

Editorial

Student councils must have more responsible reps

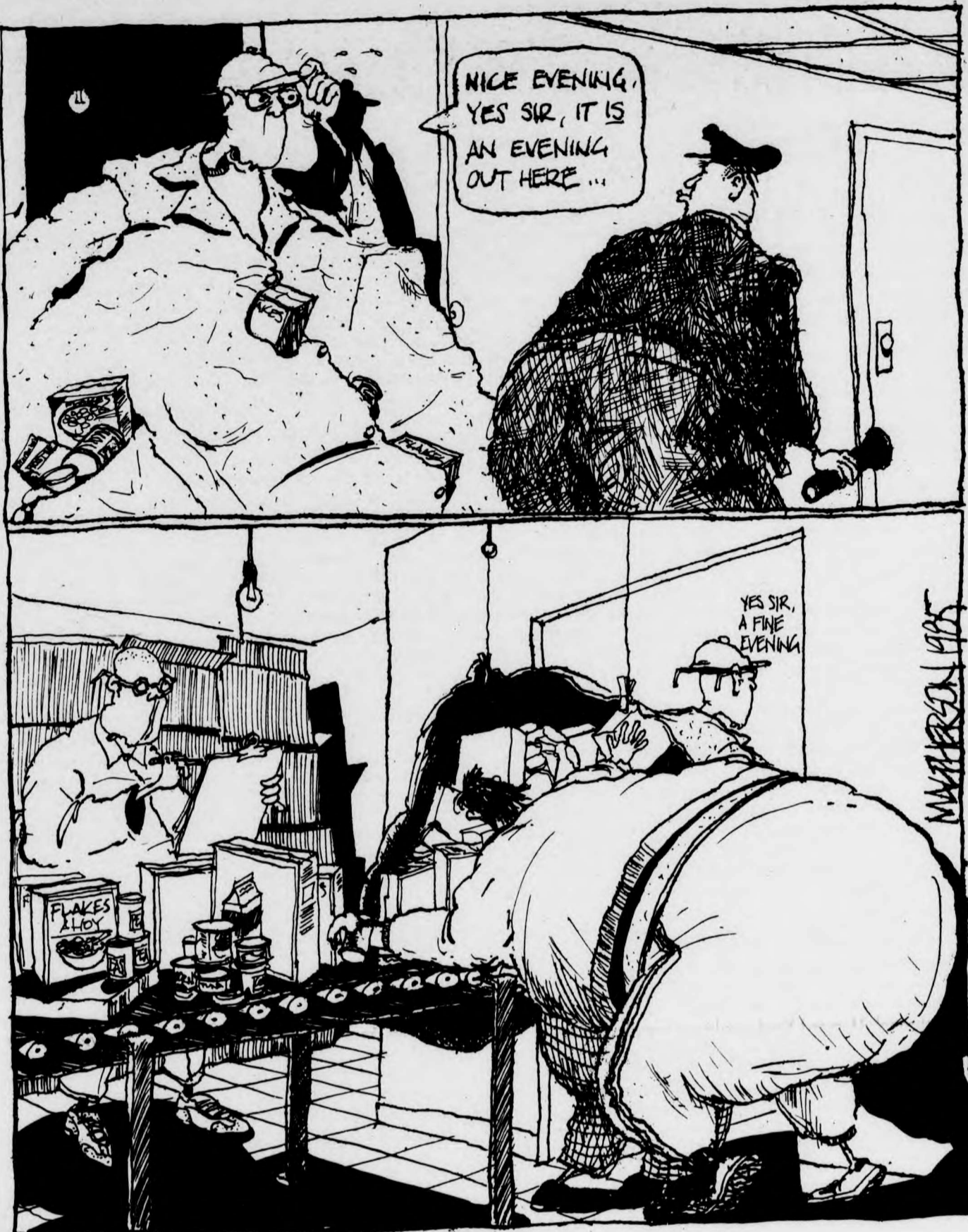
The recent theft from a campus cafeteria by prominent York student politicians demonstrates the need for more concerned students to get involved and give responsible representation.

