

EXCALIBUR

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

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A shoddy campaign on all sides

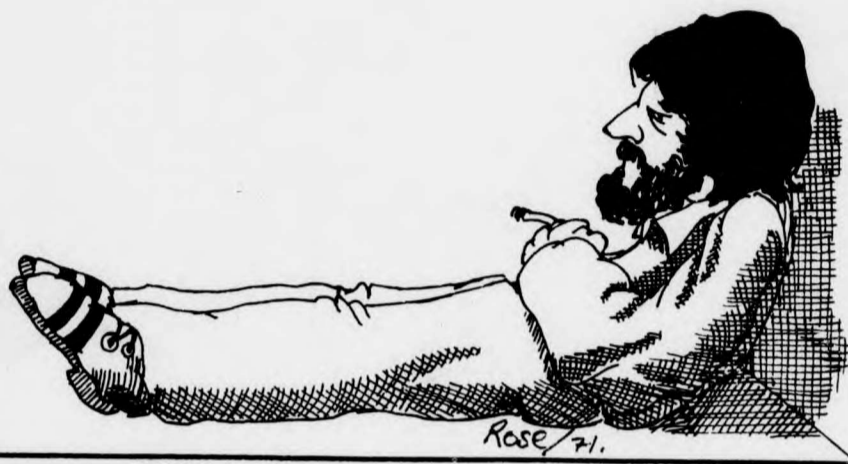
You know it. We know it. All-round, it's been a shoddy campaign. Both sides have insulted the intelligence of the electorate just too many times.

CYSF has produced a simplistic campaign. They say Vote YES without any precise platform as to how it can affect you, the York student. President Mike Fletcher has run a leaky ship since February and hasn't changed. Well, he's finally gotten around to hiring a business manager but with shady procedures. With uninspiring leadership, he has collected around him a less-inspiring executive.

The college councils have responded with an equally insulting campaign. Their posters say Vote NO but don't explain why, except that the voter should do something for York. Both sides don't sign their posters, which is a clear sign of unethical campaigning.

For Winters president Dennis Lee to say all three college representatives should not be elected directly by students is simply unbelievable self-righteousness. He says that system's unworkable. Like several other college councils, he wants one of the three appointed by college councils.

I HEAR THE NINE STUDENT COUNCILS ARE BANDING TOGETHER TO PUT ON A GIANT THREE-DAY ROCK-FEST, SMOKE-IN, AND RAID ON U.O.F.T. TO OVERCOME STUDENT APATHY!!



SO WHAT?

Perhaps Lee needs an introductory course in Canadian politics to know just how workable federal politics are. The college vigilantes can immobilize any effective federal legislation and that is their right. But to infer that York students are incapable of electing responsible federal politicians without college help is pushing the college system just too far. College councils already appoint their favorites as senators and their divided stands in senate have harmed student action. The college councils are simply tucking too much under their belt.

Their demand to maintain a weak federal structure lies with the rationale for a system of checks and balances

between themselves and CYSF. Yet U of T's Students' Administrative Council has built a tradition that York can admire: it effectively operates as a federal government (as proposed by CYSF) and checks are found within the council like any parliamentary process. A further check is produced by strong regard for a free press to ferret and snoop out all the little things politicians don't like exposed. It's a tradition that York could use for its own student government.

The loose federal structure of York student government is not working. It can be seen by the calibre of politicians it has attracted. Fletcher's election team fits the dead-end constitution that they hold. Who wants to run for office

when their purse strings — the essence of power — are controlled by the college governments? Only those who have a non-campaign, no controversies, no political platforms will run for a government tied by 10 other political bodies. You simply can't please York students and the college councils too.

Like small governments, like any set of provincial governments, the college councils want to keep their power. Yet the only way to produce an effective central government which will attract competent politicians is to get a new federal constitution.

That is what we believe York students need.

On Tuesday, Nov. 30, it's your choice.

Letters to the Editor

All letters should be addressed to the Editor and sent to Excalibur, Central Square, Ross Building, York University, Downsview, Ontario. Excalibur reserves the right to edit all letters more than 500 words long. Unsigned letters are the responsibility of the editors. All letters will be published however due to space limitations letters may not be published the week they are received.

