

letters & comment

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, Excalibur, room 111, 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.

BOG elections

I would like to make a few comments about your March 16th article entitled "BOG elections may be off".

a) Paul Kellogg wrote that "the two student positions on York's Board of Governors may not be elected..."

In fact there is only one student position open at present and the Board has asked that the Student Senate Caucus provide a student to fill that position.

Kellogg also wrote that:

b) "The two positions have been democratically elected since 1975".

I don't feel that the *Excalibur* (nor Mr. Kellogg for that matter) are qualified to comment on democratic elections without sounding somewhat hypocritical. Nevertheless, the prospect of having a campus wide election has not been ruled out.

c) Kellogg ended his article by quoting me as saying, "I think the term of the present caucus doesn't end till June 18th, or 12 or some thing ... with all the ruckus going on right now (I never use the word "ruckus")... I haven't had time to think about it (Senate Elections) The elections will happen either at the end of this year or the beginning of the next. It's something I'll have to look into".

It was quite nasty of Paul to quote my exact words (or whatever he felt were my exact words) when he knew that I was at home, it was 11:30 at night, and this was his third time calling me that evening for the same interview. He surely knew that I neither had the exact dates nor the patience at that moment to comment properly.

With regard to the Senate Elections, I have just been informed by the senate office that they are not under the jurisdiction of the Student Senate Caucus. I do know, however, (after getting back to my office and looking it up) that all student senators terms expire on June 30, 1978.

Bob Cash
Chairman, Student Senate Caucus

Blatant attempt to influence vote

As a member of the Senate student caucus, I would like to comment on the "poll" which is being conducted to determine whether the student positions on the Board of Governors will be elected by the student body at large or be appointed via an interview process by the caucus itself.

At a brief, but somewhat heated discussion at the caucus meeting of February 23, it was agreed that all student Senators should be polled. Although the majority of members present at this meeting favoured open elections, Bob Cash, the chairman (who favours selection through interviews), noted that there was no quorum and therefore, no decision could be made.

The ballot, sent out to be registered mail to each of the student Senators, was accompanied by a letter (dated March 8) from Paul Hayden, CYSF President, stating his preference for the interview method. I would suggest that the practice of attaching a "position paper" to a ballot is tantamount to placing campaign literature in a voting booth.

In addition to this blatant attempt to influence the outcome of the vote, Mr. Hayden's letter misrepresents certain facts. He stated: "... in the past few years vacancies for the student Board of Governors position have been filled by election, the reason being that the Student Caucus was not organized so that they could appoint the Governor". This is simply untrue. I was in fact a member of the student Senate caucus in 1974-75 which decided to move to general elections for the BOG positions in order to democratize the existing procedure. It was an "organized" caucus, as was the one in 1975-76 which I co-chaired.

Whatever the outcome of the ballot, I feel obliged to challenge it,

as the democratic process was compromised by Mr. Hayden's letter. I support now, as I did three years ago, the open elections for the position of student representative on BOG. A reversion to the old method of interviews and appointment would be a retrogressive move, something, which we, a few years back, attempted to eliminate.

As a final and separate comment, I would point out that the term of student Senators ends on June 30, and that it is the responsibility of the constituencies, not the caucus, to ensure that they are represented on Senate.

Celia Harte Johnson
Senator, Graduate Studies

He'll drum our brains

Again, your sports section failed to capture the ecstatic excitement generated at the York-Laurentian basketball game by our devoted Yeomen fans. After drumming and smashing cymbals until my hands bled, my efforts were rewarded when in the last thirty seconds of the game, a standing ovation was engineered. Just seeing fans sway to the drummed Yeomen anthem was an orgasmic thrill.

College basketball is alive and well supported at York. The number of spectators who spoke to me about the ecstasy of a drum beat to arouse our dribblers is proof enough.

The fans came prepared for this important game — the team delivered and so did our cheerleaders; your coverage was a disappointment. Next time, perhaps my drumming on your brain might prove beneficial.

Mike "The Drummer" Zichowski

Piece butchered

I would like to take this opportunity to lodge a complaint about the editing of my piece printed under "Meet your next president" March 9 *Excalibur*, pg. 5. I think it was butchered and made to read as incoherently as possible ... Item; I wrote nothing about -ctee's as you have it in the second column. Nor did I write about financial business committees. Nor could I understand the rather arbitrary bold face smatterings given to my piece.

