

Excalibur

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EDITORIAL

YORK CENTENNIAL ARTS FESTIVAL

Are We Aesthetic Illiterates?

This is the weekend of York's Centennial Arts Festival, an all-Canadian cultural collage which should appeal to everyone, not just the connoisseur of high culture. Yet, judging by the slow ticket sales, the students are not interested. In fact, more requests for seats have come from the outside than from members of the University.

An academic community the size of York should certainly care enough to give active support to a venture as exciting--and as economical--as this Arts-fest. For only \$2.50 you can see:

- A symposium on art with Dorothy (Eros '66) Cameron and Dalton (I Dig Dief) Camp.
- Wunderkind Leonard Cohen who will sing his latest and greatest poems.
- Ziggy Blazej, king of audio-kinetic environment, with jazz by the Brian Browne Trio.
- Yorkvue, an original review starring a group of our own students.
- Canadian underground films from McMaster (among others)

--The City Muffin Boys, who back Bob Dylan in his new flick. And if you don't want to see everything buy at the door. But a series ticket is cheaper in the long run.

The student organizers of this Festival are handing us a magnificent array of aesthetic entertainment on a silver platter and we are sneering at it. Is it because this campus is so far removed from civilization as to be far out that we cannot be 'in'? Or have we been hiding so long in the groves of Academe that we have become Philistines?

Complaints about lack of advertising for the weekend are ridiculous when people from the outside have obviously heard about it and are making reservations. The fact remains that the Arts Festival is here and real and York-types are sitting on their proverbial smugness when we should be swarming to the box office.

It is time we stopped stealing posters and started buying tickets.

T.T.C. IMPROVE!

The present bus service to York Campus by the Toronto Transportation Commission is entirely inadequate.

The present system has one bus, (41B), running into the campus during rush hours only. Only one bus per hour goes up Keele as far as the university on Sundays. We feel this to cause unnecessary hardship for the students.

There are at this time, 250 residents and approximately 1000 day students and faculty who often use these buses. They have to face a half-mile walk to the Keele Street stop outside of rush hours--a not very pleasant experience in the middle of winter! Next year there will be 750 residents and 1500 to 1700 day stu-

dents here. Surely this would call for increased service, starting as soon as possible.

We would suggest that a bus come into the on-campus stop at regular intervals throughout the day, as is now the case with the stop adjacent to the university on Keele street. In our opinion, this would cause the T.T.C. no hardship. The trip into the campus would take only a few minutes, and would not require that any other regular stops be missed.

EXCALIBUR has posted in Vanier and Founders a petition asking for regular service to this campus. On behalf of yourself and your fellow students, sign it, please.

Dear Sir:

As the 'Student Weekly of York University', don't you think that maybe you should be printing more York news and less news of a general vein? In last week's issue (Feb. 10), you printed 18 non-York and general news stories and 16 news stories about York University. If you want to get technical and not count YorkShorts as five separate stories, or Spotlight as seven separate ones either, then you come up with the impressive score of 18 non-York and general articles, and 9 articles about York!

In the near future (next issue) how about printing more articles about York, just for a change!

Yours sincerely,
Don Long

Editor's note: Getting 'technical' and counting separate stories as separate stories, we count 23 items directly related to York University and 7 that were not directly related (although articles like 'UNAC' are as pertinent to York students as to any other students.)

letters

Dear Sir:

Bravo, Wargal In his 'Intellectual Community . . . or Country Club' article (Feb.10), Dave has finally expressed what has been obvious to many first year students for quite a few months. One only needs a 'minimal effort' to obtain a B.A. from York.

For example, notice the card room and Common room at Vanier any time between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Here are card players ad infinitum and others who sit around passing the time of day instead of going to class. But the ironical thing about this is that most of these people are passing; in fact, are doing quite well,

although several months behind in their notes from missing so many classes. Why are the general education courses at York so general that one does not need to attend classes or take notes to them?

So, I ask the obvious--what will a B.A. from York be worth if people begin to realize how easy it is to obtain it. Will it get to the point that York B.A. and 15 cents will buy York grads a cup of coffee, so to speak, and nothing else? Indeed, as Dave states in his column, 'the academic standards at York must be increased'.

