

Was Mouritsen ecstatic?

By MICHAEL MOURITSEN
President of the York Student Fed.

A few remarks are in order to clarify my rather terse (although ecstatic) analysis of the CYSF elections (reported in last week's Excalibur).

I am, of course, very pleased with Anne Scotton's election as president. She has demonstrated her leadership and organizational abilities as president of Winters College council for the last two years, and has served as a member of the Green Bush Inn board of directors, and the Political Science departmental council. She was the only presidential candidate who has experience as a member of the CYSF, and I am sure she will be a competent and hard-working president.

I am disappointed, however, with the general quality of campaigning. None of the candidates discussed education issues, such as curriculum development, academic standards or evaluation of teaching staff.

Dale Ritch of the United Left Slate was the only candidate for president who presented an explicit and comprehensive platform. He made a real attempt to let students know exactly where he stands on various issues (even if most of those issues are irrelevant to the role and responsibility of the student federation). At least voters knew in which direc-

tion he would lead the council. I happen to think that direction would be wrong. If Mr. Ritch had won though, it would have been by default.

In voting for Anne Scotton, people were responding to her past experience. Since she had no clearly enunciated platform, that (and the fact that she was the strongest alternative to Dale Ritch) was the only way in which people could vote.

It was unfortunate that some of the presidential candidates did not consider running as college representatives. There was a contested election in only three colleges, there were no representatives nominated in Graduate Business or Environmental Studies, and members were acclaimed in four constituencies. There will be by-elections in these constituencies in the fall.

Radio York's campaign for an annual CYSF grant of \$25,000 for three years was quite disappointing. Rather than presenting a case for the acquisition of an FM licence, the station management decided to run a personal smear campaign against the paid employees of Excalibur and CYSF. Such juvenile behaviour only confirms my opinion that the radio staff simply is not competent to manage and programme a radio station, and I only hope that students who are creative will not be deterred from working for the station next year by the irresponsible actions of the 1973-74 staff.

CKRY vs CYSF

Excalibur March 14 quotes CYSF President Michael Mouritsen as being pleased that Radio York lost the recent referendum. He went on to state that council could never afford the money. Mr. Mouritsen neglects to mention several key points:

1) It was at his insistence that CYSF was approached for the money. The original proposal called for Radio York to obtain the money from the university by way of the Board of Governors. His reason at that time was that CYSF should maintain control over Radio York.

2) In the event that the referendum had passed, CYSF would have had a strong argument to appeal to the university for additional funds to finance the different situation which would obviously exist.

It seems clear that Mouritsen has operated in a manner which is rather inconsistent. It would appear that the duties of the president of CYSF include the rendering of assistance and support to campus organizations rather than opposing them at every turn.

At every opportunity this year Mouritsen has attempted to thwart the smooth functioning of Radio York by neglecting to include Radio York business on council agendas, holding back funds, and refusing to cooperate in a meaningful way on the financial arrangements of the referendum.

Students should hope that the new president will conduct herself in a manner more befitting the president of the central student organization.

TED REESER
Radio York

Letters To The Editor

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, c/o Excalibur, room 111 central square. They must be double-spaced, typed and limited to 250 words. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for length and grammar. Name and address must be included for legal purposes but the name will be withheld upon request. Deadline: Mon. 5 p.m.

Joe Renda objects to Scotton fan's sources of info

After speaking with Bob Foley of Vanier College regarding his misunderstanding of my campaign literature, he agreed that his sources of information were wrong.

Foley's source of information was our "ecstatic" outgoing CYSF president, Michael Mouritsen.

The reader will also find it interesting to note that both Mouritsen and Foley were working on the committee to elect Anne Scotton.

It is true that I had never met Mr. Foley, but it is completely false that I had left any meetings of the Senate dealing with the bookstore. I categorically deny this. Mr. Foley, in his campaign literature to elect Anne Scotton, accuses me of misinforming the students. Mr. Foley and his people should note that I had read the report of the bookstore and library committees.

I would suggest that he spend some time reading them, instead of relying on Mouritsen for information.

Students will also find it interesting that Mouritsen was a member of the Senate special committee on the bookstore and voted in favour of abolishing the five per cent discount on cash payments.

