

Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity
—Lord Acton

Excalibur founded in 1966, is the York University weekly and is independent politically. Opinions expressed are the writer's and those unsigned are the responsibility of the editor. Excalibur is a member of Canadian University Press and attempts to be an agent of social change. Typography by Foto Set, printed at Newsweb, Excalibur is published by Excalibur Publications.

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Klein can provide needed leadership on student council

After meeting with all the candidates in the CYSF presidential and Board of Governors elections for over four hours on two consecutive days, the Excalibur staff has voted to support Alice Klein of the United Left Slate in her bid for presidency of the CYSF, as well as Harvey Pinder who is running with the ULS in the Board of Governors race.

At this critical time in the history of universities, we believe Klein can provide for York students the necessary leadership to deal with the issues currently before students.

Klein is the only presidential candidate to express opposition to the government's recently announced \$100 tuition fee increase. She also stands opposed to the 250 per cent fee hike the government has slapped on foreign visa students with. Klein says she believes that "willingness to learn and not ability to pay should be the criterion for access to university".

We believe this is a just goal and one that a serious student council president should be willing to fight for. Klein also is opposed to any moves by the government — such as the proposed OLANG report — that would make it any more difficult to obtain student loans.

NUS AND OFS

Not only does Klein take a stand on serious issues, she has a rational plan to deal with them consisting of more than standing on a soap-box and shouting in Central Square. She realizes that as an isolated group students have little hope of seeing any of their needs met by the government. Klein proposes that students unite, one way being through membership in the Ontario Federation of Students and the National Union of Students. Only in acting in unity with other students can we hope to have an impact on the federal and provincial governments, as well as on the people of Canada.

She also realizes the necessity for students to present their case to the people of Ontario; to labour unions, community groups and even working with political parties, especially the NDP.

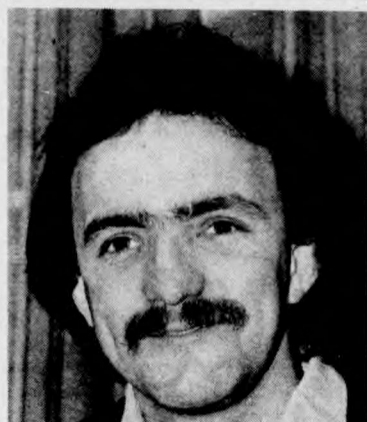
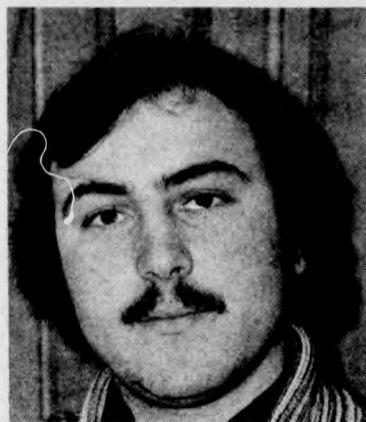
Klein is the only candidate running in this election to address herself to women's issues. She is pledged to full support for Harbinger, Breakthrough, York Daycare and Women's Centre. She realizes that council cannot entirely fund these organizations but plans to help them obtain additional funds to supplement their grants from CYSF.

Realizing that student federations are not just a matter of "hard politics" Klein addresses herself to other problems students face in their day to day life. Klein understands that the York college system is not enough to handle the problem of student alienation and supports the expansion of the Course Unions on campus.

She also sees the need for an active social program on campus that includes concerts, films and guest speakers. She will work to develop and expand the Social Co-op, initiated by the ULS in their previous year in office. She supports extensive funding for campus clubs.

We believe Klein is making more than empty promises. We believe that because she is running with slate that stands behind her and her policies she will have the support and people-power necessary to carry out her goals.

Looking at the dismal record of this year's council, it is obvious that a president has to have people seriously willing to work to help carry out his or her program. Otherwise even the best of plans may fall by the wayside due to lack of personnel to carry



It's your choice on March 9 and 10.

them out.

We therefore feel that for a student council that will seriously work on all levels to meet the needs of York students, vote Alice Klein of the ULS for CYSF on March 9 and 10.

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Although Tom Diotte seems like "a nice guy", nice guys have a habit of spending so much of their time trying to stay in the middle that they don't get anything done.

Tom Diotte says he doesn't believe he should take a stand on the OFS and NUS referendum. We believe a student council president must take stands and must provide leadership or else we will continually find ourselves mired in the dull drums of sandbox politics.

Unlike Tom Diotte, Paul Hayden does take a stand, unfortunately he takes the wrong stand. Hayden believes York students should drop out of OFS and NUS. This would be an irresponsible move that would leave York students in an isolated enclave up here in Dullsville Ontario, with little hope of being taken seriously by any government.

Hayden campaigns as a candidate with experience. One of the most striking "experiences" the York community had with Hayden was when he considered asking the CYSF to skip last fall's by-elections for a more "efficient" plan that would have seen the college councils appoint CYSF representatives. Despite Hayden's explanations for this plan, we

believe there is no excuse for suspending democracy and the right to vote even in the interests of supposed efficiency.

Our fears about the "democratic" nature of Hayden were not alleviated when Hayden told our staff meeting that he would cut off Excalibur's funding and even set up a new newspaper if he felt the paper was being controlled by a small group. He said this despite the fact the newspaper is run on a democratic basis under which the editors are always held accountable to the staff.

Waffling somewhere in the middle of Pinder and Andreansky is Mike Brooke. Brooke seems to believe in everything and anything though he's not quite sure how to get them.

Our choice for BOG rep.

The Board of Governors is the decision-making body at York, it's that simple. Despite what H. Ian Macdonald and others would have us believe, the BOG makes the final decision on all money matters at this university, and money matters.

The best example of the real power of the BOG occurred when they refused to implement the decision of the York senate not to carry out the Tory government's call for a \$1,600 tuition fee for foreign visa students. It's no surprise that the board ignore the democratic wishes of the York community since there are only two students and two faculty members on the 32 member board. The rest are primarily big businessmen and a few businesswomen who have appointed themselves.

And these people feel it necessary to hold their meetings behind closed doors.

We support the ULS candidate for Board of Governors, Harvey Pinder, because he

stands opposed to these policies. He is opposed to the very structure of the board. Pinder calls for a democratically formed board made up of students, staff and faculty. He feels the board must be willing to open its meetings to come under the scrutiny of the York community. Pinder has pledged himself to defying any secrecy code the board may ask him to abide by.

We believe Pinder's demands are just demands. We believe that open democracy is a right worth fighting for —

even at York University.

On the other side is Richard Andreansky. Andreansky feels the board is not as bad as people say. He thinks the big business board members should be asked to supply York students with jobs. He wants a conference to be held to discuss student aid. It seems that Andreansky is naive in his belief that the BOG members can be persuaded to violate their own interests. It seems unlikely to us that they would support policies that would lead to an increase in their own taxation.

How we voted

The Excalibur staff screened all CYSF presidential and Board of Governors candidates over a period of two days and for more than four hours. After hearing statements from the candidates and asking numerous questions, all staffers with four or more credits — as per the constitution — voted on which candidates to support.

For CYSF president the vote was: Alice Klein (ULS), 13; Paul Hayden, 4; and Tom Diotte, 3.

For Board of Governors representative the vote was: Harvey Pinder (ULS), 9; Richard Andreansky, 7; and Mike Brooke, 4.

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