

editorial

Excal examines elections

Over the past week, we have had the opportunity to talk to all six of the candidates running for CYSF president. As some of you may already know, *Excalibur* has decided to endorse Kate Collins, this year's Vanier college president.

Collins is not a performer. She presents her well-thought-out platform without grandstanding. She doesn't have big dreams, but focuses on what logically can be done at York.

She says that we must not join the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) just to fight underfunding. It doesn't make sense to spend a lot of money to join the OFS to fight underfunding and tuition increases — there has to be more to it. She believes in getting together with the other post-secondary institutions in Metro to form a coalition (as Peter Merrick has proposed).

She says the clubs are the backbone of the university, and should have the money and the support of the CYSF. She's worried about the competition between colleges that may develop as a result of *The White Paper*, and says that academic specialization may not be good because it narrows people down. People will not be exposed to others with different interests, which is essential to a liberal arts education.

She is the only candidate with a sensible approach to the administration. She says the CYSF has to know when to protest and when to negotiate. In terms of underfunding, students can't always believe the administration when it says it's the province's fault. The university has to be held accountable too, and be encouraged to cut it's fat.

Although there has been a lot of talk about varsity sports and building new stadiums by other candidates, Collins is concerned with the average student's access to athletic facilities. She says we can use varsity sports to unite students, but average York students do not have enough access to facilities they pay for, because limited facilities are allocated to varsity teams.

Collins is not making promises she can't keep. Some candidates have promised full funding for the Women's Centre (which Collins and *Excalibur* wholeheartedly believe is necessary), but a president cannot, in all honesty, guarantee this, as his or her vote will still be only one vote on council. She is also not talking about issues, like *The Blueprint for Action*, which died a long time ago.

Although we like Collins' straightforwardness, it would not be a disaster for York if any of the other candidates, except for Joe Dematteis, won this election.

Dematteis has virtually no track record at York. His only political experience here has been as president of the York University Italian-Canadian Association. He has not distinguished himself in any way from the other candidates, and seems to only speak well when his speeches are pre-written for him.

At last Thursday's debate, he said students should accept the changes the administration has made to the Voice Response-Enrolment System (VR-ES). He did not talk about VR-ES in any detail.

In terms of clubs, he said that every York student should belong to one, but did not say how he would fund them or help them or communicate with them next year.

He said that promoting sports should be "mentioned" to the administration and York should have some pep rallies where students could "have a few drinks and a few laughs." He said, "Watching a York football game is not the most pleasant experience." How's that for school spirit?

The point that proved to us that he doesn't know what he's talking about is his suggestion that, in order to improve security, the emergency phone number should be advertised on every York phone. What he is not aware of is that every single phone installed at York has security's phone number prominently displayed on it. His other suggestion to improve security was to have more and larger bus shelters and "let there be lights." He is hardly an aware and knowledgeable candidate.

We would systematically criticize the other candidates, but they all displayed at least a basic understanding of the issues.

Vote with care today and tomorrow.

As an example of some of the unfair politics that have plagued this campaign, several rumours about presidential candidate Jean Ghomeshi were circulating last week. We would like to set the record straight. Ghomeshi truly believes in his platform of fighting racism on campus. He is not racist and has never had any connections to any racist organizations.

