

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, Excalibur, room III, Central Square. Please type letters, triple or double spaced, and keep them to around 250 words. Name, address and phone number must be included, but name will be withheld on request. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for grammar and length. Deadline Monday 4pm.

## Two views on the Forest affair

### Puerile display

Supposedly, this institution claims to be run as a place of higher learning, not a feeding grounds for the nurturing of violent activities.

Normally the students at York tend to be apathetic and carefree about the operation of their university. However, an occurrence on Friday afternoon November 18, has prompted us to demand that some action be taken to prevent a future puerile display of such magnitude.

Students of York - take note. This issue concerns you. For a mere \$5 rental fee, any group, internal or external, is permitted to come on campus and "share" their views with us.

We are not undemocratic in saying that any group should not be allowed on campus, since we feel there are quite a few that are worthwhile in contributing to our higher educational needs.

We, as students of York University propose that some type of screening process or other measure be employed in protecting the interests of the York community. In other words, we are expressing the feeling that students should have a say in who should come on campus.

We fully support the view that freedom of speech is an inalienable right, but we feel this right is jeopardized when we allow certain groups to enter our environment and abuse our personal rights. For the \$5 entrance fee, we are willing to allow certain groups on campus who are so determined to "share" their views with us that they will go to the extreme of BEATING it into us.

The \$5 fee is not the issue. How these groups propose to share their views with us is the issue. We are willing to listen to individuals who possess a different view than ours, but we are concerned about their method of presentation.

Apathy is an easy way to avoid reality. For those of you who are concerned about the environment at York we invite you to express your concern and sign our petition which will be presented to our representatives in council, and will hopefully prevent a future outbreak of violence on the York campus.

The alternative is to allow these groups on campus and face similar occurrences. The petition has been

placed in your CYSF office (it's no longer there - ed.) and we hope that you will protect your interests - Because only you can!

Jeffrey Halpern  
Jack Ganz  
Cheryl Moss  
4th Year BBA Students



Jeffrey Forest

### Political victim

A heated debate in Central Square between some Zionist students and supporters of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) (CPC M-L), over whether Zionism is racist, has led to the arrest of four people, including Dr. Jeffrey Forest.

Forest is a social science instructor at Atkinson College and a supporter of the York Student Movement, campus arm of the CPC (M-L). He has been suspended for two weeks by the university administration pending an investigation.

The suspension of Forest, even prior to the beginning of legal proceedings, is completely unjustifiable. Despite the inherent problems of the Canadian legal system, it at least stipulates that a person is innocent until proven guilty. The administration's practice is not to immediately suspend every student, faculty or staff member who is arrested, for whatever cause. Forest's suspension can only be seen as a victimization because of his political views.

The administration's decision to

deny CPC (M-L)'s right to set up an information table in Central Square on November 21 is an attack on the democratic right of this group to freely put forward its point of view.

Despite our deep-going political differences with the CPC M-L, we unequivocally defend the right of all political clubs on campus to freely express their ideas.

Regardless of whether one is a Zionist or an anti-Zionist, it is necessary to recognize that the view that Zionism is racist is widely held in the world, and must be openly discussed and debated.

We oppose the use of force, whether on the part of the administration, the police, Zionist students, or groups on the left, as a means of resolving this dispute over the character of Zionism.

The university administration and the police have shown through past actions that they are no ally of students' interests, and they should not be relied on to resolve political differences within the student body.

We support the aims of the Ad-Hoc Committee to Oppose Political Persecution, whose petition calls for the reinstatement of Forest and the defence of students' right to distribute revolutionary literature on campus.

The CYSF executive voted November 21 to request the administration to prohibit Forest from booking a table in Central Square and to fire him from his position at the university. At the November 23 CYSF meeting, a majority of council refused to reaffirm the CYSF's previous hands-off policy regarding access to literature tables in Central Square.

This is the same CYSF leadership which has taken steps to limit the activity of groups and individuals with whom it has political differences. It has denied all political clubs on campus the democratic right to apply for student council funds. And this is the same CYSF leadership which has seriously undermined the ability of Harbinger to provide its important services, by cutting back severely on its funding.

We challenge the CYSF leadership to live up to its responsibility to defend democratic rights on this campus and ensure that an open discussion can take place.

Linda Blanchet for the  
Young Socialists

Gary Kinsman for the  
Revolutionary Workers League

## Buttrick replies

Excalibur does not seem to dispute the data which suggest that the way universities are currently funded implies that they are being used to redistribute income from the poor to the relatively rich. Nor does Excalibur object to the idea that those who do not benefit from universities should not be obliged to pay for them.

Nonetheless, Excalibur wants to keep tuition fees from rising even when accompanied by the possibility of grants for students from poor families and of larger loans, optionally repayable from future earnings. Excalibur rests its case on a fear that higher tuition fees will make universities less accessible.

But if this is so why did Excalibur ignore rather than join me in advocating the dropping of Grade 13 and a reduction of "streaming" in the schools?