Foley has no idea what monopoly means. I suggested and he agreed that next year he should take at least one economics course.

As to Foley's statement that I should have read the notice sent by the Senate students' caucus, I had read the notice. It said that the Board of Governors has granted students another place on the board. But we still have to appoint this new person. Foley seems to suggest in his literature that two students on the board are enough. I still think that even two is only token representation.

The reason why I did not mention this in my campaign literature is that I received the notice after my literature had already been printed and distributed.

Mr. Foley should also note that I have attended meetings of the Vanier College council even though I am not a member, and that I have reported to its chairwoman, Susan Kilgour, who is my assistant Senator for Vanier College.

In the last three months, I have missed some meetings, but it has been for good reasons.

Both my parents were involved in a very serious accident and were in hospital for four months. This took a lot of time from my studies and my political duties, but now everything is normal.

I would suggest that Mr. Foley, before he accuses any person, should

do more research himself, and not rely on people like Michael Mouritsen for information.

JOE RENDA
Senator, Vanier College

Electric-wow-gas guzzler-acid test car-on-sidewalk

"It must be an American! Who else would be rude enough, illegal enough, arrogant enough to park his huge gas-guzzling-in-the-middle-of-the-sidewalk-while-we-at-York-fire-faculty-and-turn-out-lights-to-conserve car like that, the idea! Probably an aide to the President of the United States of America, Adolph Nixon, probably that streaker Kiskey. All that and more just had to go through the minds of those who saw the big fat-cat bus parking on the sidewalk. Why no ticket? The campus police officers are corrupt not to ticket the fat American, probably scared too.

But alas the licence plates were Canadian and in Osgoode, the faculty was buzzing. Guess who was here? Guess who was blessing the campus with his presence, The Secretary of State of All of the Canadas Himself. "Maybe he has an American ancestor. Maybe he spends a lot of time south of the border." And more serious thoughts like "If the top of the government does not pay attention to the laws it creates where does it stop? He parks illegally like American big shot politicians. Well, does he evade his tax, like American big shot politicians. Does he Watergate...?"

It was probably just a little thing, parking his car on the sidewalk, but the tone of it was truly ugly: Presidential, even.

WILLIAM BUNGE
Visiting Professor

York response to drought drive poor organizer still at it

Thank you for your recent articles giving attention to the current drought and famine in Sahelian zone of Northern Africa and Ethiopia. The latest information I have seen or heard indicates that the situation is worsening. On March 8, Dr. Roger Morris of the Carnegie Endowment Fund in Washington, D.C., issued a scathing indictment of the international community's failure to respond to the disaster.

Neglect and inertia on the part of the wealthy nations, particularly the United States, and even cynicism and resignation to the failure of relief efforts were cited. Apparently bureaucratic rivalries and Congressional apathy (fueled by the

perceived lack of "strategic" or economic benefits from American relief aid) have contributed to the low level of U.S. response.

A York student who lived in Ethiopia for many years while working for the only non-government relief agency in that country, returned last November. He said that the government, for reasons of pride, prestige, respectability and political favoritism, intentionally ignored the massive famine in Northern Ethiopia, and delayed world recognition of the immensity of the starvation until late October of last year, when the drought had already claimed at least 100,000 lives.

On March 4, Arnulf Tjugen of the Norwegian Red Cross reported that "more than a quarter of the four million people in the country of Niger are dying of starvation" and "another million people are badly hit by the continuing drought and famine."

The international voluntary organizations, such as the International Red Cross Societies, Oxfam, and World Vision seem to be doing the most effective and efficient job of distributing food and medicine, but the relative lack of world support for these organizations has limited their efforts.

The response of the York "community" to the Sahelian Drought Relief Fund in the apparent York tradition of apathy toward any "cause" which is not popular or immediately self-gratifying, has been thin. About \$350 has been contributed to date. However, we have just appealed to the student councils and faculties and hope for some response.

SCOTT SEYMOUR
Sahelian Drought Relief Fund



Peter Page (not shown) loves his cycle; he treats it like a piece of sculpture.

Queasy rider?

