

Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity
—Lord Acton

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Corporation mentality keeps BOG secret

In post-Watergate days, secrecy and strict codes for confidentiality are becoming a thing of the past. Politicians are appealing to the North American masses with platforms of honesty and open door policies. The public, as never before, wants to know.

The Board of Governors, the almighty decision-making body for York university, is still living in the dark ages of academia.

Since York's inception in 1959, BOG has always held its meetings behind closed doors, indifferent and isolated from public concerns.

Last May, the two student representatives on the Board, Shelly Rabinovitch and Jay Bell, spearheaded a movement to make the board meetings public.

At that meeting the members discussed the issue at some length and expressed the concern to protect the personalities and opinions of the board members. And some, like Lino Magagna of Ontario Hydro saw the move as a

positive one.

The result, as it could be expected, was a paltry one. The Board agreed that the communications department director could attend the meetings for the purpose of recording synopsis of the proceedings which could be edited later at the request of H. Ian Macdonald or Board chairman Betrand Gerstien.

A very, very, small step forward for the Board.

York takes a certain amount of pride for its progressive academia. And rightly so York is a relatively young university. York's claim to progressiveness is marred, however, by its regressive codes of secrecy for the Board. York is the only university in Ontario except for Queen's University which holds its governing council meetings in private.

Clearly then, the Board should reconsider the motions made by Bell and Rabinovitch and start thinking about being more responsible to the community at large.

Part of the solution or part of problem?

CYSF president Barry Edson and many of his council have been critical of both the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) and the National Union of Students (NUS) since they took office.

Yet they are failing to help make these organizations work.

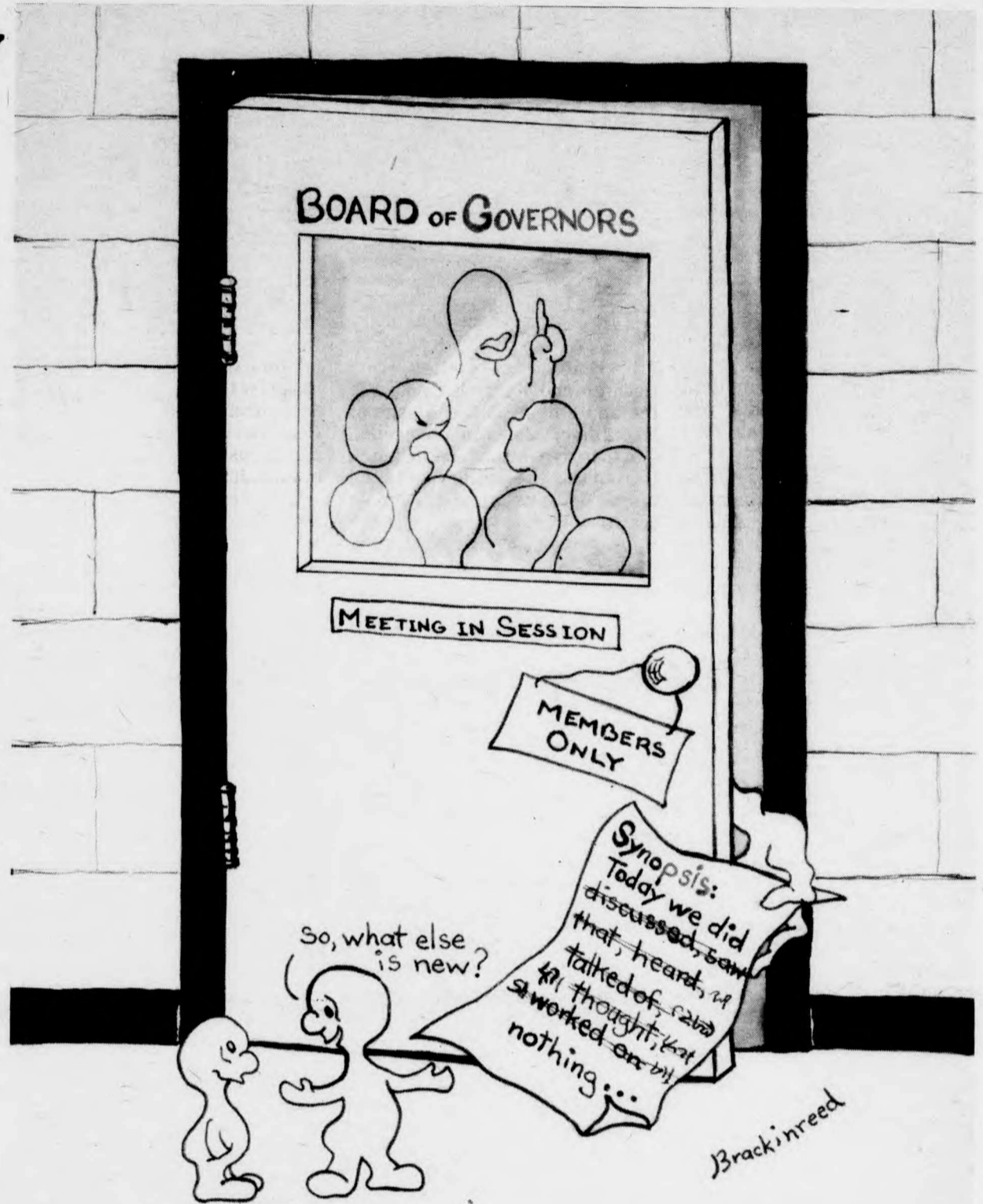
OFS and NUS are provincial and national student organizations representing York students. They rely on the participation of member student councils to make their organizations work. Part of this responsibility calls for student councils to distribute the newspapers of the organizations on their respective campus. This cooperation is essential for either OFS or NUS to become serious organizations with a broad student base. It is also essential so they can get student feedback on their policies to function as responsible bodies.

