

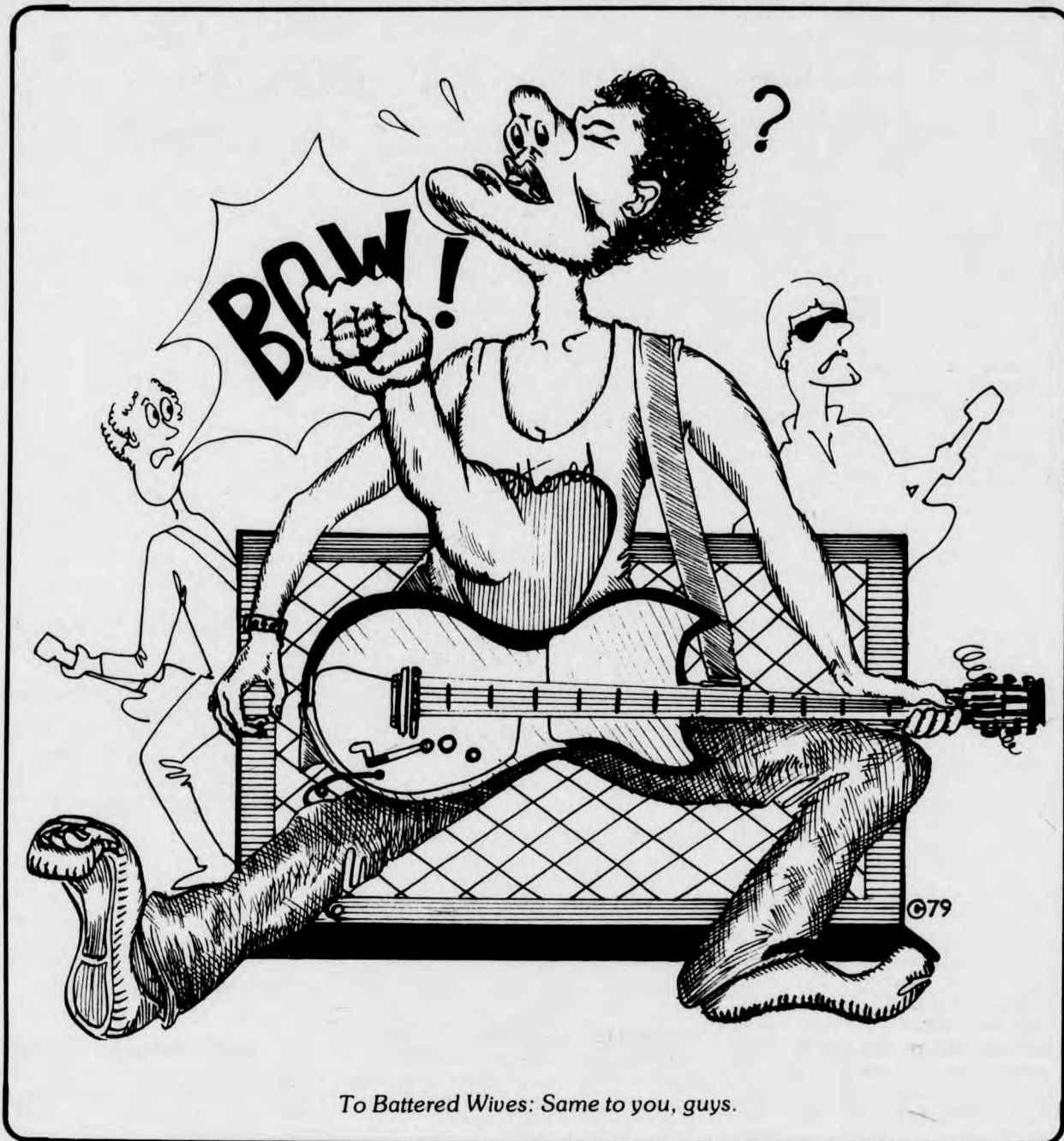
Excalibur

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

Excalibur is the York University weekly and is independent politically. Opinions expressed are the writer's. Unsigned editorials on this page are decided upon by staff vote and do not necessarily reflect the views of individual editors. Excalibur attempts to be an agent of social change and a forum of democratic debate. Typography by Fotoset, printed at Delta Web. Excalibur is published by Excalibur publications, a body incorporated under the laws of Ontario.

News 667-3201

Advertising 667-3800



To Battered Wives: Same to you, guys.

Oh well, maybe next year's elections will be exciting

The news last week was amazing. The presidency of the Council of the York Student Federation, for years one of the most hotly contested student offices in the country, would be awarded by acclamation to Keith Smockum, the council's current university affairs vice-president. His former rival, finance vice-president Gary Empey, decided that it would be best if he withdrew from the race; that way he would be free to apply for the CYSF business manager's job, and apply himself to what interests him the most, the council's financial well-being. If Smockum had lost the election he would probably have been excluded from the council next year; this way the two politicians can both be involved. They feel that this "is in the best interests of the students."

Well, we don't buy it. The fact is that for years, opponents of a CYSF president have always been able to dismiss his or her efforts by referring to the small turnouts in elections. "What kind of mandate is 500 (or 600 or 700) votes out of 10,000 students?" goes the refrain. The low turnouts have been a millstone around the neck of CYSF, causing it to be taken less seriously and taking punch out of its efforts to rally students around the defence of their own interests. So now we're going to have a president with *no votes at all* for a mandate. This can only be detrimental to CYSF and be bad for student politics at York in general. An acclamation is not what's needed to stir up student interest.

