

EDITORIAL

Student Centre to become significant force

After a recent tour of the new Student Centre, it seems relevant to point out just how important the centre will become to the changing socio-architectural complexion of York campus.

The centre's pub and cafeteria will begin partial occupancy in late April. And as more student clubs and services take occupancy by mid-summer, the focus of students' attention will finally be able to shift to a structure they can all be proud of: their own student-life building.

Although already delayed by 14 months and overbudget by \$7-million, the Student Centre will signal a decisive move away from the over-crowded Central Square and some of the colleges. The students will be drawn to a new hub, formed around a common-ground, student-oriented pub — something a large university such as York has been sorely lacking.

Because of the continued delays and rising costs, however, a second consecutive class of York students will soon be graduating without the chance to have enjoyed the facilities they paid for as students.

The Student Centre Corporation (SCC) has suggested offering coupons to grads as compensation to entice them to return and use the facilities in the future, but this .

The centre will employ between 20-30 full-time staff and up to 300 part-time staff. It is very clearly a big business. And it needs to be watched closely in its fledgling year to avoid any mistakes or mismanagement.

The significance of the centre to students will increase as it begins to operate. Compared to the usual attention lavished on YFS executive positions during their election campaigns, those candidates running for the centre's board of directors will carry much more potential clout.

For example, the YFS will be merely one of many clubs and services housed in the building. Also consider that the YFS annual operating budget is just under \$300,000, whereas the Student Centre's budget will exceed \$1.2-million each year.

Very clearly, this year, we as a student body must place more emphasis on the election of our peers in manage something which belongs to all of us.

We must scrutinize the Student Centre executive as closely as we would scrutinize that of the YFS.



LETTERS

Excalibur welcomes letters to the editor on all topics. We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 500 words in length. They must be typed, double spaced, and accompanied by the writer's name, signature and telephone number. The opinions expressed belong to the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of *Excalibur* staff or directors. However, we will refuse letters that are racist, sexist, libellous or those which attempt to incite hatred toward an individual or an identifiable group. All material is subject to editing. All submissions must be addressed to the Editor-in-chief, Room 111 Central Square.

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Excalibur is York University's community newspaper. We publish twice-weekly, and distribute across York and Glendon campuses and various locations within the North York community.

Excalibur is an autonomous corporation with a mandate to inform, educate and provoke thought among York University's diverse population.

The distinct opinions and articles appearing in *Excalibur* belong first and foremost to the individual writers and are not necessarily shared by any other *Excalibur* staff or board member.

Final editorial responsibility is retained by the Editor-in-chief.

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Confusing free-speech & irresponsibility

To the editor,

Re: Sound Editorial Policy

In your Feb. 25 editorial, you portray yourselves rather self-indulgently as the valiant free press fighting the forces of repression. It seems to me that you are not interested in the freedom to serve the York community along the lines of your mandate, but rather the freedom to publish irresponsibly with impunity.

Freedom comes with responsibility and although the accompanying cartoon makes light of the "carefully tiptoed path of sound editorial policy" perhaps sound editorial policy is something you would do well to look into.

If *Excalibur* is to provide a "forum for discussion" then there are accepted limits which should be adhered to in order to maintain the level of debate and it is the responsibility of the editor to enforce these. It is your violation of these principles which has resulted in your current woes.

First, personal attacks are unacceptable, particularly those against someone's race or gender. People should challenge other people's arguments not their biology. If you have a problem with Andrea Shetleworth's politics then attack them, but don't degrade her personally on the basis of her race.

Second, articles containing stereotypes or based around stereotypes cannot "inform and educate" us because they show a disregard for

the truth. Any argument based on a stereotype is necessarily false. You cannot reach true conclusions from false premises.

A worthwhile article could have been written about the position of people of African descent in Canadian society or the confusion some affluent African-Canadians feel about their identity but the article by Tawanna Paris was neither. It did not serve to "inform and educate"; there was no coherent argument in it, merely a string of slander and sweeping generalizations.

Whether Ontario housing is populated by black kids who do drugs and engage in other untoward activities is not up for discussion nor is it a matter of opinion. It is patently

untrue and as such it is slander to publish it.

One of the obligations of the position of editor at *Excalibur* is that he procure articles for the paper. The editor cannot use the difficulty of this task as an excuse to print the first thing which crosses his desk.

These guidelines of "sound editorial policy" in no way hinder discussion, to the contrary they enhance it by demanding that it be carried out at a dignified level with respect for each other even if we disagree. Similar basic guidelines are followed by all respectable newspapers; they hardly require "expert sub-committees," simply a qualified, competent editor.

Robert Loudon.

Response inadequate

To the editor,

Your article, "Class Schedule Found Vandalized" (Jan. 28) while clearly attempting to draw attention to the serious problems of random, misogynous attacks at York and the acute vulnerability of groups targeted by this hatred, falls sadly short of an adequate or responsible response.

Even the title seems to identify vandalism, or perhaps the insecurity of administrative computer files as the priority concern, rather than the threat to women's safety and security.

Surely this shocking example of unfocused woman-hatred provided an ideal opportunity for *Exca-*

libur to comment on the larger problem of misogyny at York, thus contextualizing the event itself and providing some much needed anti-sexist education.

In the wake of the misogynist murders of last December, and of the conflicting interpretations of that tragedy reflected in the graffiti on the walls at York, it is difficult to understand why an important and influential vehicle of information like *Excalibur* would respond so passively to a sentiment which clearly parallels that articulated by Marc Lepine. This is no place for understatement.

We hope to see you rectify this

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