

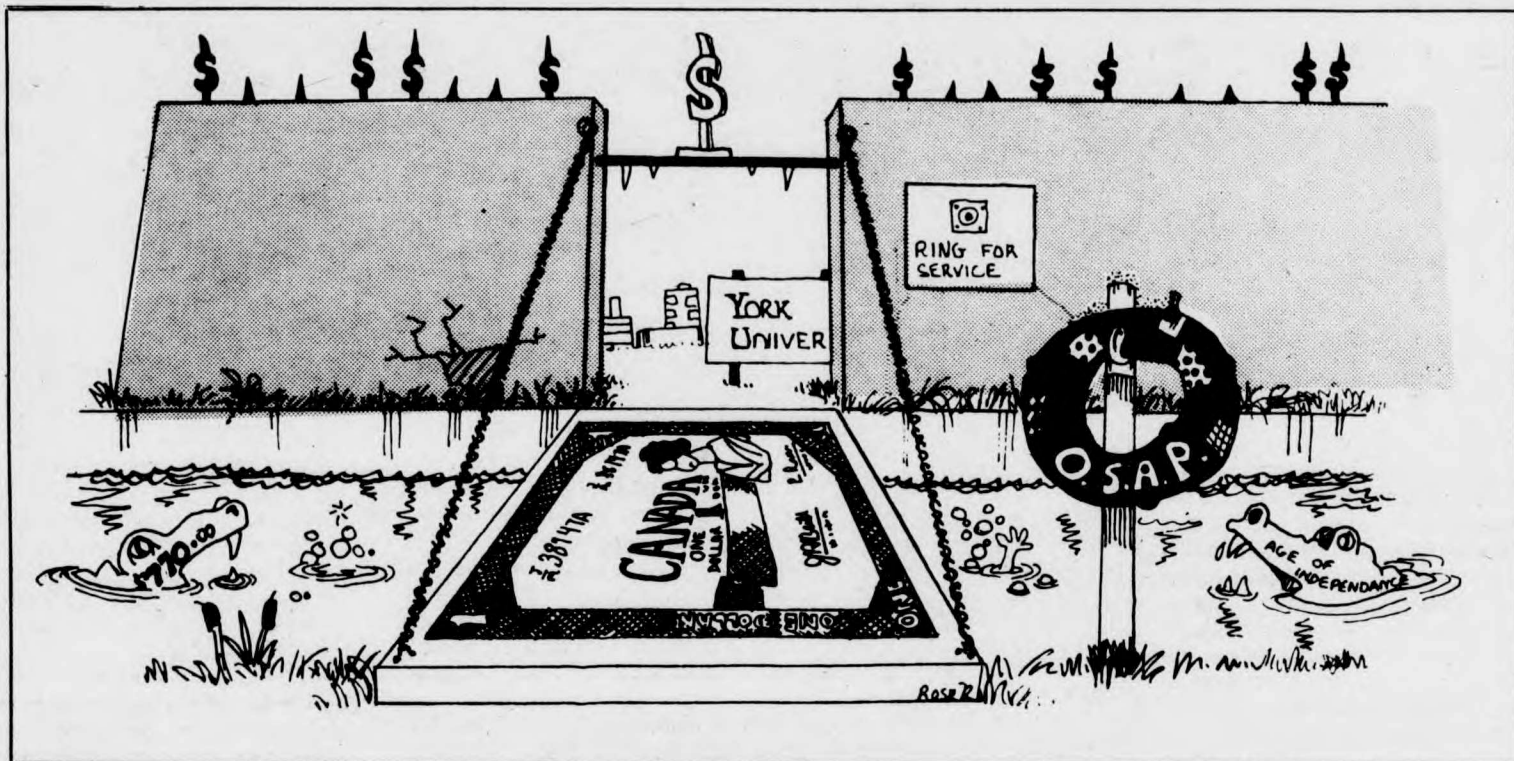
Excalibur

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. Typography by Foto Set, printed at Newsweb, Excalibur is published by Excalibur Publications.

