

THE EDITORIAL EXCALIBUR NEEDS READERS' SUPPORT

Each year *Excalibur* changes to reflect the tastes and character of its readers, staff and editors. Design, type face and writing style have all altered with time. However, one aspect of *Excalibur* has remained constant: its debt and the constraints that limited finances put on space. This year, as in the past, the newspaper is appealing to the University community for financial support.

Among the many changes made to the current *Excalibur* has been the addition to the masthead of the words, "York University's Independent Press". While the addition is new *Excalibur's* independence is not: *Excalibur* Publications has existed as a corporation since 1976.

Excalibur's revenue is raised through advertising and the operation of a typesetting business. This financial independence allows the newspaper to comment responsibly and objectively on events, without fear of having its funding withdrawn. However, independence does have drawbacks.

To pay its bills, the newspaper must run one page of advertising for every page of copy. The effects of this formula are easily measured: the more ads that come in, the more pages the newspaper has.

During a recession, unfortunately, businesses have less money to spend on advertising. To further tangle matters, *Excalibur's* national advertiser is experiencing financial difficulty, resulting in the delay of payments owed to *Excalibur*.

To cope with tight finances, *Excalibur* has taken a number of

steps. Salaries (the newspaper has four full-time employees) have been cut by 15,000 and commissions are no longer being paid on printing. Commissions on ads are only being paid if the ads have been actively pursued. Improved scheduling of part-time technical staff has also increased efficiency. A much tighter reign has been placed on supplies: we must make do with limited resources.

Still the newspaper needs more funds if it is to properly serve to the community. This week, for example the newspaper consists of only 12 pages. Because of this small size, articles, photographs and letters will have to wait longer before they see their day in print (many items will be out of date by the time there is room in which to print them).

Excalibur is forced to appeal to the community for support. Last year, grants from various campus organizations counted for approximately seven per cent of our budget. So far this year, *Excalibur* has contacted Bethune, Calumet, CYSF, Founders and McLaughlin Colleges, as well as the York University Staff Association. Those Board of Governors representatives who hold or have held positions in corporations have been encouraged by letter to have their companies advertise in *Excalibur*.

Money raised in the campaign will help *Excalibur* maintain, and perhaps expand its coverage at a time of financial difficulty. We encourage our readers to encourage their student governments, unions and associations to give or increase their grants to the newspaper. We can only put out as much as we all put in.

THINKING ABOUT LAW SCHOOL?

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INFORMATION AVAILABLE December 3, 1982
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was a place to share ideas and to learn from one another-building upon the knowledge one already has. Perhaps I was mistaken when I believed that York was a unique University that stood at the forefront of liberal thinking and open-mindedness.

What I see at York is an environment where too many groups are hostile with each other over abstract ideals, creating a rather cold atmosphere. Accusing posters dot the walls and bulletin boards, one-sided, hate-filled films are shown in public gatherings, with the intent of "hurting" passersby (though the Presentors insisted they were simply to "inform"). The school newspaper is filled with arguments, counter-arguments, and counter-counter-arguments, of heated prejudice. Public spokespeople and leaders in the York community have been harassed with immature and ignorant threat letters, and the Student's Council justifies the rights of those who express their opinions through hate-oriented propaganda!

It seems to me, from my first impressions, that York is not a place of "give and take", but a place of "abuse and distortion!" It's a sorryful state of affairs, and I hope to see York return to its motto by "trying the path": Sharing, rather than Hating.

Stephen Bowman
(1st Year Arts)

COMPLAINT

We the Calumet College General Meeting are concerned about the criteria used by the editors of *Excalibur* in choosing the stories and bylines of the York students' newspaper. *Excalibur* is, as far as we know, the newspaper of York students and not just that of CYSF. The CYSF does not represent all the Colleges of York University in as much as a number of them have opted out of this body in rebellion to various CYSF policies and in order to govern their own Colleges' political direction. It is true that the majority of Colleges at York are members of CYSF, but it also seems that there is a growing swell of objection to things happening within the CYSF. This is evidenced not only in *Excalibur*, but also in College newspapers such as Vandoo and Lexicon. In Calumet there is a strong feeling of despair that the *Excalibur* seems vainly to cover activities within CYSF and to ignore the activities of other Colleges, both aligned and non-aligned. We feel that the CYSF is not the be-all and end-all of the York Community. In the past the Calumet General

