

EXCALIBUR

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

Editor-in-Chief Andrew Michalski
 Managing Editor Tim Clark
 News Editor Marilyn Smith
 Cultural Editor Lynn Slotkin

Cartoonist John Rose
 Business and Advertising Rolly Stroeter
 Advertising Manager Jackie Stroeter

editorial phone: 635-3201, 3202
 advertising phone: 635-3800

Excalibur, founded in 1966, 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 is a member of Canadian University Press and attempts to be an agent of social change. Printed at Newsweb, Excalibur is published by Excalibur Publications under the auspices of the Council of the York Student Federation.

controlled circulation: 14,000

The poll is confusing

It's difficult not to sound arrogant when you're talking about student politics.

It's even more difficult to keep things in perspective without getting frustrated.

From last year's muddled scene, Council of the York Student Federation and the college councils have entered even murkier waters for 1972. The results of the Dec. 9 opinion poll are at best inconclusive except for one thing: almost 80 percent feel that CYSF should not be under complete financial control by the colleges.

The poll itself was carried out in the confused pattern that suits York so well.

The polling stations were difficult to find. They were often unattended so that anyone could grab handfuls of questionnaires. At night, Atkinson's council thought CYSF was handling the questionnaires and vice versa; so no one was there. It was all very typical of CYSF mismanagement. Yet the blame does not rest there. It also rests with the college councils who failed to help man the stations.

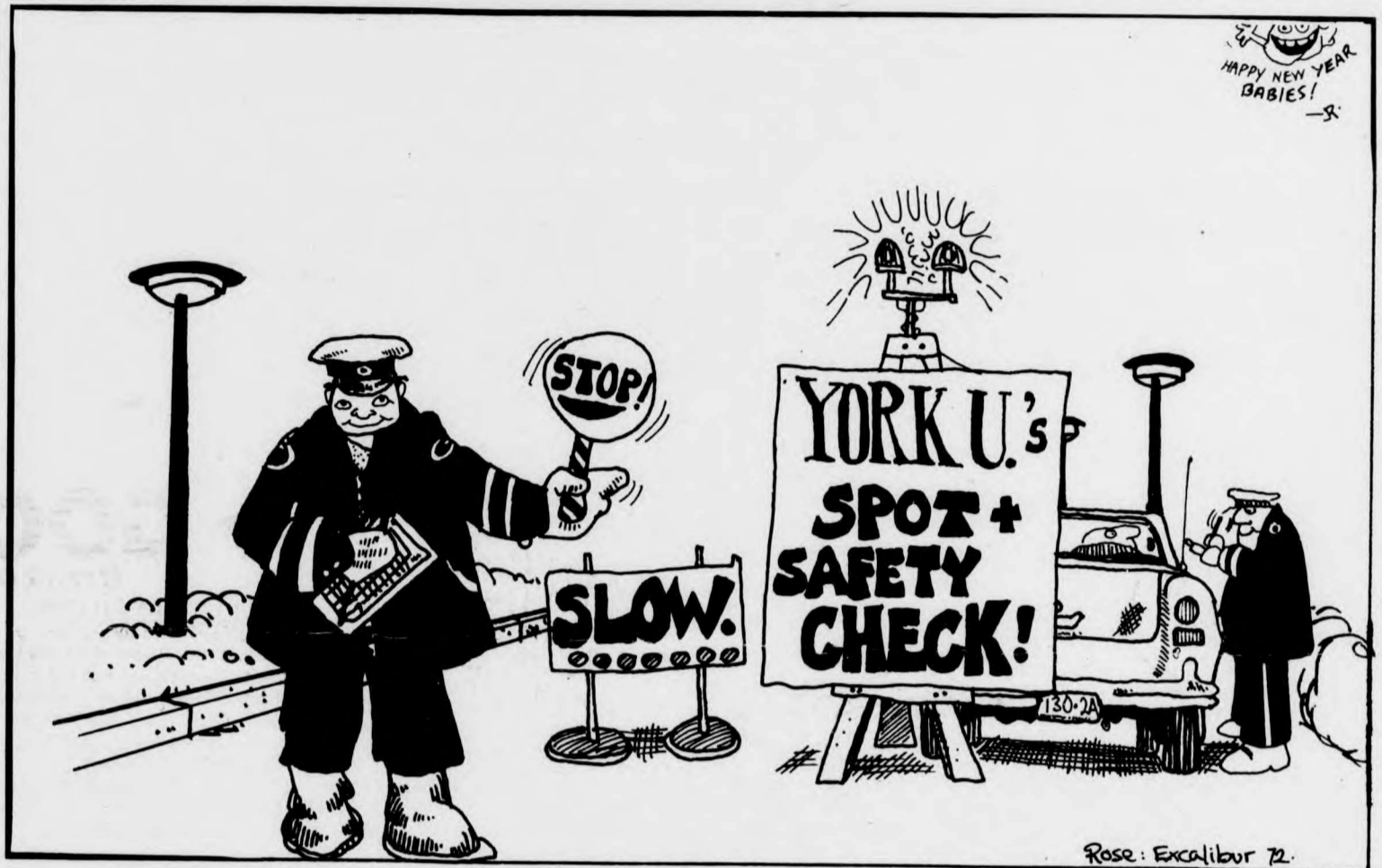
So it's little wonder that the results should be inconclusive as well.

