

Excalibur

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

Excalibur, 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 attempts to be an agent of social change. Typography by Foto Set, printed at Delta Web. Excalibur is published by Excalibur Publications, a body incorporated under the laws of Ontario.

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Snips and Snipes

Loudspeaker York

For too long "Radio York" has been a misnomer. The university's student-run radio station might have been more aptly christened "Loudspeaker York" - but never CKRY "FM", which it simply isn't.

Over the years CKRY has been coming up with some high quality programming (and some forgettable programming) that sadly went unnoticed by most of the York populace because opportunities to hear the station are rare.

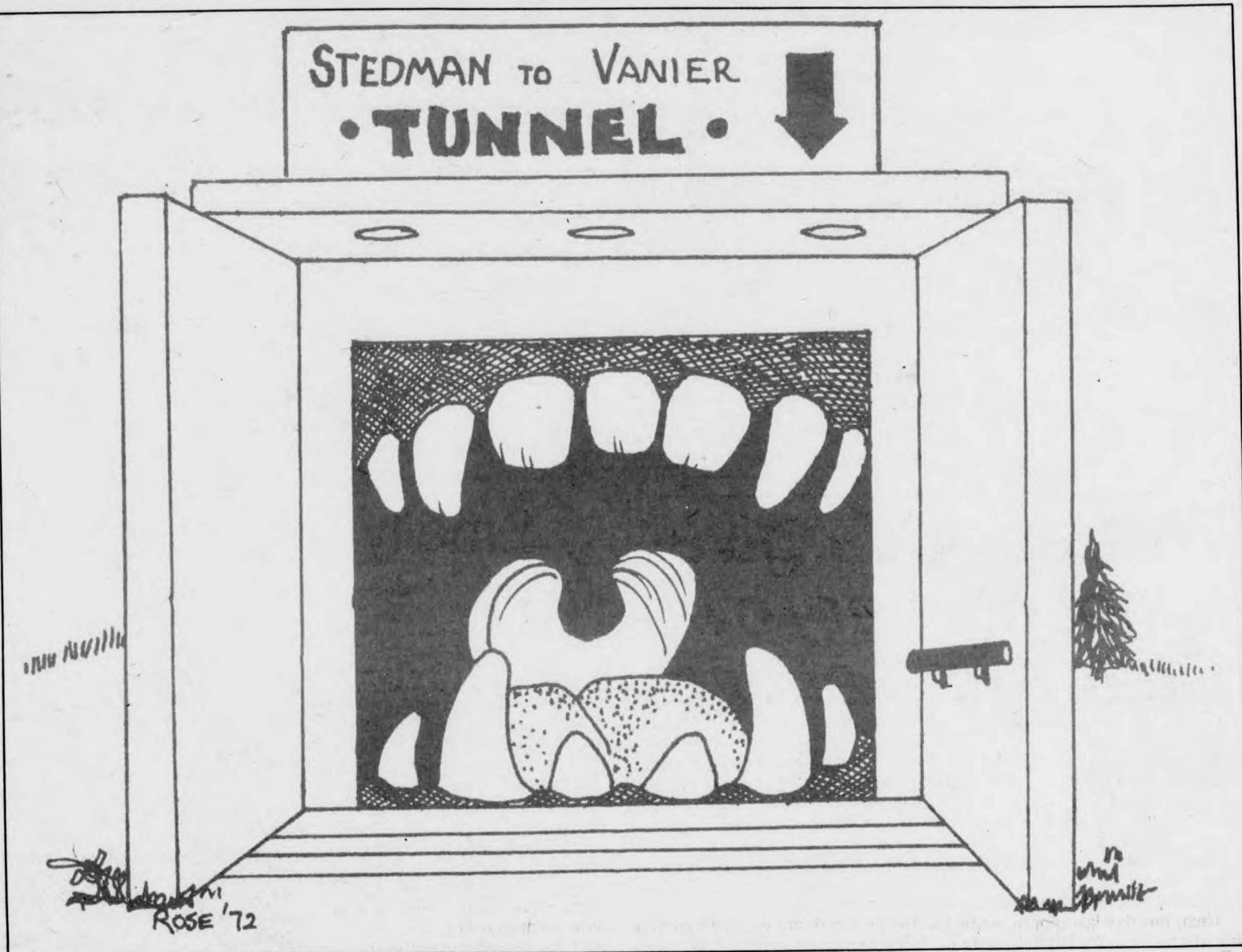
A scattered closed-circuit system of loudspeakers does not a radio station make. Many of the outlets are inoperative, unused or badly placed on busy thoroughfares not inductive to listening. Campus pubs, coffee shops and cafeterias have taken advantage of CKRY speakers sporadically or not at all, which is quite understandable, given the fluctuating broadcast hours which characterised the station's performance last year.