Besides, democracy is about people making choices for themselves.

It is not about officials at a higher level deciding what is best for the voters. Even if the two candidates did not differ significantly on ideology, it would have been better to let the voters decide who was best suited for the job as a person.

However what's done is done. Chief Returning Officer Farralee Chanin has said that she will abide by Mr. Empey's decision to withdraw.

On the plus side, president-to-be Smockum realizes that having an acclaimed president and an acclaimed external affairs vice-president (Barb Taylor) is somewhat less than ideal. He has said he will try to "bring the issues to the students" next year. More power to him. His idea for more bearpit sessions is a good one; we can only presume that the staff of next year's Excalibur will be glad to help him out in his efforts.

Then there is the matter of the business manager's job. The situation is complex. CYSF president David Chodikoff feels that Gary Empey has a good knowledge of the books, solid bookkeeping experience, understanding of the workings of the council, and ideas about council's money-making opportunities. He values Empey's trustworthiness and says it is important—and it is—to have an honest hand on the cash register.

(Though Gary Empey may not turn out to be the only applicant who can provide references which can be checked.)

Empey may be a qualified applicant, but there is another side to the question. Gary Empey is an outspoken and partisan student politician, and a strong ally of Chodikoff and BOG rep Paul Hayden, two of the most successful student politicians on the campus. That would be fine if he were still running for the presidency, but the business manager's job ought to be non-political. The fact that Empey would be taking a heavy ballast of pre-formed political loves and hates with him into the job is a negative factor.

However, it is too early for anyone to decide on the business manager's job, one way or another. Next year's council members will have to decide on the information presented to them. In the meantime, to ensure as wide a choice as possible, and to increase the likelihood of finding a highly qualified retired or semi-retired applicant, we would urge the council to take out a small ad in a daily newspaper advertising the position. A semi-retired business manager might be better able to remain above the political battle.

There's more in a name...

The cultural significance of art—be it music, theatre, literature cannot help but be tempered by whatever social impact that art might inspire. The two are intricately intertwined.

And when we are confronted with a punk rock group named Battered Wives, regrettably invited to York by Winters Student Council, we cannot concern ourselves solely with its music, and turn a blind eye to all else.

Because Winters student council insisted on bringing the group on campus, and because an Excalibur reviewer last week wrote quite favourably on the music of the group, but ignored the minor demonstration outside the doors of Winters Dining Hall, we feel called

upon, along with many others, to take issue with the group's name.

Supporters of the group have suggested that we just accept Battered Wives for its music. After all, isn't a name just a name?

The fact is, in today's corporate controlled rock industry, a name is more than just a name. It's a slogan, a device to be imprinted on the consumer's consciousness. Groups' names sell records.

Battered Wives thrive because publicity surrounding its name capitalizes on an unfortunate and, in the hands of the media and record promoters, "sensational" social problem.

The prolem of wife beating demands serious examination by Canadians, and should not be

dehumanized in the "value-free" arena of commerce and marketing.

**Staff meeting
5 pm
re:
CUP
membership**

Woolfson urges Board to pressure Davis

By Mark Monfette

After a week of gathering names for their petition, York's Anti-Cutbacks Coalition was given the opportunity to present it, Monday evening, to York's Board of Governors. The meeting was held at Glendon College.

Tony Woolfson, part-time faculty member and spokesman for the group, presented the Board with 1,500 signatures.

Woolfson, standing in the observers ring outside the Council Chamber pit, urged the Board members to become more aware of the seriousness of the cuts and to increase their pressure on the provincial government for more aid.

"We are deeply concerned and we want you to be deeply concerned," he stated. "We want you to worry about it night and day. I know we do."

Woolfson suggested the Governors should

call more press conferences to draw attention to the university's situation and take part in rallies to protest further cutbacks.

"The Board of Governors," he stated, "should speak out loud and clear to the provincial government."

Woolfson claimed that "it is the people at the bottom who are being made scapegoats." "The Graduate Assistants' Association," he said, "has taken a vastly disproportionate amount of the cutback."

After Woolfson had read his statement one Board member asked him what concrete steps he was proposing.

Woolfson replied that the "university should take very seriously the idea of deficit financing" and that the "people at the top should take a cut in salary to support those at the bottom." The latter point, he added, was a personal comment and did not necessarily reflect the position of the entire coalition.

During the general meeting preceding Mr. Woolfson's comments, President Macdonald had also addressed the matter of university financing and cutbacks.

Macdonald stated that university funding should not be tied to the number of students enrolled, but to its legitimate operational cost.

In a dramatic change of policy, the President stated that "it is essential that funding be underwritten to at least the rate of inflation."

He pointed out that at present the university is being funded at less than the rate of inflation and that it is, therefore, very seriously underfunded.

(The present rate of inflation is 8.9 per cent.)

President Macdonald said he was worried about the "chilly buildings, brown lawns and poor telephone service" which could

result from further cuts.

"The question of priorities, however, is a two-edged sword," he commented, pointing out the difficulty inherent in determining which programme takes precedence over others.

Macdonald also lamented the tendency to conservatism which is prevalent at York — a university, he noted, founded to bring about innovation and change.

"But," he stated, "we can still dream about what York can be like."

On Monday afternoon, in an effort to rally support for their cause, the Anti-cutbacks Coalition had staged a meeting in the Bearpit and had chartered a bus to carry their supporters to and from Glendon.

Only a handful of students could be seen listening to Bearpit speaker, Peter Brickwood, and only six turned up for the bus ride. It was then cancelled.