The indications are healthy. Most students do want funds channeled into student government. With its past record, York students deserve credit for their patience.

But there is a limit to anyone's patience.

It is now up to the politicians to sit down on that constitutional committee and hammer out a new set of relations and guidelines. There can be no doubt that difficulties are well on their way but there is no reason why they can't be ironed out. Atkinson's threat of withdrawal from CYSF offers nothing but the same petty college chauvinism that has dominated York for too long.

Enough said?



Who says they have no bargaining powers

Termpapers Unlimited fit the system

Mass education just isn't doing what it's supposed to be doing.

All those wonderful, willy-nilly BA's floating around the market have hardly helped the job situation at all. It's not because students lack any capabilities. It's simply because there are too many floating around. And then there's the question of quality control.

Universities were meant to produce the pesticides to protect the blossoming economy.

Unfortunately, they have cured no ills. Rather they have created more through their huge numbers and distinct lack of quality, a cancer that no one really knows how to cure. But the system goes

on. And the student is caught in it. "Gotta get a BA for a good job, status, security."

And it gets nothing despite any illusions that someone might give you.

And to beat the system — since there's no use trying to question its supreme efficiency at churning out BA's — is to get the highest marks possible at no matter the cost. Although some essays can be challenging, most tend to be a drag. Profs are hell-bent on the form, rarely the content. They like a neat, shining products — very much like the BA's that York likes to churn out.

The obvious reply to the demand for a shiny new essay is a bought one. Let's face it: not all of us can grasp just why supposed teachers live on form and any way to get out of it's a good one.

There have been various ways devised to beat the high school system with the most blatant being Cole's notes. They give that concise precis or translation or formula that makes life so much easier and the questioning process much less effective. Adaptability is the name of the game.

And now the universities are hit by the term essay — readily bought by eager and frustrated students caught in an alienating environment. Plagiarism from unpublished theses is nothing new. But a ready-made essay certainly is, though it's a logical outgrowth of producing a surplus of Phd's who soon become unemployed.

According to dean of arts John Saywell, buying term papers will save students time, "time to smoke grass and drink beer and chase broads." Besides exposing some blatant male chauvinism which no doubt the editors of Stag magazine would greatly appreciate, Saywell forgets that York has a nice, liberal image to keep. That's why there's no crackdown on dope-smoking: so long as that's tolerated, students remain under that illusion of York's liberal facade.

There's only one way to counter mass use of Termpapers Unlimited: break down the professor-student roles created through the lecture system. Far greater contact between the two will minimize the abuse which the present lecture system encourages.

The Stong College proposal is one answer. There, the emphasis of intimate contact between the professors and students, the use of a personalized report rather than meaningless grades and the deployment of an 11-month year, will make the operation of Termpapers Inc. more difficult.

With the thousands of students caught within the system, York is a lucrative market for any essay writing company. So long as professors prefer to remain under a Liberal facade of meaningless mass education, then we can only hope that trapped students use whatever means they find necessary to beat it. It's really too bad.

Sex and our letter writers

Curious about sex and the ramifications thereof?

The author "M", seeking to destroy all myths about male impotency has produced what the publishers call a bestseller. The Sensuous Man teaches every man how to become sexy or rather more potent, or whatever.

And we now reprint a section — not because we wish to discourage social intercourse between ourselves and our readers, but rather because we're really not sure that he's right.

And it goes like this: "Your potential as a lover is as great as the next guy's — as soon as you kick away your psychological crutches (anything that makes you think you got a raw deal in life). And that's what these myths are — excuses for failure. If I still believed in them, I'd be spending all my spare time gardening or writing letters to the editors of newspapers instead of enjoying sex."

Sounds like the same old Freudian analysis:

