

EXCALIBUR

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

Editor-in-Chief Andrew Michalski
 Managing Editor Tim Clark
 News Editor Marilyn Smith
 Cultural Editor Lynn Slotkin
 Photo Editor Lerrick Starr
 Sports Editor Alan Risen
 Cartoonist John Rose
 Business and Advertising Rolly Stroeter
 Advertising Assistant Jackie Stroeter
 editorial phone: 635-3201, 3202
 advertising phone: 635-3800

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Atkinson's crazy move at electioneering

Election campaigns tend to be mud-slinging duels at best. In the present elections for Council of the York Student Federation, it's a case of each candidate building the highest pile of mud on which to stand.

In the Atkinson case it's easily seen that one particular candidate got the sort of support that can only do him damage. And we believe he was an unfortunate victim of circumstances that can only endanger the possibilities of some semblance of an honest and free election.

The Atkinson College Student Association in its obvious paranoia over the United Left Slate's Bryan Belfont, felt that it should back the academic affairs commissioner John Theobald in his bid for the presidency.

Whether Theobald had anything to do with this is of little consequence. It's perfectly logical that candidates should muster as much support as possible from all quarters before embarking before the electorate.

ACSA executive members have often boasted of their superior intellect and experience in political affairs. After all, most of them are "mature" students aged with wisdom and solace from the outside world.

But it appears that it waned or rather disappeared in the case of backing Theobald. Professors were told to read a statement supporting Theobald just before Atkinson students were to fill out ballots.

Now it's bad enough to have no identification of voters in class-wide voting but when a group of supposed mature people tell another group of

mature people how to vote just before they do so, then they are surely making a mockery of the election and insulting the intelligence of the York electorate.

Chief returning officer Bob Williamson rightly declared the votes invalid. A high percentage of the ballots had written on them the simple question of how could they vote if they didn't know who the candidates were. But nevertheless, 201 felt qualified to fill them out and should the practice have continued that would have been over 800 votes cast that way. Needless to say, a huge percentage of those 201 votes supported Theobald. In Atkinson's demand for homogeneity, the ACSA executive is rarely wrong on what one's prone to say.

The statement has been changed to delete the section of support. This is a laudable move. But the damage has been done. The excuse that the statement was read by professors because it was not printed by the Atkinson newspaper Balloon is feeble at best.

No doubt there was a production error somewhere which was regrettable. But if the statement was important enough to be read one minute before an election, then it was important enough to doubly ensure that it was printed and distributed to every Atkinson student days before the election. And if so, it should have allowed for equal space for the other candidates to explain their views.

After CYSF has given Atkinson full voting privileges in the election, it's certainly a shoddy way to begin exercising them.

To College G students

The only way to change CYSF'S inefficiency is to join it and change it. Don't cop out.

The services - day care, student clinic. Radio York and Excalibur need your support. Vote yes to stay in.

Mom, apple pie and day care bite back

That mom and apple pie issue, daycare, is with us again. This time it's through a report written by the daycare long-range planning committee. And contrary to expected mom and apple pie tactics, this report has some bite to it.

It presents the daycare case succinctly: the demand for on-campus daycare is there. Everywhere the researchers went, they found great support for the centre. This included not only parents from student, staff and faculty ranks, but also faculties interested in the educational value of such a centre.

The psychology department has set up a liaison faculty member between the daycare researchers and their department. Several psychologists are enthusiastic about the resource possibilities of a well-designed centre. The new faculty of education also has an interest staked out in resource possibilities.