This Bethune theft is just the latest in a tiresome list of examples of irresponsible student government over the past year.

Last year, half of the Atkinson College Student Association, including the President, had to resign after it was discovered that they were not even eligible for office, because they were not registered in any courses. The former CYSF president got himself embroiled in a scandal by failing to show up at an event with a rented van funded by student fees. \$700.00 was stolen from CYSF last year by someone who had access to the office. Last year's CYSF Director of External Affairs had to be removed from office for not doing any work. A Vanier College council President acted ridiculously out of line by stealing an entire press run of *Vandoo* because he personally found it offensive.

Now comes the news that two Bethune Council members and a Student Senator will be expelled from the University because of their involvement in several thefts of food and liquor from a campus cafeteria. This is a further disgrace to York and a further blemish on the credibility of our leaders in student government.

This theft combined with other examples of irresponsibility should anger students whose trust is being abused by some student politicians. Given the perennial lack of interest and low voter turnout displayed by York students (out of 10,000 students who pay for CYSF only 1,700 bothered to vote for CYSF President this year) there appears to be a logic with all of the problems we have student government—York students are getting what they deserve.



"No bread.
Then bring me
some toast."

Punch, 1852

excalibur

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Excal sets example, YSMAA leader says

Editor:

Excalibur must be commended for last month's editorial which acknowledged the efforts of the York Student Movement Against Apartheid. In doing so, your paper joined forces with those around the community, who seek to contribute to the isolation of South Africa's racist regime.

South Africa's apartheid system, as most of us are aware, has been aptly termed a crime against humanity; although racial discrimination is practiced in other parts of the world, South Africa is the only country which has a legal framework which entrenches racial discrimination. Under this framework, 87% of the country's territory has been reserved for whites (16% of South Africa's population). 22 million blacks (72% of the population) have been allocated to 13% of the most barren lands called "Bantustans" where unemployment often rises as high as 80% and where malnutrition results in the death of 50% of the children.

In the context of the York community, your coverage of anti-apartheid efforts is crucial as more people get informed about this crime against humanity. Indeed it is hoped that your editorial will set an example which all other groups, associations, unions and clubs will follow

and assist us achieve our principle objective: To make York University begin to actively identify itself with the international campaign to isolate the South African racist regime.

—Himbara
York Student Movement
Against Apartheid

Existere not only writing outlet at York

Editor:

I was very glad to see Gary Barwin's letter in the May 28 *Excalibur*, in which he discussed the failings of York's invisible lit-mag, *existere*, and suggested possible alternatives to its boring, stuffy form.

Oddly, though, Barwin refers to *existere* as the "only independent creative writing magazine regularly appearing on campus from year to year." *existere* is funded by Vanier College and so I think it hardly rates as "independent." I think this is an important point because if the money was coming out of the editors' own pockets, we could expect a much finer product with a lot more enthusiasm surrounding it. And at a university as large as York, especially with its fairly prestigious creative writing program, it's pretty surprising that there aren't a whole lot of real "independent" literary maga-

zines sprouting up. All it takes is a few bucks, some paper, access to a duplicating system (xerox, mimeo, ditto, carbon paper).

existere, somehow, is seen by many as the literary magazine at York University for student writers to be published in. I think that every student enrolled in creative writing should be actively self-publishing if they are truly interested in getting their work into the public eye. There's certainly no shame in self-publishing. In my experience, it's the best way for a non-mainstream poet or fictioneer to gain an audience. I've sold out two editions of 1,000 copies of my poetry and short stories—more books than I could hope to sell even through a larger literary press such as Coach House or Oberon.

If Vanier College really wants to put money into creative writing on campus, York students might be better served if the college gave out \$20 mini-grants to individual writers who could then publish postcards, posters, or pamphlets of their own work. Vanier could possibly even make available a catalogue of publications that they have sponsored.

With writers editing and publishing their own work, Vanier College would no longer have to waste that ludicrous amount of money on a staid dinosaur with a reputation for publishing its editors and their pals.

—Stuart Ross
Editor, Proper Tales Press
and Mondo Hunkamooga