

# EDITORIAL

Having just come back from Thanksgiving weekend, I thought I'd share with you a few things for which I am personally thankful.

I am thankful that our elected representatives in Ottawa will use any measure necessary to introduce the Goods and Services Tax... even though most of us are against it.

I am thankful that Native rights have finally been put on the national agenda... for the next couple of weeks anyway.

I am thankful that Canadian commandos, sailors and pilots have been involved in a potential war that no one really wants to fight... except the politicians.

I am thankful that parking at York is so abundant and inexpensive... and that it's getting more abundant and inexpensive each year.

I am thankful that the Canadian Nuclear Association is promoting nuclear energy as the only safe alternative... and using cute TV commercials to do it.

I am thankful that the black record store owner who sold 2 Live Crew albums in Florida was convicted of peddling obscenity... by an exclusively white jury.

I am thankful that student smokers at York can be suspended or expelled... if they persist in their naughtily little habit.

I am thankful that YFS/FEY has become totally committed to bilingualism... mais l'exception de manuel etudiant(e)s, Up York, n'est-ce pas?

I am thankful that the Health and Safety department told me second-hand smoke is more harmful than asbestos... and that we will be removing all of the harmful smokers shortly.

I am thankful that our Student Centre is only one year late and a few million dollars over budget... but still belongs to the students.

I am thankful that the war on drugs is a smashing success... and that I can buy crack just around the street corner.

I am thankful that York will finally implement a campus-wide reduction and recycling policy... and spend less time socializing at the dump.

I am thankful that women in Canada no longer have power over their own reproductive systems... will the government impose the GST on coat-hangers as well?

I am thankful that Bob Rae and the NDP are in power... too bad the recession followed them.

I am thankful that the Scott Library has boosted overdue fines on books... please pay at the cashier's window.

I am thankful that *Excalibur* is an open forum for diverse opinions... and does not advocate just one select ideology.

I am thankful that the Assiniboine residences are only now being structurally fortified... to withstand earthquake tremors.

I am thankful that beer companies are the ones promoting responsible drinking... while still collecting booze money.

I am thankful that there are other things to be thankful about. Thank you



## LETTERS

*Excalibur* welcomes letters to the editor on all topics. We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 500 words in length. They must be typed, double spaced, and accompanied by the writer's name, signature and telephone number. The opinions expressed belong to the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of *Excalibur* staff or directors. However, letters judged to be racist, sexist or libellous by the editor will be refused. All material is subject to editing. All submissions must be addressed to the Editor-in-chief, Room 111, Central Square.

### DO IT NOW!

Want to write for the Excal? Come to the staff meeting Wednesday Oct. 10 at 4:00 pm. Or come to the office, Rm 111 Central Square and see Peter. Don't do it for yourself. Just do it!

## Français absent in YFS handbook

To the editor,

I am concerned over the YFS/FEY mandate of bilingualism at York.

Specifically, I am confused by the YFS/FEY handbook, and the YFS/FEY course evaluation book, neither of which are bilingual.

Let me begin by saying that I am impressed by what YFS/FEY is doing in terms of encouraging students to become more aware of issues happening at York, along with OFS and CFS which develop understanding not just for York students, but for all students.

My question is simple. Why was the YFS/FEY student handbook and YFS/FEY course evaluation book not produced in a bilingual format?

I have seen the president's paragraph in the handbook, along with that of OFS and CFS' bilingual comments, however nowhere else do I see equal representation of information provided in the handbook in both English and French.

I realize money is an issue and perhaps a reason, but if this is the case, then why establish York as a bilingual campus in the first place?

I am also wondering why a bilingual editor for the handbook was not hired in April in keeping with the planned move to establish York as a bilingual university? Why was the handbook and

course evaluation not sent to Glendon to be translated into French?

I look forward to your answers in the near future. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ian Knight  
Vice-President,  
Bethune College Council

## Irked by Mulroney criticism

To the editor

Re: Mulroney's Maulers hold Senate Ransom (Oct. 1 *Excalibur*)

I concur, we are "breaking our own hallowed rules." We are the only nation in the modern western world which has an unelected group of political "hacks" who are determined to and are nearly capable of sabotaging the policies and platforms of our elected representatives.

If a citizen is unhappy with the performance of a Member of Parliament, they can vote them out of office. However, a Senator has absolutely no accountability to anyone.

Never in Canadian history has the Senate openly and actively sought to sabotage the House of Commons. However, the possibility was recognized by the Fathers of Confederation and resulted in the emergency clause used recently by the Prime Minister.

Further analysis reveals greater conflicts. The concept of the GST was suggested by the Minister of Finance in his paper on tax reform in 1987.

Further, the issue of tax reform

and specifically the GST (or Value-Added Tax, as it was called at the time) was brought up by the other parties during the 1988 election.

Most importantly, the GST formed part of the Progressive Conservative election platform. Not only are they justified to carry through with the tax, but they are OBLIGED to carry through with the tax, as surely as if they had promised to cut taxes.

Finally, your editorial raises a few more points that need clarification.

First, the description of the new senators as "henchmen" is ignorant and insulting. The new senators range from prominent businessmen, such as Mr. Eyton, president of Brascan; to former premiers, such as Mr. Hatfield, former Premier of New Brunswick; to surgeons, such as Dr. Keon, Ottawa heart surgeon.

Second, your statement that Mulroney is holding democracy ransom makes no sense. In Canada, we democratically elect representatives to govern us for up to five years. After that time, another election is held where the public either gives the government a mandate for another five years or elects a new government.

That is democracy. What the Senate is doing is not democracy. An unelected body imposing its will over the people with NO accountability is no different than a dictator imposing his will over the people, completely ignoring democratically elected representatives.

Effectively what the Senate is saying is that the House of Commons can implement policies as long as the Senate likes them. It will be curious to see what the Liberal senators will do when the

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*Excalibur* is an autonomous corporation with a mandate to inform, educate and provoke thought among York University's diverse population.

The distinct opinions and articles appearing in *Excalibur* constitute our collective voice. However, they belong first and foremost to the individual writers and are not necessarily shared by any other *Excalibur* staff or board member.

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