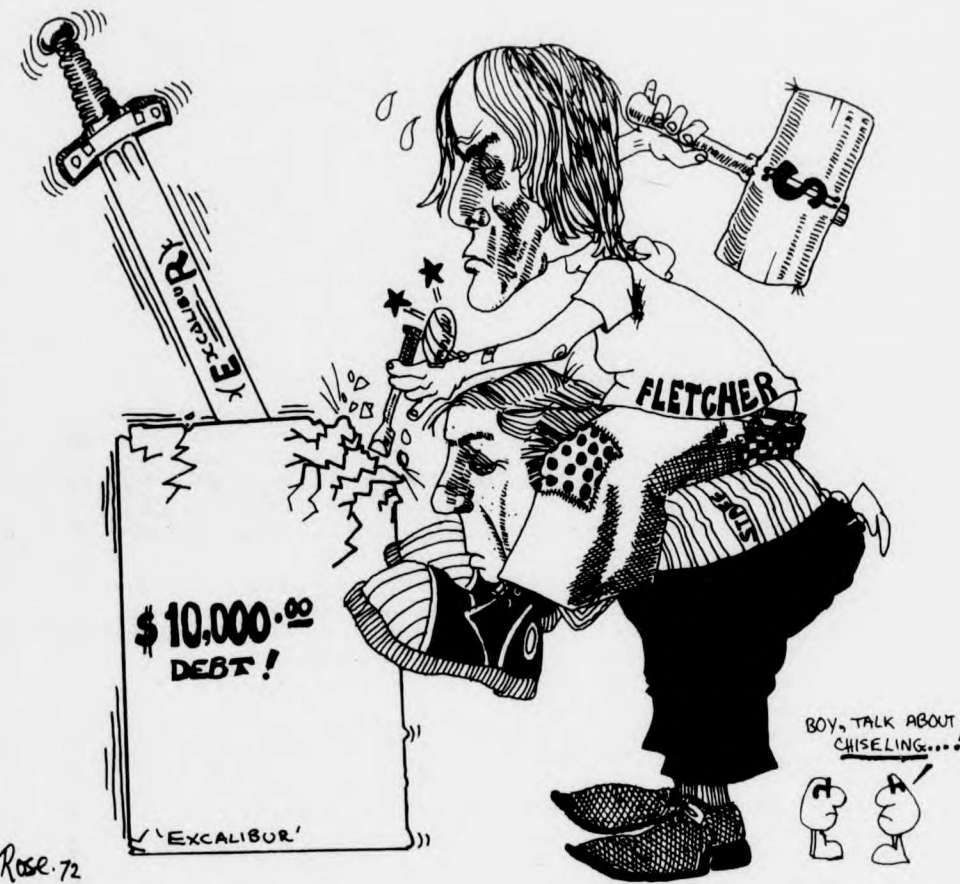
Last year, over 100 people were turned away from the centre. Not getting into the on-

campus centre prevented many people from taking jobs and classes at York. People working in the centre can tell some tear-jerking stories about the reactions of refused applicants.

Applications are already coming in for next year. But the report makes it very clear that no more children can be taken in. Space does not permit it. As it stands, the report adds that numbers of children enrolled will likely be cut from 40 to 25 because of the crowded conditions.

Although York donates the quarters, and some funds are donated from various student councils, the operation is basically self-sufficient. All staff salaries, laundry, food, equipment and overhead costs are met by daycare fees. Costs are minimized by ingenuity in providing equipment and parent involvement in the centre's operation.

But the present situation cannot continue. Daycare has gained a tenuous hold over the past three years, creeping up from cramped



The News Act....

Things don't look too rosy for Excalibur right now.

Of the \$20,000 owing to student services, Excalibur the perennial point of discord has been the worst hit. We've yet to receive \$10,000 of our \$27,000 grant and things don't look too good for our getting it.

Each of the four presidential candidates has affirmed his intention to pay these services their allotted amounts should he become elected. This is an honorable move on each one's part. John Theobald says he would do so with discussion from this year's CYSF, at which we shudder but trust he would do so honorably.

But that doesn't solve our long term needs. We have over \$5,000 in back debts already. Over the past three years, our news coverage had decreased as has our number of printed pages. Our advertising content is far too high but advertising pays the bills. To expand, we need to cut printing costs which have steadily risen and we need to invest into type-setting

equipment. We can't do that without long term financial stability which CYSF has yet to give us.

We need financial stability to serve you the student.

We believe the York University Newspaper Act will go a long way towards reaching that goal. With a fixed fee of \$4 per student, it will give us the long term planning we need. With a board of directors made up of college council appointees on an autonomous press board, it will give the paper political stability to become a more objective third force on campus. In short, it could end the traditional antagonism that's existed between ourselves and CYSF and college councils.

Six college councils have approved the act in principle. CYSF has. Three of the four presidential candidates have. But we need your support. Yours is the crucial vote. If you've got any questions, see us about it. But vote and please say yes.

makeshift quarters in Winters College where babies slept on the floor, to larger but still cramped and makeshift quarters in graduate residence there.

All the while York has given a kind of half-hearted sanction to the whole concerted effort.

But with the release of this long range report, the administration is going to have to take a real stand on the issue. Either it adopts the responsibility of providing proper and adequate on-campus daycare facilities with all the incumbent capital costs, or it drives the whole effort off the campus.

The latter might be hard to do. Although parents in the present centre are struggling, they have made progress since they first began. And they are encouraging enquiring parents who cannot be accommodated in the centre to organize their own on-campus centre if the administration refuses full co-operation.

There are those who will say that finding

funds to cover capital costs for the centre is no easy feat. But the university, in spite of cut-backs, still has a budget to play around with in designating priority items. With York's commitment to part-time education and the Atkinson model of the part-time student; with the continuing demand from other sectors of the community; and with its possibilities of academic resource value, York has ample reason to make daycare a budget priority.

There's no alternative. To leave the current situation unaltered is not possible. Now a few privileged parents receive university favor and support. York cannot rescind its commitments-developments in shared societal responsibility for childraising has come too far for that.

The time has come, finally, for the York machine to recognize realities and fulfill at least one obligation to its community.