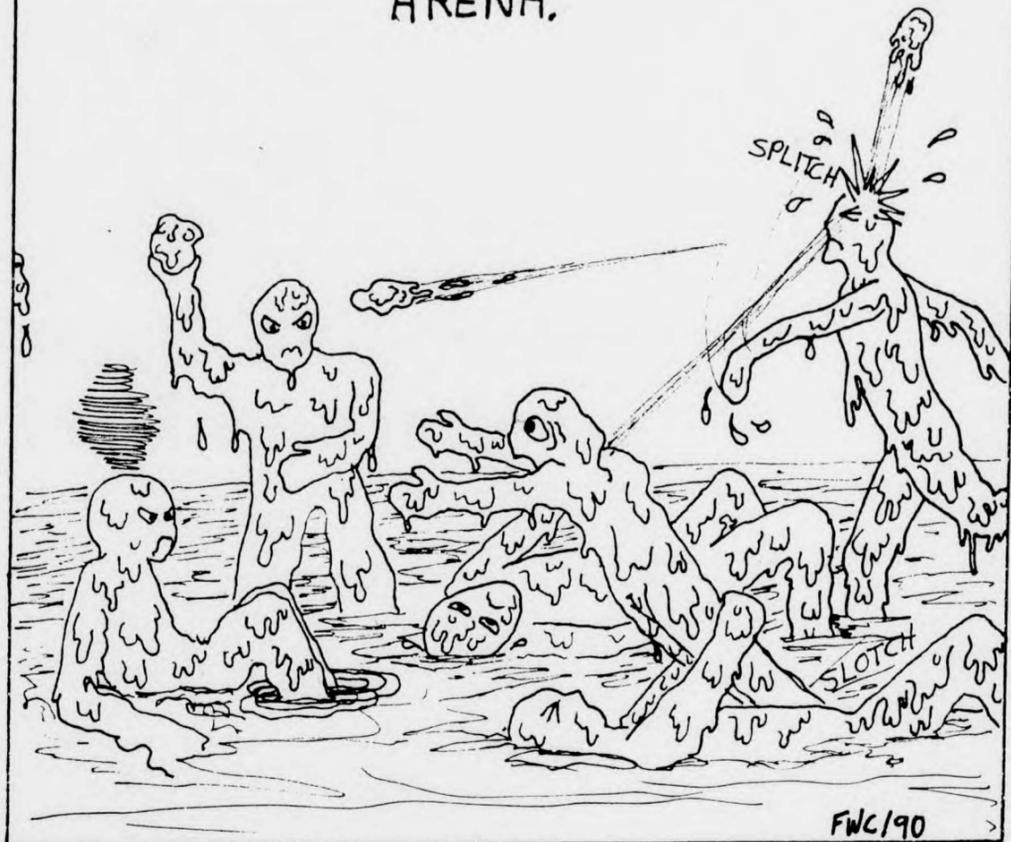
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letters

We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 500 words. They must be typed, doubled spaced, accompanied by the writer's name and phone number. Libellous material will be rejected. Deliver to 111 Central Square during business hours.

Vomit remains in elevator for four days

Dear Editor:

I am not normally one to write letters to newspapers to express my opinions. However, I feel that I must share my point of view on this matter.

Saturday morning at 9 am, I was leaving Stong Residence. As I got on the elevator, I saw that someone had thrown up in it. (Probably on Friday night.)

Anyway, I stepped off and waited for the other elevator. I avoided the messy elevator for the rest of the weekend, knowing that the cleaning staff was off.

Monday at 11 am, I stepped onto the elevator only to discover that it had not, as yet, been cleaned. I assumed that it would be looked after once all the washrooms had been cleaned.

At 2pm this afternoon (Feb. 26), I spoke to the porter because the mess was still there. He left his office assuring me that he would speak to the janitors.

At 4 pm, I went to speak to my don. She informed me that the porter has no direct control over the janitors and that he would have to go through housing to get the job assigned.

It is now 8 pm and the elevator will not be cleaned until at least tomorrow.

I do not feel that I am being especially demanding in expecting that something like this should be avoided (although others did not seem bothered by the situation, reassuring me that it didn't smell anymore.)

If people are going to drink themselves sick, why don't they take a plastic bag with them so that others, like myself, don't have to put up with the mess.

As well, I feel that the cleaning staff could perhaps include students who would be hired to clean the washrooms on weekends, when it is needed most. This, however, would not be necessary if everyone were to show a little pride in this place and clean up his or her mess. After all, this is your home for eight months.

To put it in the words of a friend "We live in a [gall-darn, friggin'] dump." Let's do something about it.

A Stongaloid

Just how far have we come?

Dear Editors:

Re: "The fascist regime of modern education," Feb. 20.

Do you know how far we have come? Many teachers today lecture about the hypocrisies of the government, the unquestionable authority that institutions have and that people today have no real control over their lives, that we are exploited and alienated.

This very same professor will stand for hours, in an ugly cement room, all eyes focused on droning on and on, telling you all these outrages, telling you that

that you must be original, fight back and have integrity and feeling, himself, so unbelievably profound.

And if you feel like putting a few words in — the feeling that must come when someone dares to talk about controversial issues — the professor cuts you short. Don't ask questions is how it goes. It seems that something as radical as rebellion has become part of our conservative curriculum.

Viola Varga

Reader's remark pointless: Excal guilty of alliteration

Dear Editor:

Ms. Samantha Bourque's remark on "*Excalibur's* wording in headline insensitive" letter in the February 27 issue is pointless and pathetic. How can she possibly make a case about women's exploitation by comparing two totally unrelated and separate articles?

In case anyone missed this "insensitive" publication, Ms. Bourque is upset at the fact that one article "Hunting Humans" was placed directly under another headline that read "York Yeowomen were mauled by McMaster Marauders." If *Excalibur* is guilty of anything, it is of the use of alliteration. When does this trivial "bra burning" stop?

I am sure there are more serious issues Ms. Bourque can dedicate her time to.

Sincerely,
B.L.