

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 under the auspices of the Council of the York Student Federation.

Editor-in-chief, Marilyn Smith; news editor, Jim Daw; managing editor, Lerrick Starr; cultural editor, Lynn Slotkin; photography editor, Peter Hsu; sports editor, Ed Piwowarczyk; cartoon editor, John Rose; CUP editor, Shelli Hunter; staff-at-large, Ron Rosenthal, Michael Barris, Mark Boekelman, Arren Clements, Mira Friedlander, Eric Goddard, Adrian Hill, Harry Kitz, Ron Kaufman, Wolfgang Lamers, Lionel Llewellyn, Peter Maitilainen, Ken Myron, John Oughton, Dave Phillips, Tom (Blue) Simon, Marg Poste, Al Risen, Rob Rowland, Judy Singer, Harry Stinson, Harold W. Stein, Carl Stieren, Paul Thompson, Danny Zanbilowicz, Edna Newton, Richard Andreansky, Dotty Parker, Nancy Falconer, Mike Forman, Michael Kulish, Mike, Roy and Gary (pasties). Business and advertising, Rolly Stroeter; advertising, Jackie Stroeter. Editorial — phone 667-3201, 3202; advertising — phone 667-3800.

Singing year-end wrap-up blues

It was a year when nothing went forward, everything fell down.

It began with enrolment. Students just didn't flock to the post-secondary meccas as they had in other years.

At York, it was a domino theory effect. With underenrolment came an announcement of a \$4.1 million debt. Although the deficit was later revised and cut back to \$1.1 million, the damage was done. Out of the financial gloom came threats of faculty firings, worker lay-offs and massive demoralisation of staff.

Then the mayhem began.

Faculty rebelled against board orders to prune their ranks, committees met late into the night, and presidential

heads rolled. As demands came through for the fact and figure picture, the massive inefficiency of this education factory came to light.

About this time students withheld their fees, in protest of a \$100 fee hike and \$200 in loan ceilings. But simply holding back money only led to a dead-end route without a follow-up probe of the cause and effect of post-secondary funding geared just to market demands and serving only a limited market.

The cause of the problem lies full square with the government. It pushed for development of the huge monolithic educational institutions to begin with. Now that they can't be filled, the government cuts back grants. But white

elephants have a way of eating up the money. And York, one of the biggest and whitest, is faced with the dilemma of being oversized for the kind of education market it was built for.

Innovative part-time and community education programs are being marketed. But the orientation is towards one thing — bringing in the BIU's. Even senate, with its academic bent, often uses the reference BIU (basic income unit, a label for government grants per

student head) rather than the word "student".

The inherent danger in the present trend is a mass demoralisation in the post-secondary system. At York, where alienation has always been the trademark, the likelihood of this is all the more increased.

For next year, watch for more entrenchment — a firm back-peddling in student politics, and the re-emergence of the ivory tower definition of education as something no longer so discredited.

BASTA!

'Tis better to be silent and thought a fool Than to speak and remove all doubt.

The new council of the York student federation made a serious tactical error Tuesday night. It flippantly rejected Excalibur's next editor, Brian Milner, without due process of debate, it gave no reasons and made no charges.

In the most repugnant abuse of procedure, it cut off debate, lobbied for rejection on grounds of political control, and thoroughly trampled over reason and rationality.

More than that, it rode roughshod over the will of the newspaper staff which worked through a long considered collective process to select Milner. The work, commitment and regard the staff has for the quality of this newspaper was totally ignored.

So the Excalibur staff is giving council's decision all the due consideration it merits — that is, total rejection.

By tradition but not law, council has the right to reject an editor choice, but that is all it may do. Excalibur's staff will pick its editor. We will not be moved to change our choice by undemocratic manoeuvres.

A press operated under the conditions implied by this council would not improve the paper; it would be a mockery of the ideals of journalism.

Michael Mouritsen piously intones that as long as his council is publisher for this paper (it pays 28 per cent of the costs), it will interject as it sees fit.

We wonder if Mouritsen doesn't mean the council will interject anytime it fears criticism. Council is a "publisher" with a clear conflict of interest. It's time it stopped this pretense and agreed to a community controlled Newspaper Board.

EXCALIBUR STAFF RESOLUTION

Whereas Council of the York Student Federation has refused to accept the Excalibur staff choice for editor in 1973-74, we protest:

- 1) the abuse of procedural rules in calling a question without allowing any debate on the motion
- 2) the total absence of reasons for refusal or charges against the editor-elect
- 3) the seemingly pre-arranged stand of some council members
- 4) council's irresponsibility in refusing the editor-elect without ever having approached staff members, the current editor, or editor-elect about misgivings over the choice.

Whereas it is the right of the newspaper staff to select its editor (with regard to due democratic process and consideration of capabilities) without political pressure from a funding body;

Whereas there is no legislation or document giving council such rights; And whereas such irresponsible, cliquish actions do nothing to further the interests of students at York;

And whereas the healthy functioning of a vigorous, critical press depends on its freedom from political control;

We censure council for its irresponsibility and undemocratic methods and demand that council rescind its decision and accept Brian Milner as Excalibur's editor-in-chief for 1973-74.

—a unanimous resolution passed by Excalibur staffers, Wednesday, March 28.

POPULAR PETITION

(A request for student support)

We the undersigned believe that Excalibur, the York University student newspaper, should be politically independent to formulate its editorial policy.

WHEREAS: the healthy functioning of a vigorous critical press depends on its freedom from political control, and

WHEREAS: control over the selection of editor means in effect editorial control of the newspaper, we believe that the election of editor-in-chief of the student press should be the collective decision of the staff of the newspaper, which is open to all York students.



The knee bone's connected to the ...

Letters

Excalibur se trompe

An premiere paje deux vautre feuye de choulx du 15 marce, you zave ose aimprimme "La Bilinguism, A Quoi Ca Saire?"

Jeu meu leu deumende biain ossy! Surreitou oh Canada!

Veuye kroir, chair Meussieu, an mon netairnel reconaance, aincy ka sayl de tous lai phrankofones de Glennedonne.

JEAN-CLAUDE GUEDON
Multiplication des scienses naturelles
Glennedonne

Hassle-free rental firm

I'd like to recommend a hassle-free car/camper rental firm to those who are heading to the continent this summer. It is called Share-a-Car Incorporated, and can be reached at 57 Studiestrade, DK 1554, Copenhagen, Denmark.

I first saw it in Europe on Five Dollars a Day, and decided to give it a try. We rented a car for a month, picking it up in Amsterdam

and leaving it off in Paris. There were no problems, and his rates are lower than the AOSC equivalent.

The Amazing Mr. Hildebrandt, as Frommer calls the Danish tailor who owns the firm, advertises by personal testimonial, and this is one. It is the best all-round deal (covering the angles like insurance) that I could find — and I checked quite a few.

GREG McCONNELL

Get more tow trucks

I wish to express the most enthusiastic approval of the massive tow-away which took place Friday, March 23, in the vicinity of the graduate residences. Access roads, driveways, and, most inexcusably of all, the entrance to the main parking lot have been blocked continually, and it had been getting worse.

I don't know who was responsible for organizing this sudden clean-up, but whoever it was has my congratulations and gratitude. My hope is that Friday's action was not a one-shot affair never to be repeated, but that the authority responsible will patrol the area thoroughly and remove these cars continually, like about once an hour.

ERIC CHODAK