At present only 58 percent of half of all persons aged 17 or 18 years get Grade 12 diplomas in Ontario and less than half of these go on to get Grade 13 diplomas. In contrast, 83 percent of this same age group in the three states of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin get Grade 12 diplomas and there is no Grade 13.

Furthermore, the selection process in Ontario schools is not all that good. From older data, 40 percent of those Grade 9 students who stood highest in scholastic aptitude scores never reach Grade 13 while 17 percent of those who scored lowest do reach Grade 13. In consequence, the rank order correlation between marks and scholastic aptitude scores in Grade 13 is only 0.4.

I hope that readers will look at the recommendations I proposed as a single package with three components: (1) increase the pool of young people who are eligible to attend university; (2) prevent government from using the universities to redistribute income from poor to relatively rich; (3) insure that those who benefit from going to university bear a larger fraction of the costs they thereby create so that others will not be forced to do so. P.S. \$4,000 is a rough estimate of the marginal cost of a four-year degree not an annual cost.

John Buttrick

## Inside looking out

Hi! I'm a prison inmate doing five to eight years and would sure like to write to someone on the Outside, especially a woman.

I'm a 26-year old single male, weight 175 lbs., am 6' tall and love the following: kids, all outdoors, eating (!), horses, chess, football, hunting, fishing, reading, poetry, writing letters.

It's kind of lonely in prison and me or any of the other dudes here would love to correspond with any woman - fat, short, tall, skinny - no matter! Replies are forwarded.

Reg Spencer  
Box 57  
Centreville, N.B.  
EOJ 1HO



## Council club decision ignores student input

At the last CYSF meeting, a majority of members voted to uphold the undemocratic and discriminatory decision made at the October 31 meeting to cut off all financial support to the activities of political clubs on campus. Only

United Left Slate (ULS) councillors and two others voted against.

This motion was passed in total contempt for the opinions of students who believe their student council should support all activities of York students, and not impose the particular bias of the majority of student council onto the student body.

670 students signed a petition demanding "that CYSF reverse this decision and make it possible for political groups to receive funding from CYSF as in previous years." A number of organizations registered their protests against the new policy, including the political committee of the Third World Students' Union, who, in a statement read to the CYSF meeting, called it "an attack on the basic democratic right of 'freedom of speech' within the university."

The council members who voted in favor of upholding the decision to cut off all financial support to political clubs did so in arrogant disregard of students' wishes. It is clear that these members, including Paul Hayden, are no longer interested in representing the interests and wishes of students on York.

Cheryl Pruitt  
ULS member on CYSF,  
York Young Socialists

## Veep sets record straight

The 1976-77 council by careful administration of student funds accumulated a sufficient surplus to replace the \$10,000 term deposit that the 1975-76 council (ULS) cashed as one of its first acts after taking office and ended the year with expenditures exceeding revenue by approximately \$7,000, not including almost \$2,000 in outstanding accounts. (The \$10,000 was included as revenue).

For the benefit of students unfamiliar with the past financial history of CYSF, this may be of interest. By the end of the 1971-72 council year CYSF had lost all financial credibility. When the 1972-73 council took office CYSF owed the university \$27,000, the accumulated debt of previous councils. As there were no funds one of the first acts of the new council

was to borrow \$10,000 from the bank with Founders council as cosigner of the note.

The loan was repaid the following October and an agreement drawn up providing for the payment of the debt by three annual payments commencing in the following council year.

The 1973-74 council paid \$10,000 and the 1974-75 council made an initial payment of \$9,000 as per agreement. However, as the 1973-74 council had ended the year with a considerable surplus it left the 1974-75 CYSF in a strong financial position.

Before the end of the year the balance (\$8,000) of the York debt was discharged, as substantial bank account and a \$10,000 term deposit was left for the 1975-76 council.

It is fortunate that the debt to the

university had been discharged by the 1974-75 council as one of the first acts of the 1975-76 council upon taking office was to cash the term deposit and consider it revenue, not an investment or trust fund. At the end of the year, expenditures had exceeded revenue by over \$7,000 and approximately \$1,500 in outstanding accounts payable left for the new council to assume.

It would be irresponsible for an organization to budget 100 percent of its revenue and inconceivable that assets would be included in the budget for normal operations.

The 1976-77 administration tried to get the books from the 1975-76 council in order to have an audit done to ascertain the financial position they were in. The bookkeepers chosen by the ULS

executive for the previous year however, did not turn over the books until the fall, (they should have been turned over on May 1).

The auditors said the books were in such a state of disarray that they could not give a qualified opinion on them. What we did find out though was that \$500 of student money was given to do a study on Uganda (this study was never submitted) and a further \$500 to obtain a lawyer for a student radical who destroyed the computer centre (sic) at Sir George Williams University in Montreal.

I find it quite disconcerting that members of this same organization (ULS) and past members of the 1975-76 ULS executive are questioning my ability as finance director given the above facts.

Tom Silverhart  
CYSF, Vice-President of Finance