

EXTRA!

Small turnout...

...little consensus



Excalibur poll hints readers satisfied

With a meagre turnout of 43 responses (compared to 173 for our Quebec poll) no marked consensus emerged from the *Excalibur* poll on the quality of the paper itself.

The majority of York students are either fairly satisfied or very satisfied with *Excalibur*, with the main misgiving over the bias of the paper (72 per cent of those polled it is mildly or extremely biased).

The vast majority of respondents read the news section first. Opinion and the sports tied for second, with only one person turning first to the entertainment section.

It is interesting to note that the percentage of replies to the question on the quality of news coverage, is almost identical to that of the corresponding statement on the overall quality of the paper. This suggests to most readers that the news section is the most important. This is further borne out by the fact that more respondents liked the news section better than any other. Only four respondents said *Excalibur* concentrates too much on news.

The fault most often complained about in the written comments, and supported by the replies to the question on bias in the news and opinion pages, is the purported left-wing bias of the paper. 72 percent said the news was mildly or extremely biased, and 73 percent said

opinion 14 (31%)
entertainment 7 (16%)
sports 8 (18%)

- 5) Does *Excalibur* need more:
- a) Human interest and light features, humour 15 (27%)
 - b) Toronto and Ontario news 9 (16%)
 - c) coverage of the national scene 4 (7%)
 - d) sports coverage 1 (2%)
 - e) off-campus entertainment coverage 5 (9%)
 - f) on campus entertainment coverage 10 (18%)
 - g) stories and comment about political injustice 6 (11%)
 - h) other 4 (7%)

- 6) Are *Excalibur's* editorial positions generally:
- rational and well taken 11 (28%)
 - occasionally well taken, occasionally not 21 (53%)
 - irrational knee-jerk responses 8 (20%)

- 7) Does *Excalibur* concentrate too much on:
- news 4 (13%)
 - opinion 14 (47%)
 - entertainment 5 (17%)
 - sports 3 (10%)

- 8) On the whole how do you feel about *Excalibur*?
- very satisfied 6 (15%)
 - fairly satisfied 21 (51%)
 - fairly unsatisfied 5 (12%)
 - very unsatisfied 9 (22%)

Percentages do not always add up to 100 because of rounding. The number of answers does not always add up to 43, because of respondents either not answering a question or giving more than one answer.

Most of those responding to the poll had comments and suggestions (and one complete letter) for

Do what you think is good - on the whole you're good. Keep it up baby! A couple of jokes could do the trick.

There is too much coverage of political events on campus. Perhaps some national coverage of politics, but please not so dull!

Bring back "As the Campus Turns"

Four stars for "Advice to the Anonymous"

Who is Bill Wyman?

Mature students now represent a significant portion of the student body. I feel it would be an improvement to include articles geared more to our interests. *Excalibur* at present, is really geared towards younger students.

Looking forward to more puns, re *Toronto Star*. Last year's was exceptionally good humour

Excalibur's news and editorials are much too left - biased to give anyone a true picture of what's going on, especially here at York re CYSF cutbacks and BOG decisions.

Less emphasis on so-called repressive and fascist actions. Cessation of hysterical and irrational articles which label any reasonable criticism of the left wing radical organizations on campus as "fascist". An attempt to think about the realistic and necessary reasons for actions which may be contrary to the ULS cause, and mainly an attempt to write unbiased and balanced articles.

Too left wing and biased.

Excalibur should go city wide. We need an absolutely left wing paper to counter-balance the *Sun* (other than editorial bias, fairly good).

Try to make the pictures larger so you can see the faces of people. Especially in sports pictures.

For three years I've read this newspaper and for three years it hasn't changed. Though I believe a newspaper should be able to air its own beliefs via their editorials, I also believe that news reporting should be based on facts, not hearsay, innuendo or rumours. Basically that is how your newspaper reports the news.

I also believe that your newspaper only publishes the views of the ULS. How is it that for the last two years the editors have been high ranking officials of the ULS? (Ed. note: Anna Vaitiekunas was never a member of the ULS). This influence in your editorials is readily seen! Instead of the "York University Community Newspaper", you should put "United Left Slate Propaganda Newspaper" on your masthead.

If you are looking for a cause, how about the cause of creative and worthy journalism? The cause you are advocating now, that of yellow, biased and trashy journalism, isn't worth a shit.

In an academic institution, I'm surprised there aren't more interesting events and trivia worth reporting from the actual academic field York represents, ie. I've read a good article on the ozone layer and spray cans in the past. Go on! Get

the various departments to tickle my academic fancy more often.!

Where are the cartoons? I miss Warren Clements.

I'm a transfer student and *Excalibur* is one of the few things at York I've found I can be enthusiastic about. I look forward to reading it. Keep up the good work.

