

letters & comment

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, *Excalibur*, room III, Central Square. Please type letters, triple or double spaced, and keep them to around 250 words. Name, address and phone number must be included, but name will be withheld on request. *Excalibur* reserves the right to edit for grammar and length.
Deadline Monday 4pm.

Social program justified - Hayden

I would like to congratulate the editors of *Excalibur* on the largest issue of the year and hope that they continue to give CYSF as extensive coverage as we were rewarded with last week.

A few things in the issue did bother me though, and I hope I can answer some of the questions that were asked.

In an editorial CYSF was criticized for allocating \$4,000 for its social program. The editorial also stated that any social program that is engaged will be a flop.

If the editor of *Excalibur* had attended any one of CYSF's social events at Vanier and Founders Hall or the concerts in the Bear Pit, he would have seen that these events were well attended and certainly not flops. The budgets for social events at most Universities range from 25% to 45%. Our social budget at York this year will be less than 4%.

In another part of *Excalibur* I noticed an article written by Board of Governors student rep. Harvey Pinder. I fail to understand how Harvey can be so consistently confused on what is happening at this university.

Mr. Pinder in his comment stated that CYSF and its president did nothing about the library and York's budget cuts. If Mr. Pinder

would only attend a Senate student caucus meeting, he would see that the issue is indeed being dealt with.

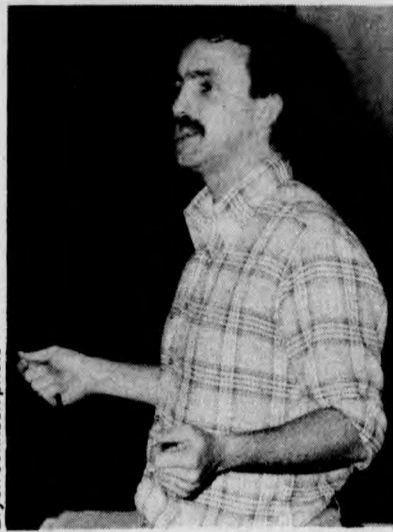
Mr. Pinder has yet to recognize the Senate at York University, who have to ratify budget and academic policy at York. For the first time in years, the Senate Student Caucus is organized, representing students at York.

Mr. Pinder wrote an article (sic) in *Excalibur* condemning York University and the president for financing the chancellor's dinner, held before each convocation. Mr. Pinder said he had attended such functions and was appalled at the lavish outlay of food and drink.

I shared some of Mr. Pinder's views and immediately respectfully declined my invitation to the chancellor's dinner, but did attend the convocation. Mr. Pinder, confused, I would hazard to say, attended the dinner but poked his head into convocation for only a few minutes.

At a meeting of the Third World Students Union last week, Mr. Pinder stated that the Board of Governors and the administration ran the university, again ignoring the mention of the Senate and its committees.

He also managed to plug a picayune political group he belongs



Paul Hayden

to, the United Left Slate, and concluded his presentation by stating that "The more students that come out and disrupt Board of Governors' Meetings the better it will be for students at York".

If Mr. Pinder would spend less time condemning the Board of Governors, yet accepting the amenities, he could better serve the interests of the majority of York students.

One last word for *Excalibur*, for the second year in a row the paper has failed to include any mention of Remembrance Day and what it stands for.

I suggest that *Excalibur* spend more time announcing and covering CYSF events before it makes any rash unfounded generalizations.

Paul Hayden
President CYSF

Calumet reps should do their homework

Firstly, I would like to state that the headline of "dishonest and obnoxious" was used with total disregard to the actual content of the letter to which I am responding and that *Excalibur* should take credit for said headline.

With regard to the content of the letter similar disregard of the facts is also prevalent and under normal circumstances I would allow them to pass by with little more than a good laugh. I do however feel that I have a responsibility to the York students in as much as that I am an elected representative particularly of Stong College.

The first accusation made was that I told speakers who disagreed with my position to "fuck themselves". I will first say that my remarks were not directed to any and all but to those members of council representing Calumet College.

I use the term "represent" in its loosest context. This was not for their disagreement but their total lack of concern with regard to preparation for the budget meeting.

To me, men who purport to represent their constituents without ever having done any background work on the issue before them and who take this issue into the realm of emotional arguments deserve to be met with responses befitting their preparation or lack thereof. I make this claim due to the following information; not one of these men had taken the time to come into the CYSF office to discuss the budget with any member of the budget committee prior to the meeting even though they had more than two weeks to make their disagreement known.

If these reps truly had such overt concern for their students would the students have not been best served with some questioning of the rationale behind the budget before the fact. Actually I have never seen any of the Calumet reps in the CYSF office at any time let alone helping with the day to day activities like answering phones, talking with and answering students' questions.

Secondly if these men felt that my wanting to face them eye to eye was a sign of a physical threat then my charge of coward stands. Not once was a hand raised, a fist clenched or a person touched in my eye to eye encounter.

What was demanded by myself was a rational explanation of what purpose was to be served by their deliberate attempt to break quorum. To me representatives who are not willing to stick through the thick and the thin of an organization's proceedings have no place in that organization.

