

EDITORIAL

'Tis the season . . .

Student election season is here and it's just a little embarrassing! We are one of the largest universities in Canada, and yet this year, we have only three people running for the crucial position of student council president.

We've seen the usual political malaise in regards to elected positions across the board. The vice-presidents external and equality were both acclaimed as were the directors-at-large of the Student Centre Corporation.

The York Federation of Students is presently a very significant organization, playing a major role both internally with campus events and externally as a strong member of the Ontario Federation of Students and the Canadian Federation of Students.

This year's YFS campaign should be quite interesting. The presidential candidates will have to address the effects and fallout over Jean Ghomeshi's controversial year in office.

Accepting the criticism as he has gone along, Ghomeshi followed through with his promise to politicize the campus and was effectively able to transform many otherwise peripheral issues into student issues (at least in some peoples' minds).

This year's crop of candidates will have to either carry on this tradition of advocacy, or attempt to distance themselves from groups and individuals on overment acampus.

Taking a survey of the corridors during campaign season, the candidates' slogans are once again as predictable as their approaches. The rhetoric seems tired and, in some cases, coached by other people who have a clearer understanding of the key issues.

We have one candidate who has voiced her opposition to many of the YFS policies all year long, alienated from the campus press during this crucial time, advocating a sharp turn away from current policies.

Another candidate is a relative unknown to the political scene, her major strengths coming from the people with whom she is slated and her progression of current policies.

And the third is running for a second time, trying to make a comeback from a fairly dismal showing last year, more willing it seems to take the middle of the road this year.

Excalibur has decided not to endorse any of the candidates, but simply to promote the importance of voting as we did last term with the OFS/CFS referendum.

Students must become sensitized to the issues and informed about candidates' platforms. They must read the paper, ask the candidates difficult questions during their speeches and debates, and then cast their best vote next Tuesday and Wednesday.

Apathy can no longer be the rule of the day. Last year's voter turnout was a record high. We need to continue at least this one tradition. Please vote.

EXCALIBUR

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Excalibur is York University's community newspaper. We publish twice-weekly, and distribute 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.

The distinct opinions and articles appearing in Excalibur belong first and foremost to the individual writers and are not necessarily shared by any other Excalibur staff or board member.

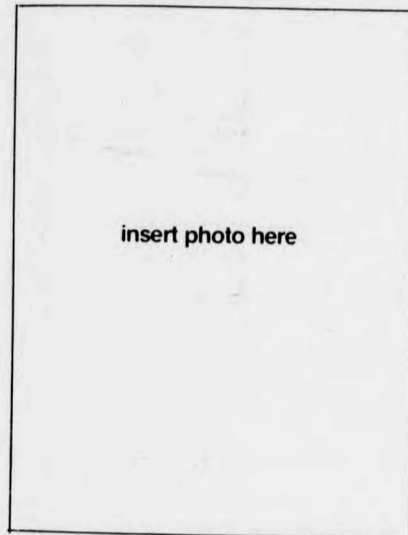
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**Excalibur staff  
Excalibur Editorial Election  
has been postponed. Details  
at staff meeting Wednesday  
March 6 at 4 pm. Please attend  
if you want to vote.**

vote for me and I will be your friend



**YFS/FEY  
President**

insert photo here

- **defy York administration and provincial/federal govts.**

- standing when they sit
- coughing when Arthurs talks
- weekend sit in when Harry is in Vermont

- **pledge to be politically correct**
- **organize student hug-a-thon for student rights**
- **organize disposable diaper tax to pay for free higher education**

qualifications

- **Endorsed by various groups and clubs**
- **class president grades 3&4**
- **devoted treehugger**
- **trez interested in le bilingualism**

clip this poster and distribute among friends

**LETTERS**

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 spaced, 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, we will refuse letters that are racist, sexist, libellous or those which attempt to incite hatred toward an individual or an identifiable group. All material is subject to editing. All submissions must be addressed to the Editor-in-chief, Room 111, Central Square.

**Former editor disappointed with new plans for Lex**

An open letter to Sarah Payne, Bethune College council president

I was very disappointed by your memo, requesting applications for the position of *Lexicon* editor. It is obvious that your council intends to dismantle the present *Lexicon* and replace it with, what you must imagine, a paper more representative of your college. I urge you to reconsider.

The present *Lexicon* is the most successful college paper in the history of this university. Each issue is consistent in quality, content, and size. As you must know, this was accomplished by the hard work started by Mike Adler. To dismantle the present paper is irresponsible, especially with regards to the many volunteers who have put in the hours to reach the heights the *Lexicon* has achieved.

It is the misconception of your College council (and others, including Vanier's) that the purpose of a college paper is to "promote" the college. A student newspaper "promotes" its college the way the *Lexicon* does now — as a high-quality, thought-provoking source of information.

I do not agree with many of the opinions expressed in the *Lexicon* but I respect the commitment the staff has made and their abilities. A paper that blindly follows the bidding of the council that runs it is simply producing propaganda and has the respect of very few.

Please allow the *Lexicon* to continue its present course. Radical change is not the solution to your problems; rather gradual compromise should be pursued. For example,

some Bethune students felt that there was not enough coverage of college sports yet the latest issue had the best college sports report of any paper on campus. I am not aware of the circumstances behind this development, but it is an accomplishment that shows a compromise can be reached.

I hope your council reconsiders its decision.

Sincerely yours,  
Brett Lamb  
former editor, the *Vandoo*

**Smoking in halls poses hazards**

Dear Harry Arthurs,

I am writing to you at this time to bring to light a very serious health issue here at York, that could easily be solved with your help. I understand that York is decreasing the number of areas where smoking is permitted and I applaud this progressive attitude.

Unfortunately, many students have a total disregard for this initia-

tive and continue to smoke wherever they please. The congestion of smoke in the corridors, especially in the cafeteria area in Central Square, and now in Curtis Lecture Halls, can get quite heavy at times and I feel that it could pose a danger to everyone's health.

If it were up to me, I would have called the police and requested that they enforce the smoking by-law with the maximum penalty (warnings or petty fines would do nothing), but I have found that it is not that easy.

Occupational Health and Safety has informed me that, since York is considered private property, it must be the management that initiates any action against by-law offenders. I am calling on you to help. It is not as if you are making the by-laws; you would only be allowing their enforcement.

I realize that it may take some time to resolve the smoking issue, but if York's administration is not serious about the smoking issue, why did they waste my money with the token "No Smoking" signs? This is a serious health issue and annoyance and should be dealt with at once. You are the only one that can help.

Sincerely,  
Rick Geater

**Resistant to feminist content**

of our class approached the editor-in-chief of *Excalibur*, with a proposal on this topic which would appear in the Women's Day issue.

The editor was resistant to the idea, his notable concern being its feminist content. His rationale was that our feminist viewpoint would be a biased one, which would require him to balance it with another point of view.

Does the editorial board of *Excalibur* regularly demand a balanced viewpoint for every article it prints? Does the fact that we are feminists imply that we don't have a balanced point of view? What is the point of

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