

Federation Notes

This will be the final report in *Excalibur* for this academic year and my final report as '79-80 President. I will attempt to sum up the year so that you can understand where some of the \$2.50 per course that you pay is spent.

In External Affairs this year, two delegates representing the Federation attended the National Union of Students' (NUS) conference in Vancouver in May, and two more went to the second conference in October in Regina. NUS is responsible for lobbying the Federal Government in areas such as Canada Student Loan Program, immigration, etc. Barb Taylor, vice-president of External Affairs for the Federation, is also an executive member for NUS and the Ontario Federation of Students. NUS also provides the International Student Identity Card, which provides discounts all over the world.

The Ontario Federation of Students has been very active this year with three conferences. One took place in Thunder Bay last June, one in Ottawa last September and one at York in late January. This is the first time that York has ever hosted an OFS conference and it was an interesting time. OFS receives 30¢ per course and NUS receives 20¢ per course from your student fees.

Our Speaker Series this year was expanded and seemed to interest a great many students. Joe Clark appeared early in January at the start of the election campaign and Ed Broadbent made his second appearance on campus the following week. We were unable to lure Pierre Trudeau on campus, but we assisted the Liberal Club in bringing in Jean Chretien. As well, we had speakers from the Communist Worker's Party, Radio Shack, No-Nukes Group, OFS, NUS, and financially assisted a great many campus clubs in bringing in speakers.

This year, we were able to provide better service to students as well. The Student Security Program, financed by the Administration and the Student Governments, worked well all year long handling trouble calls and providing a much-needed presence on campus. Many people commented that their existence at night provided for a much better atmosphere for people as they moved about campus. We will be lobbying the Administration to keep the security funding for next year.

As well, the Typing Service came into direct student control as of January 1, 1980. The Federation now owns and operates the service, and with three months of experience behind us, we have decided to drop the rates to 99¢ per page. Hopefully, this will assist students as they prepare their final papers.

The Federation Used Bookstore, LYCEUM, is now in full operation and operating efficiently. The service provides students with the opportunity to purchase used books cheaply, and will provide a buy-back service to students in the last two weeks of April.

The Federation Film Series ran every Thursday night from September through to the middle of March. The Series will continue in the fall and will provide some good entertainment at really good rates. Like most of the other businesses, the Film Series is run on a break-even basis and provides employment for students.

As well, this year, Council established a new Executive position—Women's Commissioner, Jenny Gonsalves, who is responsible for representing and articulating specific needs and demands for women on campus. In the first year, she has organized a Women in Politics Conference that was extremely successful. She will be continuing on in this role for next year as well.

The Federation also had a direct influence on a great many University decisions this year. K.C. Whalen, vice-president of University Services, sat on the University Food Services Committee, Parking Committee, and Residence Budget Committee. This committee spent a great deal of time deliberating before any recommendations go to the Board of Governors.

Excalibur's financial problems at the start of the year were a great concern for the Federation as we provide the largest single grant to the paper. Jayne Hughes, vice-president of Student Services and Communications, is responsible for keeping tabs on *Excalibur* as well as Radio York and Harbinger. Council will be discussing further funding for Radio York on the 10th of April.

Council supports more than twenty different campus clubs in the form of grants and duplicating services. Barry Clements, whose portfolio, Social and Cultural Affairs, covers clubs, is also responsible for the Film Series and concerts as well.

I believe the Executive of council has worked extremely hard and I thank them for their support and diligence.

We were also fortunate this year to have both student Board of Governor Representatives and the Chairperson of the Student Senate Caucus participate as active Council members this year. Peter Brickwood, Andrea Doucet and Malcolm Montgomery have provided an important link to the decision-making bodies of the University.

Many of the members of council worked hard this year on many different projects. Pat Fonberg, the incoming Vice-President of External Affairs, was a valuable addition to Council as well. Finally, I would like to thank secretary Sylvia Stanley and Business Manager Gary Empey for their efforts this year.

These were just some of the activities of Council this year and the people who participated in them. I wish next year's council good luck. For those of you who are writing essays and exams, I also extend best wishes and have a good summer. It has been a pleasure being your president.

D. Keith Smockum



Free Speech

Slick ads would harm York's image

Not often are these pages host to public criticism from those who helped create them. But after *Excalibur's* latest editorial, "York is for U", this reporter, former *Excalibur* news editor, sports editor and college affairs editor, finds just cause not only to voice opposition to the sardonic view that "slick ads" will bring in students and that "York's lifestyle is... one of the few things it is known for at all", but also to reflect on the state of *Excalibur*. If you will, a view from the "inside".

In journalism school this writer learned that objectivity, far from the be-and-end-all, was one of a journalist's more useful tools in story-telling and persuasion.

"A good editorial must be well-rounded" says 1979-80 *Excalibur* editor, High Westrup. Last week's editorial was not. It did not speak of people such as Nancy Rooks, (athlete par excellence) who excels at York. It did not speak of the myriad of academic intellect here such as Gordon Shepherd, at CRESS, or Clark Blaise, writer-in-residence. It did not speak of the veritable plethora of lawyers, musicians, businesspeople, etc., who graduate from here each year who care nothing about the "newly announced plans to turn Central

Square into a disco".

The editorial did not even include references like figures showing York's recruitment program performance behind that of Guelph, which according to the editorial "is leading the way". How else can an editorial be "well-rounded" without reports on these subjects? The fact is that it cannot.

Perhaps most objectionable was the blatant neglect of those working in admissions-liaison and publicity. Having worked personally with a few of these people, I can say there is no lack of diligence there. What about their side of the story? Unfortunately their side was left out.

Is this to be taken as a reflection on student journalism? Perhaps, but I think not. Notwithstanding 4 a.m. deadlines and such excuses, (of which this writer is well aware) let not this lopsided editorial mar a successful year for *Excalibur*. It has indeed been successful.

Successful for a major revamping of the business affairs and a long-awaited clean-up of a heritage of messy legal hassles. Successful for enormous layout design changes, which in retrospect seem to have instilled much enthusiasm into production people and readers alike. Suc-

cessful for the blossoming of neophyte journalists such as Gary Cohen, Bruce Gates, Lydia Pawlenko, Hugh Westrup, and the like, ad infinitum, (apologies to Xcal staffers for space restrictions). We, as readers, have all benefitted.

Granted, there are people who would like to see a *National Lampoon* but, as always, they are a minority. Mistakes and questionable material is sometimes published. Such is the state of student journalism. The realists know this. One would hardly expect a student physicist to land a man on the moon.

Every now and then you see people like Fergus Craik write in to say, "it's heartening to be reported accurately and intelligently." This year's success is mostly noticeable to alumnus like John Pivori who wrote, "I was pleasantly surprised when I picked up an issue of *Excalibur*. The quality of the newspaper has risen in a number of respects."

Maybe the "most feared sword of journalism in Downsview" is far from a *Globe and Mail*, but is it really fair to expect that much? Having seen numerous Canadian University newspapers and putting criticism aside, this writer thinks not.

Greg Saville

HARBINGER

COMMUNITY SERVICES

York's Peer Counselling Centre

is now accepting applications for the position(s) of coordinator(s) for the 1980-81 academic year. Resumes must be submitted to 027 McLaughlin College no later than Friday April 18, 1980. For further information call 667-3509 10 AM - 5 PM Monday through Friday.

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