-EDITORIAL

Mulroney's Maulers hold Senate ransom

Considering Canada is one of the world's largest exporters of bureaucrats, diplomats, technocrats, and accountants, it must seem surprising to see us breaking our own hallowed rules.

But Brian Mulroney, the reigning monarch, probably doesn't think so. Mulroney made a quick call to the Queen of England (that antique of feudalism) and 'Liz gave him permission to use a political loophole to reassert his control over the Senate and, ultimately, over Canada.

Our PM is so convinced that Canadians need to pay tax on goods and services that he has extended the size of the Senate from 104 to 112 seats. All of the vacancies have been stacked with conservative henchmen who will do Mulroney's bidding and push through the extremely unpopular Tory GST bill.

Patronage is nothing new in politics, but these blatant "good old boy" appointments are truly embarassing to a democratic nation.

Mulroney's rhetoric essentially says that in order to preserve our beloved democracy, he has to hold it ransom. What a predicament! Whatever happened to politicians representing the will of the people? Eighty five per cent of Canadians are opposed to the GST.

The federal Tories have spent millions of dollars promoting the tax through advertisements. Businesses have also spent millions retrofitting their operations to take the GST into account. And yet, this elusive little tax is still not a law.

Mulroney's political abuse of power reflects the kind of condescending paternalism that the government has also shown toward Native self-determination. Chalk this up to a bureaucratic ego that can't deal with active dissension.

For once in recent years, the Senate looked as if it would oppose the headstrong demands of Parliament. But no more.

The appointment of Mulroney's Maulers has twisted the structure of the Senate against itself and left more politicians being paid more money for less work . . . for life.

This last desperate move by the Tory cabinet has now placed Senate reform on the national agenda. A majority of Canadians may finally realize the importance of electing officials for both Parliament and the Senate.

And hopefully, Mulroney's appointments will be the last ones ever made.

The next *Excalibur* staff meeting will be held Wednesday at 4:00 pm. The agenda includes post mortem, announcements and a new column submission.

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Excalibur is York University's community newspaper. We publish 20,000 copies twice-weekly, distributed across York and Glendon campuses and various locations within the North York community.

Excalibur is an autonomous corporation with a mandate to inform, educate and provoke thought among York University's diverse population

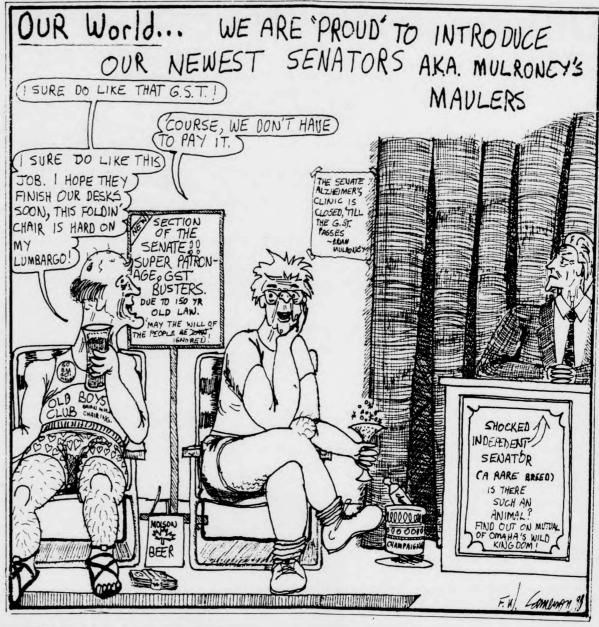
provoke thought among York University's diverse population.

The distinct opinions and articles appearing in *Excalibur* constitute our collective voice. However, they belong first and foremost to the individual writers and are not

necessarily shared by any other Excalibur staff or board member Final editorial responsibility is retained by the Editor-in-chief.

EDITORIAL: 736-5239 TYPESETTING: 736-5240 ADVERTISING: 736-5238

MAILING ADDRESS: Room 111, Central Square York University 4700 Keele Street Downsview M3J 1P3



ETTERS

Excalibur welcomes letters to the editor on all topics. We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 500 words in length. They must be typed, double sapced, and accompanied by the writer's name, signature and telephone number. The opinions expressed belong to the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of Excalibur staff or directors. However, letters judged to be racist, sexist or libellous by the editor will be refused. All material is subject to editing. All submissions must be addressed to the Editor-in-chief, Room 111, Central Square.

Smoking policy too harsh

To the editor,

Your editorial "Smoke 'n' shit" overlooked a key feature of the Revised Smoking Policy proposed for York University, namely the recommendation that students be expelled for "... persistent violation of the policy ..." (p. 6).

This implies that smoking (persistently) is as much of an offense against the York community as say, cheating on an examination, stealing a computer from an office, or puching someone in the head.

Strong talk indeed. Of course, there is a disciplinary policy that gives the University the right to expel cheats, thugs and thieves; and in my opinion it is a reasonable one. But to put smoking on the list of offenses for which one can be exiled from the academy (I wonder if the reasons for expulsion would go on the student's transcript) is neither sensible nor appropriate.

Expulsion (staff recreants will face "termination" — look out, here comes Arnold Schwartzenegger the Puff Cop) is recommended in the report because "... the number of those who

have deliberately flouted the smoking policy have been many rather than few . . ." (p.6).

To what numbers, one might ask, is the report referring? If the numbers are low, then the writers

are over-reacting, but if the numbers are truly high, then perhaps the premises of the policy itself are wrong.

Whatever the numbers, it is unjustifiable to ennact a policy which would have students suffer the severest academic penalty for a trivial, non-academic offense.

Further, I promise to fight this unreasonably vicious sanction by requesting that the Senate specifically enact legislation which would prohibit academic penalties on the basis of smoking.

Smoking may be objenctionable, but the proposed sactions, in my view, are frankly obscene.

David E. Armstrong Senator

Disapointed with editing

To the editor,

We appreciate the exposure given to *RECOVER* magazine in the September 24 issue of *Excalibur* and we thank Jennifer Lim for her time and effort.

However, we were disappointed with the quality of the editing, as the article was replete with grammatical, structural and stylistic errors, as in: "She says the significance of the "ECO" (short for ecology) is the word Recover."

As current editors and publishers of *RECOVER* and past *Excalibur* editors and staff, we are embarrassed to be represented in this manner. We hope your readers do not assume the quality of this article is a reflection of our

work.

As well, the lack of a phone number and address will make it very difficult for interested people to contact us. *RECOVER* can be reached at 736-0659, 114 Dollery Court, North York, Ontario, M2R 3P1.

Thank you for your attention.
The editors and publishers of RECOVER:

Nancy Phillips, Heather Sangster, Jeffrey Kippel, David Danto

Greenpeace green too

To the editor,

Just a word on Chris Honke's "Greenpeace Moral Minority" piece. Before dismissing Canada's largest lobby organization (I worked for them this summer), he should recognize that while Greenpeace started with a strong anti-nuclear slant, they are principally an environmental group.

Even if you can argue for nuclear weapons from a political standpoint, undeniably, they pose an immense environmental threat not only to smug humans, but to every other living organism on the planet. But then why should little fishies stand (swim) in the way of a good political discussion?

Ironically, as vicious loony-left Greenpeacers attacked a defenseless British aircraft carrier in Halifax this summer, the nucleararmed and powered USS Midway caught fire off Tokyo. But, don't worry, they put it out.

Ed Drass