

Excalibur — Tbilisi editorial newspaper exchange

Tbilisi University journalists will visit *Excalibur* between February 23 and March 9

Excalibur thanks Andrei Stulov and the Novosti press agency for helping to make this exchange a reality

Excalibur's visit to the Soviet Union will take place in April. Look to future issues of *Excalibur* for further coverage



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Excalibur will be the first university newspaper in Canada to welcome Soviet student journalists

by Jacob Katsman

Excalibur is going to Soviet Georgia. York's soon to be twice-weekly community newspaper will be the first in Canada to welcome a student newspaper delegation from the Soviet Union this February. Two *Excalibur* reporters will be making a reciprocal visit in April.

Working with the Novosti Press Office of the Soviet Embassy in Canada, *Excalibur* has established contact with Tbilisi University in Soviet Georgia.

Georgi Sigua, a member of the editorial board of the newspaper *Tbilisskiy Universitet*, and David Imedashvili, regional Novosti correspondent in Georgia and professor of journalism at Tbilisi University, have accepted *Excalibur's* invitation for a two week visit.

"The first student newspaper delegation from the Soviet Union in Canada will be hosted by *Excalibur* which . . . is very remarkable and [we should] strive to establish wider and more interesting contacts between students commenting on our countries," said Novosti press attache Andrei Stulov.

Stulov said that editors from the University of Calgary's newspaper *The Gauntlet* were the first to visit the U.S.S.R., with a trip to Minsk University in Byelorussia last year, and will probably host their Soviet counterparts this March.

"There have been several exchanges already of student newspaper editors between the U.S. and Soviet universities, but there is not yet much here in Canada," Stulov added.

Excalibur's editor Nancy Phillips said she is proud that York will be the first university in Canada to complete such an exchange. "An exchange of student journalists will benefit more people than just the people on the exchange. Student journalists can help increase understanding between two countries by reporting on what they learned and experienced to thousands of student readers."

Excalibur will also participate in



An old building at Tbilisi University, established in 1918.

the establishment of a joint Soviet-North American student magazine sponsored by the Novosti Press Agency in the Soviet Union and several organizations in the United States.

York's provost Elizabeth Hopkin's office is supporting the *Excalibur*-Tbilisi exchange with a generous contribution. York International also complemented *Excalibur's* initiative and is financially sponsoring the Soviet visit as well as hosting a luncheon at the CN Tower.

Excalibur is continuing to seek other university and corporate sponsors.

CYSF president Peter Donato said, "The exchange will be a good thing for York and it's great that *Excalibur* will be the first to host the Soviets."

Tbilisi University, one of the Soviet Union's leading educational establishments, has about 14,000 students studying 41 specialties at 16 faculties with 1,500 professors.



(APN photo)

The Tbilisi 'Ross Building': Georgian journalists will soon be able to compare architecture during their two week stay at York.

Founded in 1918, Tbilisi University continues Georgia's ancient educational traditions. In the 1930s it became a universally recognized centre for training scientific personnel and organizing scientific work. The university developed rapidly, with new chairs and laboratories being opened. These new chairs became the basis for establishing a number of institutes which paved the way for the foundation of the Georgian Academy of Sciences.

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Tbilisi University scholars are known for their linguistic research. They study the history of the Georgian language, its genesis and interaction with other languages as well as general linguistics.

Both Sigua and Imedashvili speak English and, during their visit to *Excalibur*, hope to give lectures on Soviet journalism and political and economic issues, which should interest York students and faculty.

As a regional correspondent for Novosti, Imedashvili has hands-on experience with cultural and political issues in Georgia and the rest of the Soviet Union. Also, as a journalism professor and a key player in organizing the Georgian part of the *Excalibur*-Tbilisi exchange, Imedashvili hopes to sign other exchange and co-operation agreements in Canada.

Excalibur has many educational, cultural and social activities planned for the Soviet guests. Imedashvili and Sigua will visit Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec city and Niagara Falls.

Phillips said she hopes this exchange will lead to annual exchanges between *Excalibur* and Tbilisi.