Now that the Fine Arts faculty has displayed Mark Prent's work, many feel that the faculty takes a liberal view towards individual values and

means of self-expression.

While discussing who defines art in one of my tutorials, I told the class of my experience earlier this year with the Fine Arts faculty.

I happen to be very much into motorcycles. Most bikers modify their bikes to best suit their emotional values and needs. This must be a term of self-expression. I have been modifying my motorcycles for years with different tires, paint jobs and handlebars, but every motorcyclist has a vague idea of this ideal bike.

I wanted to get further into the art and make my own seat-tank and fairing from fiberglass and make a set of expansion chambers. I wanted to create a sleek street racer based on a 350 RD Yamaha.

I asked my art teacher if I could do this. He agreed, but I had to get permission from the man in charge of the sculpture shop in the basement. It was like trying to tell Archie Bunker that not all the guys in the Fine Arts department were commie pinko fags. He considered my project of far less artistic value than anything he would allow built in "his" shop. I then went to one of his superiors on the second floor. She tried to be understanding but wouldn't contradict her colleague's decision. I was forbidden the use of the shop.

I was upset and hurt, because motorcycles are my thing, an important part of my life. Bikers get very attached to their bikes. It can be an emotional experience.

But really it's nothing new. Motorcyclists are in a minority and many people are prejudiced against them. Some feel that cyclists are deviants, unintelligent and uncreative, that they are second-class citizens and have no place in university. They refuse to believe that a beautiful bike can be a valuable work of art.

I can acknowledge Mark Prent's values and I believe he should be free to create and display his work. I believe that motorcyclists have a claim to the same rights and respect. They shouldn't be dehumanized. I don't believe we should put up with this sort of behaviour from the Fine Arts faculty. What right do they have to impose their will upon us?

PETER PAGE
Bethune College

College kid cut up in Star, claims we may be last refuge

Excalibur may be the last refuge of responsible journalism. I have recently experienced the Toronto Star's definition of "freedom of the press"... and, once again, another college kid finds himself — disillusioned.

The Star has a very liberal approach when it embarks upon "trendy liberal

topics" (i.e. abortion, mixed marriages, youth counselling). However, if the subject matter questions the integrity of The Star, the paper's liberal attitudes are abandoned to the 'family section.'

The Star is very proud of its Voice of the People feature. It has a ring to it that smacks of 'Stop Spadina,' bicycle trails, the Yonge Street Mall. Concerned citizens are invited to express their opinions.

I commented upon the paper's deliberate attempt to "disappear" (Catch-22 ?) the suburban deviant, Rexdale, from front page articles and the 'Toronto psyche'. The replacement of the name Rexdale with the nebulous terms, Toronto's "west end" or "Etobicoke" disassociates Rexdale residents from local tenant organizations combating street violence, the placement of a prison in their area, and the rape of remaining ravine environments with the extensions of Wilson and Finch Avenues.

Rexdale is the lower middle class-to-working class northwest corner of Metropolitan Toronto. The suburb was originally planned to house employees of Canada's booming post-war aircraft industry. Since the collapse of the Avro Arrow jet interceptor in February, 1959, Rexdale has been a liability to the development-mad Etobicoke municipal politicians who view the 'stigma' of Rexdale uneasily.

The politicians who have represented the people of Rexdale have never resided in the area. Tucked away in their unblemished, tastefully arranged fantasy communities, these politicians have played upon Rexdale apathy to direct all industrial and government projects to the far north of their 'model' suburbs.

The Star, as the only newspaper with any significant degree of circulation in the city, has an obligation to respond to the interests of the people.

I expressed concern over The Star's incomplete representation of the Borough of Etobicoke (re: "Cow Pasture" Image Worries Etobicoke," The Toronto Star, March 2, 1974, pp.A1), which enabled Mayor Dennis Flynn to 'disassociate' himself from the mongrel, Rexdale, and to praise the pure-bred aspect of his realm. The undisguised deletion of my comment upon The Star's non-Rexdale reporting techniques proved, once again, that the feature 'Voice of the People' might just as well be called 'Voice of The Star.'

DEREK MASSEY

Staff Meeting
1 P.M.
TODAY