

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.

News 667-3201

Advertising 667-3800

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the editors

There are some things that somehow survive and Christmas is one

In a flurry of hastily coughed-out essays, sweaty examinations, sagging eyelids and last-minute due-date extensions, the fall term at York draws to a close. And not a moment too soon.

No matter what anyone says, most of us always look forward to Christmas. All this fall, we've been immersed in academics, and boycotts and Henderson reports and leftist-rightist confrontations — and now seems like a good time to settle back and celebrate something: ourselves.

Christmas is like a mellow catharsis of the spirit. In Canada, we do it properly. Skiing or skating or romping in the snow all day. Drinks and laughter by a fire at night.

It has become an utter cliché to lament the commercialization of Christmas. It doesn't need saying anymore. We do lament it, of course. At the same time, we maintain that there are some things that no amount of commercialization can destroy. And Christmas is one of them.

As obscene as it may sound, even the Christmas advertising jingles have started to seem, well, nice. The General Electric ditty (as

reliable and almost as old as Santa Claus) has, in spite of ourselves, become a favourite.

We need a few common celebrations each year. It doesn't matter so much what we celebrate; the mere fact that we celebrate it together is reassuring.

It is with confusion, more than anything else, that we sip the dregs of 1975. It's been a confusing year. But, hell, it's been a confusing century and confusing millenium — that's the way things get done around here.

In spite of all that has gone wrong, is going wrong and may yet go wrong with mankind, there is one consolation. The planet has at least lasted long enough for you and me to take a crack at it.

That may not be much of a consolation, but then where would we be without it?

Now, our one-thousand-nine-hundred-seventy-fifth Christmas is upon us. And once again, a little feasting and a little cheer may be just what we need.

In a spirit of hope and affirmation, we at Excalibur wish everyone a merry and a memorable holiday.



ULC's image needs polishing — leftists are paying for their sins

"It wasn't that important an election," CYSF president Dale Ritch said Tuesday, still somewhat stunned by last Thursday's results.

And, on the surface, he is right. The election of two student representatives to the Board of Governors will make very little difference to York students. But last week's election was more than just an ordinary B. of G. by-election.

It was the first opportunity for York students to voice their views on the seven-month term of the ULC-run CYSF council. An overwhelming amount of students took that opportunity, and they left little doubt as to what they thought of the ULC.

Two out of every three voters were in perfect agreement; they didn't like the way the ULC had run its affairs. More to the point, they were hostile enough towards the ULC to turn out in droves to oppose them.

The ULC can console themselves with two things, judging from the by-election: students at York are now involved in campus politics (the B. of G. election drew almost as many voters as last year's heavily-publicized CYSF elections), and all is not lost

for the ULC.

While the ULC candidates were out-voted by a 2-1 margin, all five ULC-backed referenda questions passed easily. That shows that students still support many of the things the ULC stands for. What the students told the ULC last week was, "We like your policies, but we don't care for you."

Paul Kellogg, editor of the Founders Crow and a leading candidate to carry the ULC banner after Ritch leaves York, expressed it this way: "Students seemed to be voting on the candidates' image, not on their platforms."

If that is true, the ULC image needs some drastic polishing.

The ULC has been a vibrant, energetic and active influence on campus politics. As well, it has been a polarizing influence. Throughout the fall, its actions have divided the student body into two political factions: those who supported ULC policies and actions and those who opposed them.

For every friend the ULC made, however, it made two enemies.

The ULC should have been aware of this; it was not. The election results came as a complete surprise to the ULC which was eagerly awaiting a landslide victory.

One need only look to last spring for the root causes of the ULC's present situation. After his election, Ritch predicted the end of the political right as a force in campus politics. Future battles would be fought between differing factions of the left, Ritch told an Excalibur reporter.

He was also quoted as wondering: "How can people be opposed to all the good things we'll be doing next year?"

Because the coalition really believed that opposition had been eliminated as a serious threat to the ULC, it never really took seriously any criticism that may have been levelled at it. The coalition has adopted the annoying habit of labelling all opposing views as right-wing or reactionary.

Since most of the feedback the coalition has received has been from inside the ULC, its members could constantly be heard to boast of a wide base of support from the student body. In fact, the ULC has been working in a vacuum, much the same as had AnneScotton, the year before.

It was a vacuum that ULC members vowed to eliminate. They may be paying the price of their failure, now.



Excalibur
staff meeting today -- 2 p.m.
Room 111,
Central Square

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, Deidra Clayton, Jeffrey Morgan, Lorne Wasser, Michelina Trigiani, Maxine Kopel, Ian Mulgrew, Ross Freake, Doug Tindal, St. Clair, Barbara Beltrame, Brenda Weeks, Rich Spiegelman, David Saltmarsh, Theresa Johnson, Gord Graham, Michael Hollett, Gerry Corcoran, Dave Fuller, Betty Hutton, Edris Leslie, Rista Gotlibowicz
Business and advertising manager

Julian Beltrame
Oakland Ross
Anna Vaitiekunas
Agnes Kruchio
Myles Davis
Evan Leibovitch
Peter Hsu