Gary Empey
CYSF vice-president,
Student Services

Prisoner seeks mail

I am presently an inmate at Auburn Correctional Prison in New York State, and life here is very lonely and depressing. I am originally from Buffalo, New York and am seeking sincere friends to correspond with.

I will answer all.

I am five feet, five inches tall; brown hair; blue eyes; trimmed beard; liberal; sincere; athletic; and down to earth. Please write:

Mr. Ronald Weston
No. 75C-291
135 State St.
Auburn, New York
13021



Breakthrough hits CYSF for cutting Harbinger...

We, the *Breakthrough* collective, would like to express our outrage at the CYSF's recent slashing of its funding allocation to Harbinger. It is an undeniable fact that Harbinger provides a valuable and essential service to both men and women of the York community - a service which cannot be duplicated by any other organization on campus.

At this time of budgetary restraints, we urge the reactionary CYSF executive to re-evaluate their

priorities and put aside personal prejudices. We ask that they recognize the true needs of York students by granting Harbinger the financial support which it deserves.

The Breakthrough Collective:

Mimi Mekler
Debbi Sugiman
Lynn McFadgen
Mary Marrone
Janet Patterson
Susan Sturman
Jane Eden
Nancy Bredin



...Calumet too

I am writing to advise the University community that, at its November 9 session, the General Meeting of Calumet College voted unanimously to condemn the Council of the York Student Federation for its refusal to listen to public support for Harbinger. It should be noted that Paul Hayden was present during the debate, which lasted for more than an hour.

John B. Mays
Secretary of the General Meeting

CYSF a joke, he says

CYSF is a joke. That is the conclusion I have drawn from its lack of political leadership and its attacks on student services.

The council meeting of November 7 refused to consider to continue funding "political" clubs despite a petition of 400 names. This narrow view of Hayden and his supporters is fundamentally anti-university. It restricts the flow of ideas.

The meeting cut Harbinger's budget by \$6,000 despite a petition of 500 names reflecting the popularity of this widely used and needed service.

It cut *Excalibur*'s budget without any prior consultation although *Excalibur* ran an \$8,000 deficit last year following a 33% cut in 76-77.

Hayden's supporters cut these services although nowhere in their political "programs" did they mention this as an aim.

In carrying out their cuts at the meeting they were abusive, chaired by their undemocratic speaker, and out of order. For instance, the budget proposal tabled was not the budget discussed.

Further, Hayden's council has been politically inactive. When Osgoode Legal and Literary Society discovered that all York students had been overcharged \$5 in tuition, CYSF did nothing.

Hayden complains about a budget crisis and yet he is letting the administration collectively rip us off for about \$70,000 without even a whimper.

The administration has cut 1.5 million out of the budget this year and is planning a further six million cut next year.

These cuts make a farce out of university. Why should we pay more for our education when the quality is so obviously being slashed?

Yet Hayden has done nothing. We only hear of him and his cronies when they do the cutting back.

Some suggestions: restore student service funding.

Conduct council with decorum, not like a zoo.

Demand the administration hand over our \$70,000. Demand a full-time president unlike Hayden who is taking four courses after getting a \$1,400 raise.

Move to increase CYSF funding either through a more equal distribution with the bloated college councils, fund-raising events, or a referendum in the spring.

Build an anti-cutbacks fight that will win York adequate funding or will shut the place down until we (students, faculty, staff and Ontario society) receive what we need.

And do the political work that will show York there is a way we can win our demands despite the Ontario Tories' commitment to restraint rather than human need.

Hayden's council shows no sign of doing any of these things. CYSF is a joke, and a very sick one at that.

I urge all students to consider these problems of leadership. CYSF will either be revitalized, or it will die having made no contact with student needs.

Ian Kellogg

RCMP affair ends our sleep

Oh the extent to which the Canadian intellectual elite (media) will go to jolt us from our inherent lethargy.

It has been a full seven years now since the turmoil of October 1970, and apart from the occasional tossing brought on by such mundane interruptions as unemployment, inflation, and unnecessary elections, we have had a pretty good sleep.

The current RCMP affair is meant to wake us up completely. To

point out how, despite ourselves, we are slowly growing out of political adolescence. Indeed we are almost ready for adult clothes.

Political scandals are to nations what puberty is to individuals, an inevitable rite of passage. The bigger the scandal, real or imagined, the more publicity it attracts, professional or otherwise, the more visible is that development from adolescence to young adulthood. Coincidentally, the intellectual elite becomes more politically important.

Summer follows spring, age follows youth, and life goes on. Unfortunately for most of us, the press, the politicians and the police have not yet mastered Mother Nature's knack for timing. Perhaps they try too hard. They push us before we are ready, tempting us to compare ourselves with big sister who has long since severed old family ties and moved south to success in Washington.

There are more reasoned voices who suggest that to attempt to equate the RCMP affair to Washington's Watergate is wrong. We listen with a smile because wrong it may be, interesting it has through much effort become, but Canadian it surely is.

Cecil O. Humphrey