I especially like the political features, eg. articles on the Red Army Faction, this week's Noranda coverage.

I would suggest more follow-ups or reports of the outcome of key stories such as "Budget Cut", "Harbinger - Hayden" struggle, "BOG expose".



Excellent discussion and exposé of York BOG, re: Inco, Noranda, etc.

I would like to see one campus newspaper - *Excalibur* (?) - with contributions from each college in it, not several newspapers which seem to be the present format.

Cut the advertising (or reduce the size of the ads). Reader polls are great if they are effective. Concentrate more on the political issues of York. More interviews with the small man. Try the staff at York. Their views are just as critical and sometimes more indigenous to life at York. Students come and go but staff lives on. Try "The Prof of the Week", "the Staff of the Week". More pictures around campus. Get down to the problems and ask for answers. — a staffite.

I have been exposed to several University newspapers (ie. Western and U of T) and am very impressed with the quality of *Excalibur*. Nothing to compare!

Too often I think *Excalibur* jumps on a bandwagon and presents coverage which displays extremism in no lack of quantity rather than quality and selective journalism. *Excalibur* strikes me as a paper looking for a cause, on occasion, to which it may "gallantly" attach itself. More journalism of quality is called for.

Needs a horoscope definitely — need comic strips — have information of professors' lives and courses.

Need more items like B.J. Silberman's "Price Disparity".

News of the world can be found in Toronto dailies. Advertising has ballooned (lucky you). Conferences

on campus should have more in depth coverage. I like "Newsbeat" and "On Campus" for University information. "Advice to the Anonymous" ridiculous, space waster.

PLEASE — Stop referring to chairmen and chairwomen as "chairpersons".

Need more student opinions — at least another page. York campus coverage is very good. More classified ads, especially from students. More important news from universities in other parts of Ontario and their opinions.

Idea: A survey on why students chose York over other universities to study. Please consider!

The paper is 300 per cent better than it was eight years ago.

I would love to see stories and large pictures of stars that are currently in Toronto's movie life (outside York). Even "catching up with..." stories.

The "Bachelor of the Week" would also be a refreshing new idea for your newspaper.

Cramming layouts need improvements, still it's a good paper.

The paper generally deals with things that are important to a selected few; those involved in the groups you write about. The paper should reach to the majority of students, not the minorities.

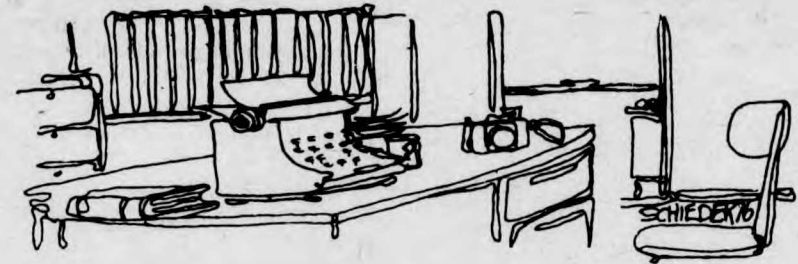
The paper is okay but very humdrum. I wouldn't rely on it to give me an idea of the undercurrent of thought. In other words: what are people at York really up to? Both within themselves and in groups. The general outlay of the paper is good but the information is minimal.

Seeing as York does have a science community it would be nice to see some articles relating to this area. By articles I am not referring to the grade-school attempt that was printed several weeks ago.

I'd like to see you reviewing rock music albums. I'd like to see you do more on Quebec and the national issue. I like these reader polls. More stories on the basics of human life, eg.: food, health, fitness, sex, sleep, etc.

Great variety!

Speaking of Excalibur... Please keep your letters to 250 words and type! Deadline is Monday 4 pm



the editorial positions were either occasionally well taken, occasionally not or irrational knee-jerk responses.

Two comments accused *Excalibur* of being the "United Left Slate Propaganda Newspaper". There were no complaints of right wing bias.

Unlike our poll on Quebec, there were no detected cases of ballot stuffing. Either that minority who want more than their fair say didn't try this time, or they are getting better at it.

The results of this poll will be used for the newspaper's end-of-term reappraisal of itself. Thanks to all who responded.

Total number of responses: 43

- 1) Which part of the paper do you read first?
- news 34 (76%)
 - opinion 5 (11%)
 - entertainment 1 (2%)
 - sports 5 (11%)

- 2) Do you think *Excalibur's* news coverage is:
- very good 5 (12%)
 - satisfactory 25 (51%)
 - unsatisfactory 11 (26%)
 - very bad 2 (5%)

- 3) Is our news coverage:
- generally unbiased and fair 12 (28%)
 - mildly biased 19 (44%)
 - extremely biased 12 (28%)

- 4) Which part of the paper do you like best?
- news 16 (36%)

Daily Drudge