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Snips and Snipes

The month of March brings with it more than a promise of spring and the calm before April's exam storm.

On March 9 and 10, the Council of York Student Federation (CYSF) will be holding its annual general elections to fill the positions of president and council representatives for the 1977-1978 academic year.

At this point in time, no one is sure just who plans to run or what kinds of slates will be organized for the annual electoral run-off.

What we at Excalibur are sure of, is that as the York campus newspaper we play a key role in publicizing the election campaign and providing our readers with the necessary information to make an informed vote.

We realize that we must try and cover all candidates and all electoral groupings as fairly and extensively as possible.

At its last meeting the Excalibur staff voted to provide space for candidates to announce organizational meetings in the newspaper's pages. We hope you use this space. We also ask all candidates to keep us informed of your campaign activities so we can let the rest of York know what you are up to.

We would like this to be the best publicized, best covered campaign ever. Who knows? Maybe on March 9 and 10 the voters will elect the best student council ever.

It was shocking. Walking through Central Square last Thursday was actually pleasant. The noon-hour concert of Lisa Garber, attracting the biggest bearpit crowd of the year was a nice change from the on again, off-again Radio York.

Cutbacks in the bleak mid-winter: only showing the tip of the iceberg

February 10, 1977. The school year is three-quarters finished. We're already beginning to plan for the summer.

Time flies, as they say.

February 10 is also a day when post-secondary students across Ontario are, in various ways, expressing their opposition to the provincial government's post-secondary education policies.

Perhaps it's more like frustration and bewilderment that's being expressed. Frustration and bewilderment at a government that is bullheadedly going ahead with its implementation of the Special Program Review, raising tuition, cutting back student aid, gradually undoing all that was done in the sixties towards making post-

secondary education accessible to all sectors of society.

February 10. At York, there's a rally in the bearpit, a seminar with representatives from the three major political parties, and a strategy think tank. The activities are important and need the participation of all students at York.

However, they've been poorly publicized and their organization marred by the Edson council's distaste for the Ontario Federation of Students, organizers of the action. There's even a rumour that President Edson is going to refuse to allow an OFS representative to speak at the noon rally.

But at other campuses in

Ontario things are more together. At six of them students have voted overwhelmingly to boycott classes today to voice their protest against the government.

Sometimes, it's hard to remember why it's all happening. Didn't our various student federations and governments just organize and lead a similar event November 9 of last year called National Student Day? Why do we need two "National Student Days" within four months of each other?

An OFS poster put out to publicize February 10 calls the tuition fee increase the tip of the iceberg.

The part of the iceberg hidden underwater looks something like this, according to a sketch made by the government's official budgetary artist, finance minister Darcy McKeough, co-signer of the "Special Program Review". Tuition fees of close to \$2,000. An all-loan student aid program. Drastic reductions in the number of faculty and support staff. A freeze in all building projects.

The tip indeed. If we were ever so unfortunate to see the emergence of the whole iceberg, we would be facing a completely altered post-secondary education landscape.

Gone would be the ideal of universally-accessible post-secondary education.

The coming of the iceberg would mean the return of the lonely, isolated ivory tower.

The thing is, this is not the government's long-term objective. The Special Program Review has a three year timetable. This is year one. That leaves us two more years.

And when you see it in that light, you understand why 2,500 students demonstrated

their opposition, frustration, and bewilderment at Queens park last January 21.

You understand why OFS and NUS put so much effort in organizing for National Student Day.

And you understand the province-wide protests happening today.

There are no easy answers. University cutbacks are not an isolated phenomenon, out of step with other developments in society. They are occurring simultaneously with the closing of hospitals, tightening up of Unemployment Insurance, and the rolling back of wage settlements. They are part of a whole pattern of inroads being made by the federal and provincial governments on our quality of life.

But just because finding the answers isn't easy, doesn't mean we give up trying. For with every passing tuition fee increase, it becomes more urgent that answers be found.



Shake a leg
to the staff meeting
today at 1 p.m.
room 111 Central Square

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