Meeting (CGM), the governing body of Calumet student funds and activities, has contributed sizeable sums of money to *Excalibur* in response to requests for assistance in operating the newspaper. We do believe that the *Excalibur* is an excellent opportunity to give both experience to York students interested in journalism, and also inform the York student body of the activities in the York community. However, many of us believe that the *Excalibur* must not concentrate largely on the CYSF. When Paula Beard came to the October CGM she was asked why *Excalibur* concerned itself largely with CYSF activities. She replied that when a deadline was approaching it was much easier to send a reporter across the hall than across the campus. We cannot accept this answer. The York newspaper owes it to its readers to cover a varied group of stories from across the campus, not just across the hall.

Calumet College has been asked to donate \$4,000 to *Excalibur* to help in the operation of the newspaper. We have received almost no coverage in the paper. CYSF, on the other hand, receives a large degree of coverage, and yet over the past years has decreased its funding. At Calumet we would like to see more coverage of College oriented activities like intramural sports, an area that sees a large number of York students involved but has had little or no coverage over the years. During the week of Nov. 1-4, the Calumet Peace Committee put on a film series in the Bearpit and in the Calumet Common Room. This series was well received by the student population, but received no coverage in *Excalibur*.

As *Excalibur* is the York newspaper we believe that it should spend more time covering College activities, they are the people who fund the paper, and spend less time covering only one facet of the York community.

Don Coulthard

Editors' Note: While we do not understand the reference to choice of bylines - all *Excalibur* writers and photographers are volunteers - we do not choose stories based on the proximity of the subjects.

According to Paula Beard, Chairperson of the *Excalibur* Board of Publications, "I was definitely misquoted and misunderstood. I am sincerely sorry for any misunderstanding. It was my intention to suggest that what was needed was better communication between Calumet and *Excalibur*."

We would be happy to discuss our editorial policy with all members of Calumet College.

To the editors of *Excalibur*:

In the letter by Mr. Lakhani that appeared in the Nov. 11 issue, he made only one correct statement when he wrote "I am no expert on Zionism." He formulates his opinion of Zionism as a result of a U.N. resolution. Doesn't Mr. Lakhani know that the U.N. is controlled by the Soviet Bloc which condones its own repressive actions, while condemning countries which oppose them (like Israel). Doesn't Mr. Lakhani know that the Arabs in Israel are better off than those in the Arab countries which are ruled by power-hungry people with primitive policies. I myself, a German non-Jew, travelled in the middle east in 1979 and visited Egypt, Israel and Jordan. The difference between the Arab countries and Israel was very evident. Whereas Israel was a well run modern country the Arabs seemed a thousand years behind in their own countries. While on a kibbutz in Israel, I worked along side both Arabs and Jews who got along well. It is only the Western media that creates false images which breed hatred towards nations like Israel. The PLO and other anti-Zionist and anti-human groups feed on these false images while creating some of their own. They recruit people who are ignorant and uneducated and thus believe all the lies they are told. Israel's number one enemy is not the PLO-it is the ignorance and naivety of people who are led astray by the falsehoods which are used to smear Israel. Ignorance is rampant everywhere today and unfortunately Mr. Lakhani and his supporters are helping this cancer spread by their actions at York. And if Mr. Lakhani is sincere when he states that he was brought up to "hate racism and hypocrisy", he has my sympathy since it must be terrible to hate one's self.

Joachim Dehmann

JOHN WESTON

Your article on the Report on Food Services was appreciated by those of us who have worked for improvement in the catering of food on campus. I would only emphasize that I was not alone in preparing the Report. Much of the responsibility (or blame) belongs also to John Chang, former C.Y.S.F. rep; Paul Hogbin, former Glendon rep; Chris Summerhayes, UFBS rep; Chris Webbers, former Founders Don; Malcolm Montgomery, former B.O.G. rep; and Robert Walman, former C.Y.S.F. rep.

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Representative
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