That the York community cannot hear CKRY is unfortunate in itself, but it has had an equally saddening side effect: the station has been, and is operating in a vacuum. With few students involved in the station and fewer yet aware of what was going down there, it's not surprising that the station - which, like *Excalibur* is meant to be run democratically - has degenerated into an autocracy.

And it's not a very efficient autocracy that embarks on a major project like a local FM license without being able to keep track of \$9,000 a year.

As long as CKRY continues in its current stunted format, most students will never see (or, rather, hear) any of the money CYSF grants CKRY annually.

When we can hear the station; its staff and any cliques that may develop within it will be accountable to someone besides themselves. There will



also be some point to striving for consistently high quality programming.

Good luck, CKRY. In the future may you be democratic, audible and up to date on the state of your financial books.

Renovations and Administrations

In last week's *Excalibur*, we voiced the frustration of many students at the recent renovations that have taken place in the Central Square cafeteria. The renovations, we said, had turned the place into an inhuman fast-food joint, and taken away the only centrally-located socializing place at York.

We are still of the same opinion. But saying that, it does not follow that we are laying the blame for the change at the feet of Food & Plenty, the caterers in the cafeteria.

First of all, who can blame them? They've got to make a buck in order to stay in business, and renovating the cafeteria in order to ensure faster turn-over makes good business sense.

Secondly, they didn't do it. Of course they agreed to the renovations, but the \$35,000 price tag was picked up by the administration.

Now in our opinion, in order to be willing to pay for such an undertaking, the administration must either have had some sinister opposition to students socializing, or they were completely out of touch with the reality of students' - particularly commuter students' - life at the university.

We hope it's the latter. In any case, sinister motives or no, it is their responsibility to repair the damage. Central Square must either be re-renovated, or another suitable centrally-located socializing place provided.

Of course what we really need is a student union building, something most universities have. But at least they could let us have some tables and chairs.

Unless they are content to idly witness the daily frustration of thousands of commuter students, hopelessly looking for a place between classes to relax and meet friends, wandering the cold concrete corridors of the Ross Building, a building which has been compared in its inhospitality to the Ministry of Love in Orwell's *1984*.

Length and circumference

You may not have seen the cover of the August 22 issue of

Macleans, Canada's largest newsmagazine.

If you haven't, you're not missing much. The cover depicts a male tailor taking the measurements of a woman, wearing only her underwear.

It is tasteless, sexist, and maddening.

It wouldn't be worth mentioning, except for the amazing fact that there are some people who don't see that it is tasteless, sexist and maddening.

One of them is *Globe and Mail* columnist Oakland Ross, a former managing editor of *Excalibur*.

He maintains that since being measured by a tailor is a long-established human tradition, that everybody who goes to a tailor gets measured, that therefore, the cover has simply "recorded... (an)... immutable fact of the human condition." That, therefore, the cover is neutral, is not a degrading por-

trayal of women.

It's sad that it is still necessary to respond to mindless comments such as that.

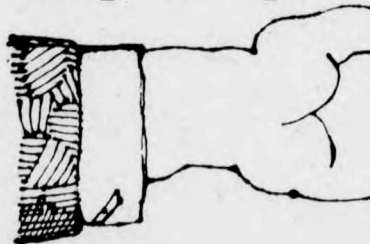
If it is neutral, Oakland, why didn't the cover portray a semi-nude male being measured by a female tailor? As Carol Lisacek of Calgary says, only half-kidding in a letter to *Macleans*, "that way you could measure length and circumference."

The fact is, our society almost universally accepts as natural putting a semi-nude woman on the cover of our "national" magazine.

But were that magazine to depict a semi-nude male instead, it would be weird, unnatural. So of course it's *always* the woman who appears.

Oh yes, Oakland, one more thing. There are no tailors in Canada who, in order to take measurements, request that their customers strip to their undies.

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