

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 All letters will be published however due to space limitations letters may not be published the week they are received.

Newspaper Act needed but raises questions

While I believe that faculty should refrain insofar as is possible from interfering in the affairs of students, the principles that I learned as a sports, news, and managing editor of my own school newspaper, plus several years as special correspondent with the Montreal Star, require that I exercise my right of free speech in making the following comments.

In regard to the York University Newspaper Act, I fully agree that a vigorous and free press is indispensable to the operation of a democratic society. Apparently, however, the drafters of the Act and I differ substantially in what is to be regarded as "free".

The concept of freedom to a journalist is not just a one-sided ideal. As pointed out, it requires that safeguards against the pressure of members of administration faculty, governmental and economic interests be established. It also requires that the journalist be a responsible, objective faction. To paraphrase an old cliché, the press should be free, but not licentious. Licentiousness seems to be the dominant characteristic of your paper.

Consider the article relating to the resigning of Atkinson dean Harry Crowe. Apparently the author (unknown) was so concerned with presenting his opinions that facts were of no consequence. The psychology program at Atkinson contains 10 professors of which only two are American. What is even more damning is the presentation of a conjunctual statement, that relating to the qualifications of Jean Cottam, as fact. You don't want freedom you want a license to steal!

The item of responsibility perhaps warrants a few more words. As your Act is structured, the only general student control of a newspaper is through the board of directors. Presumably, this will convey the will of the student to the editor-in-chief. But the only impeachment procedures available must be initiated by members of the newspaper staff, who nominate the editor-in-chief in the first place. If Excalibur is to be responsible to the students it serves and who pay for it, surely the representatives of the students, and the student body as a whole should be allowed to initiate impeachment procedures as well. Perhaps the editor-in-chief's position should also be elective. The drafters of the Act seem to have derived their concept of "a free and democratic institution" from such out-

standing proponents of democracy as Franco, Peron, Stalin, Hitler and Trudeau.

We might in this regard, also consider the problem of principles. The editorial policy of the present Excalibur and the editor, whom I believe also had a strong hand in the drafting of the Act, has been to sue for increased student involvement in the university decision-making process.

I am substantially in favor of this, as I believe that democracy requires that each individual have some say in the events that shape his life. In most cases, faculty have responded to this and student representation in virtually every phase of the decision-making process exists. So tell me. Where is the reciprocal provision for faculty representation on your board? How is it that you can commit in advance any new college in York? Or is democracy an ideal that you can espouse only if it is to your benefit?

Vernon W. Yorgason,
Assistant Professor of Economics,
Atkinson College

According to the York University Newspaper Act as published Jan. 20, you're wrong when you say only the staff can begin impeachment procedures against the editor. As Article IV, subsection 2 clearly states, the student elected board can do the same.

The editor should not be first elected like a politician but nominated by the paper's staff like a cooperative. In the Glendon Newspaper Act, students ratify the staff choice but this is only possible in a small community. Hence, the board's role.

If faculty members pay for the paper as do students, then they would get a board representative. We are approaching the faculty association about this.

New colleges become a part of this Act because all students can pick up the paper. To allow colleges not to join would penalize those who are already paying.

Regarding the Dean Harry Crowe story, the Atkinson calendar lists seven psychology professors. Six have non-Canadian first degrees and are therefore 99 percent likely to be non-Canadian. Your figures of eight out of 10 make the same point: the Atkinson psychology department is dominated by non-Canadians.

Whether Excalibur is licentious or "lacking in moral restraint" is a matter of personal judgment. It depends on what you define as moral. — ed

Kaplan is a Canadian

I would (sic) ask you for a correction in your article by Brian Milner of Jan. 20, "U.S. domination, contract research stultify York" on Page 3.

Reference is made to "Howard Kaplan, an American," former political science chairman.

Please note that the former chairman is Harold Kaplan, who is a naturalized Canadian citizen, formerly an American, I would advise you to get the facts properly researched and correct before printing them.

S. Howard Kaplan,
Atkinson

Faculty are not required to list citizenship with their curriculum vitae or register it with the president, the comptroller or the secretary of the university. So, we base citizenship on a first degree basis which is 99 percent effective.

However, a check with Howard Kaplan's office shows that he (B.A., Phd Columbia) got his citizenship last summer.

Atkinson to keep associate CYSF status

In our conversation today, John Theobald and I discussed the position of the students of Atkinson College within the new Council of the York Student Federation constitution. Subject to final ratification by our assembly, we agreed generally to the following:

(1) The students of Atkinson require that CYSF should become a more influential government within the university, while at the same time gaining more direct control over its own budget.

(2) The status of Atkinson should remain basically the same as it is at present; that is, that we retain only a "special" or "associate" membership within the Federation, not full and equal membership. Other details, such as whether or not Atkinson students may vote for the CYSF president (presuming that the York-wide system is retained), or whether or not our students may run for the presidency or any other executive position, are not essential to present negotiations.

(3) The current meetings of the constitution drafting committee will be attended by Atkinson representatives.

(4) The new CYSF Constitution will reflect that the students of Atkinson College will retain, and in many cases expand, both their

representation on various administrative and faculty bodies at York (including the senate and the board of governors), and their representation and contacts with other universities, student councils, and with the federal and provincial governments.

To further clarify this position, it is meant that CYSF will not represent Atkinson students in these areas.

(5) Atkinson fees to CYSF will continue to be negotiated.

(6) The students of Atkinson College will continue to co-operate with CYSF and both bodies will provide support in areas of mutual concern.

We trust that this letter will serve as final clarification of our position in this matter.

Sid Kimel,
president,
Atkinson College
Students' Association

Excalibur edit was inaccurate

There are a couple of factual errors which you made in your editorial of Jan. 20, 1972. To start with, you claimed that I had dissolved Excalibur and Radio York's board of communications. This is simply untrue. Then you claimed that I had set up a board more to my liking. This is also false. The present board of communications does include members of the media if the editor would like to read the by-laws. What has been done is to invite any colleges interested to attend.

My second point of contention is the claim that I wanted Excalibur to be an organ of CYSF. To make this perfectly clear, I would oppose any such move. I have always and still do believe in an editorially free and independent press. But I also believe in a responsible press, responsible to its readers for content and responsible to its publishers for finances.

Neil Sinclair
Communications Commissioner
Council of York Student Federation

Technically speaking, the board of communications was not dissolved but was made powerless when so many representatives were added without the board's consent. It effectively dissolved when neither the new nor the old members were interested in showing up for meetings.

Secondly, purse strings ultimately control any editorial policy. Every time Excalibur politically threatens Council of the York Student Federation, it threatens its own grant. — ed



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Staff
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MEDIA STUDY

Communications Commissioner Neil Sinclair has asked an Ad Hoc group of five members of the community (three students, one faculty, one administrator) to conduct an informal study of the Role, Rights and Responsibilities of the University Media and file a report of their study with the Council of York Student Federation by February 21st, 1972.

The Study group invites all Campus (York & Glendon) newspapers, Radio York, and any other interested group or individual to submit information and/or position papers for inclusion in the report.

Submissions (or requests for further information) should be addressed to the Media Study Group c/o the C.Y.S.F. Office, Room N108, the Ross Building as soon as possible.



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