, Kim Llewellyn, Jay Bell, Rex Bucali, Robert Kasher, Frank Lento, Risha Gotibowicz
Business and advertising manager

Julian Beltrame
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Peter Hsu

Olga Graham

The Thomas Curtis affair

In the dead of a January night, an aspiring student politician guides his late-model swivel chair along Niagara Boulevard toward Finch Avenue and home. Suddenly, from nowhere, a burly York security guard swoops down and grasps the aspiring student politician by the collar.

The chair was stolen. Call the police.

The aspiring student politician is immediately dumped into the bowels of that hell-hole on Gerrard St., the Don Jail — there to remain for God knows how long.

Quickly, quietly, a mantle of secrecy spreads itself over the incident — a mantle broken only here and there by a tipster or two who telephone Excalibur.

Curtis Thomas, who as late as last Thursday was confident of capturing the presidency in this year's CYSF elections, is probably feeling a trifle less confident today. But that is the least of his problems. An illegal immigrant, he faces deportation from Canada. And if Canada doesn't deport him, the United States will almost certainly attempt to have him extradited. In St. Louis, Missouri, there are two warrants outstanding for his arrest — one for theft; the other for armed robbery.

It appears that Thomas's life is in a state of decline. But if he is guilty of any of the charges against him, perhaps he deserves to be sitting in the Don today. Thomas has as much as admitted his guilt

to several students at York; he has developed a reputation, especially in fiscal matters, which is at best unsavoury. We are not about to defend him.

We wonder, however, about that mantle of secrecy. The staff-sergeant at Metro police 31 division (which includes the York campus) whom we spoke to on Tuesday refused to provide Excalibur with any information about Thomas's arrest. We managed to extract some skeletal information from the staff-sergeant on the central duty desk of the Metro police. But no one would tell us where Thomas was being held until, finally, we had a reporter pose as a relative of Thomas. Only then would an official at the Don Jail confirm that Thomas was in fact being held there.

Worst of all, however, was York director of safety and security George Dunn who, for two days, avoided our calls and refused to return them.

Does he have anything to hide? On Tuesday afternoon, an Excalibur reporter plopped himself into a chair in Dunn's outer office and refused to budge until Dunn, who was again not in, returned to pick up his coat and hat before heading home.

When Dunn did show up, he was flustered, evasive and tended, the reporter felt, to "protest too much".

Throughout the discussion,

Dunn tried to change the topic. He fiddled nervously with his pipe; he tore up rough drafts of letters on his desk and let the pieces flutter into the waste basket.

Curtis Thomas's arrest on Saturday morning followed by two days the publication in Excalibur of a story suggesting that Thomas might have a very shady past indeed. The timing of these two events seems to be stretching coincidence to the very limit. Yet Dunn maintains that they are just that. Coincidence.

George Dunn has not been playing straight. For example, when asked by a reporter how the Metro police could have learned of the charges against Thomas, Dunn spread his arms, shrugged his shoulders and said, "I'm out of touch. I don't know."

Are we to believe that George Dunn — a man with years of experience with Scotland Yard, a man who has maintained extremely close liaison with the police in Canada — does not know that the police could have discovered the charges against Thomas simply by running a computer check on him?

We don't believe it. Not yet. We want to know exactly what role the university played in bringing Curtis Thomas to justice. And if, as we think likely, the university conspired with the police and with the department of immigration, to nab Thomas, we want to know why it refuses to admit it.