Both the OFS Student and

the NUS Student Advocate were delivered weeks ago at York to be distributed by CYSF. A good part of student fees go towards the production of these papers, in fact, CYSF allocated an additional \$75 to help cover printing costs for the Advocate. Yet most copies of both papers have sat bundled in the CYSF office since delivery. Edson says council was too busy to have the papers distributed.

Distribution should be a priority. A new issue of the Student is about to come out yet the first one was just distributed on Tuesday. The distribution only took place after an Excalibur reporter asked Edson why there were still papers in the office.

CYSF should spend less time being critical of the two groups and more time getting their ideas out so the students can make up their own minds on the validity of OFS and NUS.



Province derelict in duties, city shouldn't have to build track

It looks like York University is finally going to get a decent track and field facility, but it seems to be coming through the back door and at the expense of other groups.

York is not getting the facility through the Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU) but instead through a deal with Metro Toronto involving a scheme to share the facility with the Ontario Track and Field Association (OTFA).

York needs a stadium. It has a good phys. ed. department and good athletes who have been suffering with inadequate facilities for years. The MCU should be funding

such a facility through its budget especially since it recently granted the University of Toronto money to build yet another sports complex downtown.

Instead we are getting the complex with money that had been promised for an OTFA complex to make up for the loss of a track at the CNE stadium when it was expanded for pro-baseball. Spokesmen for the OTFA are already concerned as to whether they will get enough access to the stadium to meet their needs. And despite their optimism, the university will be hard pressed having very limited use of the stadium on week-ends.

It is clear both York and the OTFA need stadiums and that the current compromise will not be satisfactory for either group.

The money for the stadium is coming from the Metro Toronto budget at a time when the city has been told to practice restraint and had to cut many projects including plans for new daycare facilities.

Certainly the city should not be in a position where social services are being cutback so that a university, a provincial concern, can reap partial benefits.

The province must take responsibility for maintaining decent facilities at universities so all departments can function properly. They should not count on the city to bail them out of their educational responsibilities, especially at the expense of municipal social service programs and renege on previous agreements between Toronto and the OTFA.

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