If the editor wishes to give a statement a dadaistic surreal flavour bordering on the obscure I think it only right and proper that - he - she take a fine arts history course first. Made it read worse than the C.Y.S.F. constitution, a document of ambition and personal desires. Mine at elast was not that. Ah, well, I suppose the answer is that the paper is under budgetary restraint.

Arnie Bell

Gov't. official complains

I don't know whether the *Excalibur* offers the opportunity for rebuttal but here goes.

Late in February, I was interviewed by Al Bell of your publication and this interview was translated into an article by Mr. Bell for your March 2nd, 1978 issue.

I have several complaints with the article. Mr. Bell suggests that I said "the majority of these (in our summer employment programmes) traditionally fall to those student with political connections". This is absolutely not the case.

What I did suggest to Mr. Bell was that, in the particularly difficult labour market that students are facing, it helps to know anyone who may be able to assist in a job search, be they in public or private sector. To construe that to mean that the Ontario Youth Secretariat offers 60,000 political appointments is absurd.

The Ontario Youth Secretariat does offer a number of excellent summer programmes (including Experience '78) in which placements are made on the basis of merit, period.

Secondly, Mr. Bell states that in the Ontario Youth Secretariat's

advertising, actors are used to portray students. This is not true. All of the young people in our ads are Ontario students.

While I did not insist that "students are on their own" I still conform to the Ontario Youth Secretariat's suggestion (and that of many students) that "any job is a good job."

Paul Christie
Special Assistant to
Terry Jones, M.P.P.

Rally disappoints

I was really disappointed in the rally at Queen's Park last Thursday. It was about as meaningful and effective as a Sunday School Picnic.

When we were told that we had "bus captains" and were given a list of acceptable slogans to shout (no names mentioned), I thought we were a parade going to a Pep rally. I really did! It was an insult to the integrity and intelligence of University students to have to be told where to group, to line up six abreast and to be herded like sheep.

Aside from what was being shouted by the crowd, there was almost nothing to indicate that this wasn't a group of "young Liberals". No wonder Stuart Smith came out to make a campaign speech! When things finally began to look like the Davis government would begin to take notice, the O.F.S. announced that the buses were returning to get the Guelph students. "Time to go home kiddies"... At 3:30 there were perhaps 6,000 angry students, by 4:30 I counted: one morose girl, 3 photographers, a gaggle of policemen and a lot of garbage. Everyone was home in time for dinner!

Is it any wonder we got such indifferent news coverage? I say "shame on you", you students who organized this rally to death, afraid of how they would look if things got too loud. We were clearly sold out, we might have brought tents, sleeping bags, etc. and camped on the lawn for a few days till Davis took notice.

But no, departure time was scheduled for 4:00 pm C.S.T.: To put a departure time on a protest rally is about as productive and satisfying as "coitus interruptus" I say balls to these same organizers who asked Parrott not to speak. Sell-out! Sell-out! Sell-out!

Rene Schmidt
Calumet

Thanks to voters

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my constituents at McLaughlin College for the support they gave me in the recent Council of The York Student Federation elections. I would also like to congratulate all the other victorious candidates and hope that they will work hard in their term to make the CYSF truly representative of the students they were elected to serve. In the past there was too much time wasted by political bickering which has no place on the CYSF.

I am personally a political activist, but keep my outside political interest outside of student politics. My only campus connection with my political party (the New Democratic Party) is with the York NDP club, of which I am the York-view riding representative. I hope that others will direct such political interests into the political clubs on campus and not the CYSF. There is just too much work to do on behalf of the students to waste time with ideological struggles. I urge all members of the 1978-79 council to take this into consideration before they take office in May.

Jon Simon,
McLaughlin Representative-elect
to the CYSF.

Non-smokers gasp

Via *Excalibur*, we are exerting our breaths to voice a grievance before the air gets too thick for us.