Sincerely,
Robert Dale (VI)

Dear Sir:

The logo of your paper proclaims: 'EXCALIBUR, The student weekly of York University'. What a joke! As far as I can see, no consistent or concerted effort has been made by your staff to report Glendon news. A newspaper which calls itself university-wide and yet ignores the college with most students is a farce. Why has the Glendon Student Council been ignored over the year? And why not even the Council's elections reported? I applaud the idea of a university-wide newspaper but I will not sit still while a masquerader usurps a position it doesn't deserve. Either shape up or call yourself 'The student weekly of York Campus'.

Yours truly,
Glen S. Williams (GII)

Editor's Note:

Excalibur has reported on many of the major events at Glendon (e.g. Forum on ACSA and Pearson's visit--which Pro-Tem neglected), and most of our Features pertain to Glendon as much as to York Campus. However,

since Glendon is thirteen miles away, it is incredibly difficult to get reporters from Glendon or even cover events at Glendon, let alone keep track of what's going on there.

We have several times asked the Pro-Tem for assistance in covering Glendon. However, the lack of enthusiasm at Pro-Tem indicates to us a desire for competition more than cooperation. All of this you should know as an ex-Pro-Tem staffer.

And incidently, Mr. Williams, we note you're a 'stringer' for the Telegram. If you were so concerned with seeing that Excalibur covered Glendon events, then surely you might have considered stringing for us?

However, as a newly elected Publications Chairman of the Glendon council, we grant you the 'need' to take a 'strong, firm stand' etc., etc., etc., on newspapers and such.

AND oh yes, you might note that only York Campus contributes to the financing of this paper. Now, if you as Publications Chairman could get us a grant from your council...

Dear Sir:

In reply to the editorial of Feb. 10, I feel that EXCALIBUR has been guilty of a 'slight' misconception. In reference to his article in defence of the student vote on University administration, I would like to say that I agree with some of the points made by Professor Gauthier in his article on the limits to student power. Perhaps the Editor does have adequate reason to believe in his capabilities of a student, to the point of having students take an active part in the University policy making, but the reasons he used to support his argument are misconstrued, sketchy and likely hasty. I suggest that the editor read the article somewhat more carefully.

The point made in the first article, Here are the Limits to Student Power, was that students, while being idealistic, can be appreciative critics, (especially because they are idealistic), but do not have the foresight or the hindsight to stand them in a position to enable them to vote realistically on University policy. There are notable exceptions, but I agree with Gauthier that students can and do make excellent advisors and their voices should be heard. Their capabilities in this regard, are I believe, aptly and intelligently utilized through an organization such as ACSA. As an advisory committee and not a legislative body, it has a tremendous potential for student expression and student influence. I do not agree with the statement that the role of a student compares sometimes with that of a child, although it is a time for the instillation and the distillation of new ideas. Those students

who do take an active interest in their University are in most cases far from being children, or anything similar.

The editorial's misquote of Professor Gauthier's statement concerning students having an almost 'absolute unawareness', must, of course, be completed to be fully understood--'an almost absolute unawareness of the actual past life of the University and a very hazy view of the university's future beyond graduation of the present student generation'. When completed, the implication varies somewhat, and I can find none of the ambiguity of contradiction that the editor writes of. Perhaps York is in a slightly different situation, in that we are presently engaged in a 'construction program' of our own, (Founder's Constitution and Student Court procedure are two examples). This does not mean that students are capable of handling or voting on overall University government, in anything but a very minor way.

As for the 'educators' not realizing the perception of the students, I think this has to be earned, and certainly an excellent way to do this is to demonstrate ability through successes in an advisory role. As Gauthier said, 'The successful student is brought into educational equality with his instructors, but he does not begin as an equal'. This is only common sense. Let's not jump the gun. Let's not those over-anxious, power-hungry revolutionaries painted so clearly, and viciously in Dr. Gauthier's article.

Kim McLaren F1