CYSF not first-rate but needs support

One might get the idea by all the signs that something is going on at York. Indeed it is! Vote Yes, vote No, vote Maybe. It is all very confusing to those who take little interest in our concrete and plastic neon tinsel fairyland.

The issues themselves are clear. The problem lies in getting at the issues through all the name-calling, garbage filth and smut that has tinted the referendum.

What Council of the York Student Federation is advocating is that they be given a free hand in getting at the money allocated to them without having to beg on the door of each college.

What the colleges say is that CYSF's budget should be approved in each college so it will not be misused. It's nice of the colleges to want to protect us this way — but who approves the college budget? CYSF? Nope, wrong again. Nobody approves the college budget. They have a free hand to do what they will.

McLaughlin lost \$13,000 in their first two months of operation this year. Mac students must suffer this year because of it.

As a former member of Leacock House in McLaughlin College, I take strong exception to the recent letter in this paper from Robert Stewart. He, like many others, makes no constructive criticism of the issues, but rather rants on like a rabid dragon hoping to singe the spirit of those few who are trying to make this a noteworthy institution. Forgive him Mike, for he knows not what he is doing.

Nobody is saying that CYSF is a first-rate organization. They need help and they need it badly but by voting Yes to the referendum hopefully, we the students, might be giving them the confidence and ability to serve us

better. God knows we need it.

Ted Moody

What is Fletcher doing to us?

Just what is this referendum? What is CYSF doing with our money? Why does Michael Fletcher play pinball? Is Michael Fletcher the pinball wizard? Why does Fletcher have heavy days? Why does there have to be a 75 percent vote to oust the president when only 20 percent care about who is president? Why doesn't everyone have to answer directly to some board for all this wanton spending on phone calls to Bermuda, underadvertised Festivals, Texpack strikers (with no explanation) and Fletcher's salary? Who is Fletcher to accuse unnamed persons of inactivity? Why is Fletcher instigating a clause that applies to his non-student status? What is wrong with having a student president who is a student and why should there be provision made for anything else? May anyone become an honorary member of McLaughlin College? Why don't all of these CYSF people stop screwing around with the STUDENTS' money and stop trying to fool everyone with their makeshift referendums.

Susan Bird
 Pat Antcliffe
 M. Staples
 S.F. LeBlanc

Socialists give CYSF their critical support

Regarding the CYSF referendum on its constitution, we want to declare that it has our critical support.

The aim of this referendum should be recognized by York students as a step in the right direction, even though it is still short of achieving any reasonably adequate student representative government.

What we have at York, is a student representative government based on the college system, which decentralizes any student power and keeps us divided.

In our view, what York needs is a strong central voice for the students. To achieve this, we must abolish the college councils and establish a student union.

As it is now, the student councils and CYSF are doing exactly what was expected of them by the administration (read board of governors), that is, competing with each other over the inadequate amount of money allocated to them by the administration and thus playing the divide and rule game.

Nevertheless most of CYSF budget goes to finance the main services which directly benefit the whole York community, e.g. Radio York, Student Clinic, Daycare Centre and Campus Clubs.

Voting in favor of the CYSF referendum, would therefore at least allow these important campus-wide services to operate more efficiently.

Tony Di Felice
 Young Socialists, York.

Waffle challenges Warwick to debate

We were interested in your comments quoted in the Saturday Oct. 30 issue of the Toronto Star and reprinted in Excalibur of Nov. 4, on the issue of "Anti-Americanism" in the university.

York University, as all other Canadian universities, should serve as a base for a Canadian intellectual community serving the needs of the Canadian people. We have serious doubts if a university with an excessive proportion of those unfamiliar or uninterested in those needs whether by

reason of nationality or other reason can accomplish this end.

The issue is not anti-americanism as much as it might be convenient to think so; rather the issue is whether Canadian universities are meeting the needs of the Canadian people?

The York Waffle in the New Democratic Party would like to take up your offer of a debate on this issue. We will ask Council of the York Student Federation to sponsor such a debate at your convenience and at the earliest possible time.

Trusting we'll receive a speedy response,
 Ellie Prepas
 Chairman
 York Waffle

Give us

liberty

or give us

death