It's very difficult attending a

university when you suffer from allergies or just have an appalling distaste for smoke in your eyes, nose, and lungs. Among the array of breathless memories, include two students who were politely requested to refrain from the weed during a two hour lecture (on two separate occasions). One student said she simply could not endure a two hour lecture without a cigarette, and the other told me to move to another seat in the room.

However, how are non-smokers supposed to know where they can sit without hitting upon another smoker? She did not have the answer to this. Of course, we can't forget the nicotine addicts who blow smoke directly into your face, leaving you gasping for a breath of fresh air and a sudden urge to purchase a gas mask.

In an institution of supposedly higher learning, it is most unfortunate that students and chain-smoking teachers alike have little or no concern for those individuals with allergies, asthma, and those who actually care about their physical well-being. If the university no-smoking laws are mere non-sensical trivia to you, take a minute between puffs and think about why they were enacted.

As smokers have steadfastly screamed, they indeed do have a right to smoke — but preferably in private, and not at the expense of another's health.

Maxine Kopel
Randy Robinson

Admin. condemned

The reactionary York University administration headed by President Macdonald is continuing its campaign of political persecution of the Marxist-Leninists. The latest attack developed over the holding of the Ninth Annual Conference of the Canadian Student Movement at York University on the weekend of March 11-12, 1978.

The Canadian Student Movement is the student wing of the Communist Youth Union of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) which is the youth organization of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist). The York Student Movement is the York University branch of the Canadian Student Movement (CSM).

In an attempt to disrupt the holding of this important student conference which involved students and faculty from all across Ontario and Canada the university saw fit, at the eleventh hour, to charge us an exorbitant fee for the use of the facilities we had reserved for the conference.

This action shows that the reactionary university administration headed by President Macdonald has not given up its pipe dream of smashing the Marxist-Leninists student movement at York University. But their flimsy attempt came to no avail. A very successful conference was held elsewhere and many important decisions were taken which will advance the work of CSM.

What scares these reactionaries so much is that the program of CSM is to win over the students and faculty to proletarian revolution and to lead the broad masses of the students and faculty in the vigorous struggle against the shifting of the burden of the economic crisis onto their backs.

These attacks are not solely directed at the Marxist-Leninists but at all students and faculty who want to resist the attacks of the state against them whether they be in the form of education cutbacks or racist attacks or political persecution or whatever. They are an attempt to deprive the students and faculty of Marxist-Leninist leadership in their fight against all forms of state attacks.

The York Student Movement calls upon all democratic and progressive people and organizations to denounce the continued political persecution of the Marxist-Leninists by the

reactionary York University administration headed by President Macdonald.

York Student Movement

Nasty bell curves

Every York student has been subjected at one time or another over the course of their academic life to a professor's bell curves. The worst manipulation of test results I have encountered stem from Prof. E. Greenglass' Introduction to Psychology class 201.6C.

Prof. Greenglass, from a March 8 test, has seen fit to evaluate a 38 out of 45 result as a "C plus" grade, (80 percent average), a 39 out of 45 as a "B" grade and a 40 out of 45 as a "B plus".

Curving may be at times necessary to maintain a solid average within a course, but Prof. Greenglass's grade assignments to numerical results were not even consistent. Some grade assignments spanned a six mark range, others, as I have indicated above, a one or two mark difference.

I'm sure that this course is not the only one in which professors are given a free hand in designating grades; I wonder just how long students will be willing to see their efforts molded into scientific data and not meaningful degrees.

Concerned Lady

Our Town review

Even God Makes Mistakes

To Mr. Michael Christ,

Thank you for taking the time to view and comment on the third-year production of *Our Town*.

Although it is unfortunate you deemed it necessary to read Mr. Wilder's play beforehand, I'm sure your presumptuous criticisms were made quite unintentionally. The references to Canada made in *Our Town* can be found on page two and page eleven of the Samuel French acting edition, the text used for this particular presentation.

I am truly sorry that you feel that they would attempt to infuse a Canadian flavour into an American classic. We can all appreciate "maple leaves" as much as the next person, but not to the extent of risking integrity.

Fat lady in the back row



Note: To the author of the letter beginning, "Want to join the faculty?..." We can't read the letter, so please come in and spell it out. Also we need your name and phone number. Your name will be withheld if you wish.