

Excalibur

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

Excalibur, founded in 1966, is the York University weekly and is independent politically. Opinions expressed are the writer's and those unsigned are the responsibility of the editor. Excalibur is a member of Canadian University Press and attempts to be an agent of social change. Printed at Newsweb, Excalibur is published by Excalibur Publications.

News 667-3201

Advertising 667-3800

YUSA executive exceeds authority in admin. dealings

Recent actions have made it patently clear that the executive of the York University Staff Association has gone far beyond its delegated authority in dealing with the administration. What makes this matter even more serious is the fact that the executive rarely bothers explaining its behaviour in terms that its members can understand. When it does bother to tell people what's going on, it tends to do so after the fact.

A lot of staff association members don't know what's happening. They're understandably confused, after being thoroughly misled for so many months. But they're not alone.

When a member of that very same executive admits in public that he's been left in the dark—even as he was forced to chair an "information" meeting—the true depth of YUSA's incompetent leadership, and tactical failures becomes clear.

The executive members can't even communicate with each other, let alone with the rank and file.

There's only one decent solution to this sorry mess—removal of all current executive members and an immediate organizational drive toward a legally recognized union with all of the rights that entails—rights that are written down in clear English. The time spent on these quasi-union, management-favoured organizations is a waste of everyone's energy, except maybe the administration's.

Staff association members can, of course, opt for any course of action they want. Only when the crunch comes and the jobs start disappearing will they know if they've made the right moves.

Innocent birds suffer

Some pheasants—beautiful birds, really—enjoy the campus grounds more than most students. Now, some dastardly fiends are laying nasty traps (illegally, we might add) for them.

We've checked Versafod cafeterias, but so far no pheasant dishes have turned up. So one villain has been eliminated.

Crime against helpless animals is intolerable. The fact that it's happening right here at York makes it our responsibility, nay, our duty, to bring the criminal or criminals to justice.

The culprits may or may not be students. Naturally, we hope they aren't. But it's hard to imagine a professional pheasant ring operating in this area. If you know anything about the matter, do your conscience a favour and report it before more innocent birds suffer.



Staff meeting

Room 111,
Central Square
2 p.m.

Editor-in-chief

Brian Milner

News editor

S. Jennifer Hunter

Entertainment editor

Warren Clements

Photo editor and graphics

Peter M. Hsu

CUP editor

Michael Hollett

Sports editor

Rick Spence

Staff at large — Peter Matilainen, Agnes Kruchio, Sol Candel, Stan Henry, Anthony Gizzie, Michael Forman, Alan Risen, Rosemary McCracken, Vice Dorval, Chris Gates, Judith Nefsky, Robin Endres, Ron Rosenthal, Shelley Rabinovitch, Dynamite C. Strange, J.W. Beltrame, Bonnie Sandison, Norma Yeomanson, C.T. Sguassero, Julie Buck, Robin Kroft, Mike Distalo, Mira Friedlander, Ed Piwowarczyk, Steve Hain, Colan Inglis, Honey Fisher, J.B.M. Falconer, Michael Barris, Godfrey Jordan, Kevin Richer, Richard Gould.

—Michael Lawrence

Give them cakes and circuses

What would you do with \$100,000? It's a question that CYSF seems unable to answer.

This week, a rather upset student entered the Excalibur offices for this very answer. He simply wanted to know what CYSF was giving him for the student fees he has to pay. After examining the budget allocations of the Council, he and I both came to the same conclusion: not much.

What really bothered him though, was the fact that his fellow students really couldn't care less. He couldn't understand why the York student body acquiesced to a student government, which as its best could be described as an expensive day care centre for overgrown adolescents. I told him I suffered from the same frustration and that I had almost given up a cause he had just begun to take up.

ANGER ENCOURAGING

I found this anger encouraging. Though he is one of the few students to actually voice his dissatisfaction with York student governments, I am convinced he is only the proverbial tip of the iceberg. The difference with this student is that he is more than anxious to do something about it and convinced that he can. Unfortunately, as the situation stands he will remain a lone voice in the wind.

The question of student funds and their allocation becomes an increasingly nagging one. The scheduled Radio York referendum clearly demonstrates that campus organizations are fed up pleading with CYSF for a cut

of the budget pie. The strategy of a referendum was based on the concept that student groups should more directly be able to direct their pirated fees. But alas for Radio York, the administration indicated that such democracy was too sophisticated for we plebeians; the referendum has been temporarily tabled to be included on the next CYSF election ballot.

This is no time to pull punches. The majority of council members, including President Mouritsen, have behaved like nits. Out of a (captured) budget of almost \$100,000 we are served up a pub and dance as an excuse for a winter carnival. Who even asked for a lousy winter carnival?

Are our venerable members of council so inept as to think that people are still concerned with sockhop, flings? It appears so. The griping, led by Mouritsen himself on the allocation of a measly \$300 dollars to loan students needing bail money, and his now familiar stunt of vetoing the decision for lack of quorum only confirms the incompetency and irresponsibility of this body.

The need for a strong and able student government becomes obvious when such a body is not present. The lack of community spirit and coordination is a direct result of these "babes in the woods." With students threatened by a quickly deteriorating university system, CYSF is satisfied with allocating \$6,000 for an outdated course evaluation instead of trying to act as a voice in the actual conception of courses. Don't tell me

such avenues aren't open to that body. I can understand that at \$5,000 Mouritsen isn't about to jeopardize his precious position with the gift horse, but sometimes courage is an admirable quality.

Another year has gone by, and the status of students re: the institution they support has not improved. If a budget of \$100,000 and 25 determined council members are not enough to mobilize this student body, than nothing is. But as long as CYSF continues to pretend that it's an oberblown prom committee, we are going to get nowhere.

I'm not asking council to purchase three hundred used machine guns and lead an assault on the administration offices, though it almost bears thought. A determined, courageous and responsible student government will be heard.

If the present council can be said to be representative of the student body, it is only that passive, milquetoast attitude that most people carry proudly around here.

So, what should I have told my visitor? That the majority of his fellow students are apathetic, albeit reactionary? That his student government is a fraud, a circus? That the world he lives in is probably the same collection of selfish, isolated, cowardly individuals? I made some suggestion that he run for council as a start, but without others as committed as himself, the cause will be doomed to failures.

If I was Jimmy the Greek I wouldn't even give odds.