



What the shouting is all about

Ever since we put out our student government supplement two weeks ago, twin streams of bitter wrath and grateful thanks have been pouring into our offices from every corner of the campus. It looks like the few people who care about student politics here care a lot about student politics.

We'd like to think we've produced more than just five pages of controversy. In fact, we seem to have produced an awful lot of student energy — be it based on fury of delight. And like most forms of energy, it's only useful if we harness it to do something constructive.

Here, briefly, are the major energy sources on campus, both the constructive and counterproductive kind.

1) **The people who took the headline literally.** These poor folks actually think we want to eliminate the York Federation of Students. They should read the little tiny letters as well as the great big ones.

2) **The YFS executives who didn't like their report cards.** Do they want their egos stroked? Okay: as a group, they're probably the most effective student government we've ever had. But as individuals they seem to have a lot to learn about what newspapers are meant to do.

3) **people who act like we've been phoning in death threats.** Yes, we love college councils too. It's just that they don't help the YFS (most of these same offended councillors will readily admit this). College councils are splendid things, of course, and they should never go away. But 1) they should stick to the residences, and 2) most of their current fees should go to faculty-level governments, and 3) it would help everyone if they didn't sit on the YFS council, and the faculty councils did instead.

4) **The ordinary students who read the supplement and — though they didn't necessarily agree with all the ideas — really started thinking about what's wrong with student government at York and how to fix it.** These are the people who should be making some noise. If group 4) wants to end the make groups 2) and 3) do something useful — and distinguish themselves from group 1) — then maybe they should get together and do something.

The reform proposals contained in our supplement weren't flippant or unfounded. They represent things concerned people have been saying for years. It's just nobody's had the time or power to make them happen.

So here's what you can do if you want to build a better student government yourself.

First, start talking about our reform ideas. Come up with some of your own. Publish them in this paper if you want. But get an agenda, and work to make it happen.

Second — when you vote in the YFS elections this year, vote for someone who wants to change the whole system and not just do a good job within it.

Third — keep pushing next year, on all levels. Don't let the YFS fall into stagnation again. Because it's not an 'us' and 'them' thing — it's all us.

We Apologize

In the January 15 issue of Excalibur, a letter was run which stated: "Menahem Begin, Yitzhak Shamir and other Zionist leaders collaborated with Hitler and Mussolini back in the 1930s and 40s." The statement could lead people to believe that Jewish leaders actively participated not only in the extermination of six million of their own people, but the deaths of millions of Black people, homosexuals and other groups the Third Reich deemed "undesirable." One interpretation of this accusation could lead people to believe that Jews were complicit in the Holocaust. This could foster anti-Semitic behaviour.

Excalibur would like to apologize to the York community, and particularly Jewish members of the York community for any offence the publication of this statement may have caused.

In the January 22 issue of Excalibur, a letter was run which stated: "villages [in southern Lebanon] are bombed because they harbour cowards who call themselves "Liberators of Palestine."

They hide behind the skirts of their women, the toys of their children and the hospitals of their sick; by positioning themselves in the middle of these "peaceful" villages thereby turning them into armed terrorist camps."

The letter then made reference to "constant attacks by Arab terrorists on innocent civilians..."

The statement implies that violent acts committed by "Liberators of Palestine" upon civilians are cowardly while the bombing of Arab villages by the Israeli state is somehow legitimate. This double standard not only dehumanizes the lives of Arabs, it also propagates the racist stereotypes that Arab villagers are terrorists who are willing to send their children to die. The statement also propagates the racist/sexist stereotype that women have a passive role in Arab society by implying that the "Liberators of Palestine" are men.

Excalibur would like to apologize to the York community and particularly the Arab members of the York community, for any offence the publication of this statement may have caused.

excalibur

Excalibur
 420, Student Centre
 York University
 4700 Keele Street
 North York, Ontario
 M3J 1P3

Telephone:
 Advertising • 736-5238
 Editorial • 736-5239

Excalibur is York University's
 community newspaper.

Excalibur is a volunteer organization. We will consider for publication all submissions that are not deemed libelous or discriminatory by the editors and staff. The opinions expressed are not necessarily shared by all members of the staff or board of publications. Final responsibility resides with the editor-in-chief as outlined in the constitution.

Editor-in-chief Jeannine Amber
 Managing Editor Doogie Saunders
 Production Manager Stephen Perry
 Production Assistant Pat Micelli
 Distribution Manager James Oscar
 News Editor Christine F. de Léon
 Gay Issues Coordinator Brian Rigg
 C. U. P. Editor Marcus Parmegiani
 Letters Editor Catharine Soukoreff
 Arts Editor Ira Nayman
 Sports Editor Riccardo Sala
 Photo Editors Anthony Cohen and Alok Sharma
 Feature Supplement Editor Jill Skorochod

Staff Eric Alper, Elaine Bellio,
 David Black, Maggie Borch, Maggie Borch,
 Michele Bosener, Noah Bunnett, Clare Burke,
 Trevor Burnett, Rob Cabral, David Camfield, Lilac Cana,
 Aaron Dantowitz, Patrick Davila, Nick Davis,
 David Gardner, Adrian Graham, Jim Hounslow, Sheena
 Jarvis, Brett Lamb, Jennifer Lim, Moira MacDonald, Azed
 Majeed, Michael Nachoff, Wayne Morrow, Daniel
 Naccarato, Judy Passley, Robert Pincomb, Samuel
 Putinja, Mike Raycraft, Cindy Reeves, Dave Rivait, Lee
 Romberg, Josh Rubin, Harry Rudolfs, Riccardo Sala, Tom
 Schneider, Jim Sheppard, Sydney St. Nicholas,
 Kassia Mier y Teran.

Contributors Steve Balsky, Elaine Bellio, Maggie Borch,
 Michele Bosener, Jacen Braithwaite, Lilac Cana, Aaron
 Dantowitz, Nick Davis, Patrick Davila, MC 900 Ft. Matt
 Galloway, Adrian Graham, Jim Hounslow, Sheena Jarvis,
 Nina Kolunousky, Chris Kromm, Jennifer Lim, Omar
 Majeed, Lee-Anne Moore, Haniff Nana, DJ Nardo, Judy
 Passley, Colin Philips, Samuel Putinja, Josh Rubin, Harry
 Rudolfs, Danielle Sawada, Clive Thompson.

Business Manager Merle Menzies
 Advertising Assistant Patty Milton-Rao

Chair, Board of Publications Nancy Phillips

EXCALENDAR

Wednesday February 5
 Production Meeting at 12:00 pm
 Newswriters' Meeting at 12:00 noon
 General Staff Meeting at 4:00 pm
 (All are welcome)

Thursday February 6
 Editorial Board Meeting at 2:00 pm
 Black Writers Caucus at 3:00 pm
 Production Style Guide at 5:30 pm

Monday February 10
 Women's Caucus at 5:00 pm

Thursday February 13
 Open Forum at 4:00 pm
 (313 Student Centre)
 Constitutional Meeting...NOT!

"Dope will get you through times of
 no money better than money will get
 you through times of no dope"

— Phineas Freak