

News Digest

Excalibur strives to increase service via student levy hike

By DEBORAH DUNDAS
and ZENA KAMOCKI

Students will go to the polls October 18 and 19 to decide if *Excalibur* should expand in order to satisfy York's growing needs.

"I'm very pleased that *Excalibur* is considering expanding the frequency and comprehensiveness of its coverage," said Provost Tom Meininger. "*Excalibur* is the chief organ of communication on campus."

According to Brigitta Schmid, Chairperson of *Excalibur's* Board of Publications, "The quality of the paper has increased tremendously in the last few years, and we want to keep up the high standard."

"*Excalibur* has emerged as the true community paper on campus, and with the expansion that's going on within the university, it makes it more important to have increased service."

This increase in service would include more special supplements, larger issues, and more summer issues, which *Excalibur* Business Manager Merle Menzies says are necessary to train staff.

In order to achieve this expansion, *Excalibur* says it has been forced to ask the students for more money. "*Excalibur* is chronically underfunded," said CYSF President Tammy Hasselfeldt. "If we're expecting them to be a community newspaper, they have to have the funds and facilities to do it."

"I am 100 per cent for it," said *Lexicon* Editor Mike Adler. "My personal opinion is that *Excalibur* should have more news and less ads."

The paper is already feeling the strain of a small staff, according to Menzies. "Around exam time last year, we had two people — the editor and production manager (the only full-time paid editorial staff members) — putting out the newspaper. It was ridiculous," she said.

Part of the problem, she explained it that the staff is largely comprised of volunteers who must juggle their time at the paper with heavy course loads and part-time jobs. Menzies

feels that creating part-time, paid positions at *Excalibur* will allow students to spend more time at the paper, giving them valuable career training.

Excalibur currently receives a fee levy of 20 cents per course, or \$1 per full-time student. This amount represents about eight per cent of the paper's annual operating budget. The other 92 per cent comes from advertising and typesetting revenue.

Menzies noted, however, that advertising fluctuates from year to year.

The proposed increase would raise the levy to 60 cents per course, \$4 per full-time student.

Menzies explained that many Canadian university newspapers receive more funding than *Excalibur* and are consistently able to put out larger issues. In addition, "many of these newspapers serve smaller communities," she said. "We are the third-largest university in Canada."

A survey conducted by *Excalibur* revealed that Carleton University students pay \$7 each for their paper; Ryerson's paper receives \$7.22 per student; Trent students pay \$7 and Wilfrid Laurier's paper receives \$6 per student. Menzies noted that at 16,000 copies per week, *Excalibur* already has a larger circulation than any of these newspapers.

Meininger added that "The time has come, as with other major newspapers in other Canadian universities, to expand."

Deficit to be cut: CYSF

By STACEY BEAUCHAMP

This year's Council of York Students Federation (CYSF) executive has budgeted to eliminate their \$12,639 deficit, said Vice-President of Finance David Gilinsky.

Gilinsky made the comment at last Tuesday's Council meeting where he presented the CYSF budget paper.

President Tammy Hasselfeldt said

they will not cut back on activities to do this. Instead, they will merely "reallocate their resources" by taking such measures as increasing outside revenues from two per cent to six per cent of their total budget.

"If it came down to having to reduce activities, (they) would readjust the budget. After all it is not engraved in stone," said Hasselfeldt.

Gilinsky said that last year's Council incurred the deficit when the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) decided to pull out of CYSF. Expecting half of the \$40,000 grant to go directly to the GSA, Council found themselves holding the GSA portion of the grant at the end of the year.

\$20,000 was then paid to GSA as part of the scheduled club funding, thus placing the CYSF in a deficit situation.

Vice-Pres Dutka quits

By ELAN KATTSIR

Paul Dutka resigned as CYSF's Vice-President of Internal Affairs last Thursday, one day after he was informed that the Executive had given notice to Council for his impeachment.

CYSF President Tammy Hasselfeldt said that she is "sorry that it had to come to this, but Council recognized that he could no longer fill his duties as Internal Vice-President." Lack of attendance was cited for initiating the disqualification process, with the three-week delay of Cult Awareness Week directly attributed to his inactivity.

His duties will be shared by Executive members until a replacement is found. Applications will be accepted for another two weeks and a decision will be made at the October 25 Council meeting.

CYSF Vice-President of Finance David Gilinsky said that unlike last year's Council which was plagued by personal conflicts, Dutka's resignation stemmed purely from professional reasons. "If I was in his shoes I would do the same thing," Gilinsky explained. "But the CYSF has a responsibility of trust to staff and students which it must uphold."

Dutka was unavailable for comment.

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