

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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National body vital to solve student dilemma

The interests and problems of York students clearly go beyond the boundaries of this campus and indeed of this province. The financing of post-secondary institutions, student housing, the inequality of Canada student loans and student unemployment are national issues.

It is sheer folly to believe the federal government will listen to provincial student bodies on these issues.

The Ontario Federation of Students, for example, can only speak for Ontario students about Ontario issues.

What we need, obviously, is a strong national union that will speak for all Canadian university students. Only the National Union of Students has the potential to become such a body.

CYSF President Michael Mouritsen does not believe in NUS. It will only duplicate OFS, he says. . . or . . . internal problems are more important. . . or . . . the NUS executive is too political. And anyway, it costs too damn much.

The issues NUS hopes to tackle are the most important facing students today. They are political issues, requiring political solutions on a national scale.

Last February, York students voted two to one in favour of joining NUS. Even if we consider this only an opinion poll as opposed to a valid referendum, as Mouritsen does, we must accept it as a hint of what York students really want.

If CYSF is dissatisfied with the 'opinion poll' it should conduct a 'valid' referendum to settle the issue. The question of our membership in NUS is too important to be left to the guesses of local politicians.

The National Union of Students may not survive if it does not get increased support from Ontario universities. CYSF has a clear responsibility to the students of York and of Canada to join the union and to help resolve the problems plaguing all Canadian students.

Air your beefs!

The news department of Radio York has announced the arrival of the Bearpit Sessions, a new series to be held each Thursday in Central Square from noon to 1 p.m. If you have any problems with the bureaucracies on campus—from parking tickets to tuition fees—this will be your opportunity to air your beefs. Moderator Rick Leswick will man the microphone for the campus' first hot-line radio show without a telephone.

Excalibur will publish a related series on the complaints and the follow-ups carried out by Radio York and Excalibur investigative staffs. The Bearpit Sessions will also feature guest speakers with whom you can match wits. If you have a complaint, drop in at the sessions or take your peeve in writing to the Radio York office in Vanier College (second floor) or to the Excalibur Office in Central Square.

Excalibur still needs new staff

Meeting today at 2 p.m.
No experience necessary

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Lord Mouritsen of CYSF: "Tis nobler to avoid the slings and arrows of outrageous national student politics."

Opinion piece

Is the S.D.S. of any use to us?

by TIM TYNAN

What an absurdity! Are we to understand that the same SDS allegedly in its infancy in Canada is already the leader in the fight against Canadian racism?

What are the aims of SDS? Even in the U.S., the relevance of SDS is often open to question.

The organization played a crucial role in the sixties in mass demonstrations on campuses to protest American genocide in Southeast Asia and social injustice on the domestic scene. No one disputes that. Clearly, those issues are far from being dead, but they have changed in character, and so must the tactics. SDS has failed to realize this.

How pathetic that the young people for whom the song was sung have failed to take to heart Dylan's admonition that, "the times, they are a-changing." How unfortunate that such a thriving vital force in the American New Left only five years ago is today the leader in factionalism, but in little else.

More important to us, in light of the fact that SDS intends to set up a branch office at York, is the question, "Of what use is it to Canada?"

I suggest that it is of no use whatsoever. I suggest that it is essentially a foreign organization designed to suit American needs and to relate to American people. I suggest further that implicit in the decision to go to Canada to organize Canadian people to fight Canadian battles is the assumption that Canadians cannot fight their own god-damn battles.

What we have then is a rather blatant

example of a kind of cultural imperialism all too common today. What SDS would foist on us is an organization roughly analogous to an international labour union with a head office in Cleveland (in this case perhaps Berkeley, Cal.), with branches even way up there in snowy Ontari-ari-ari-o.

Perhaps we could even have a Canadian vice-president to attend strategy meetings in the States, along with the token woman vice-president, the black, and maybe even a Spanish-American from Puerto Rico Junior College.

While one may support any legitimate attempt at international labour or student solidarity, in the Canadian-American context the condition of legitimacy is not being satisfied. Just as the so-called international unions are really American unions, so is an international student organization whose members are both Canadians and Americans going to be, for all practical purposes, an American student organization.

Inasmuch as the workers and the students are essential to any socialist revolution, violent or otherwise, the American students and workers, so long as they retain their elitist (i.e., nationalistic) notions, are keeping that revolution from fruition.

Perhaps, then, we should try getting along without SDS just a little while longer. Who knows? Perhaps if we are really resourceful we will manage without having to call in the experts. Perhaps we will come to realize the proverbial "just society" without the condescending assistance of Students for a Democratic Society (Canada) Ltd.

Tim Tynan is an Atkinson student.