

# 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. Printed at Daison's, Excalibur is published by Excalibur Publications.

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## The status report is out — and York is on trial

"The Senate Task Force on the Status of Women at York University herewith submits its final report and recommends that Senate approve the Report and forward it to the President for action."

With these words, Johanna Stuckey, chairperson of the task force, today presents the massive, 261-page report to the senate — and with it, the evidence to back up a feeling many people have had for a long time that women at York are discriminated against on the basis of sex.

Despite many difficulties in obtaining data, and some criticism concerning the long period the force took to compile its findings, the report is a comprehensive and authoritative document, one which the senate will be forced to consider carefully.

Among the many recommendations, which range from suggestions for better daycare facilities to amendments to the university pension plan, are three which will most likely provoke bitter debate, since they lie not in the abstract realm of ideology, but in the no-holds-barred arena of the budget.

The task force has found that a full-time female faculty member makes, on the average, \$500 less annually than her male colleague, all other qualifications being equal.

It has recommended, and rightly so, that "current salary discrepancies related to sex be rectified as of July, 1975, for the year 1975-76".

It has further recommended "that York University set aside \$229,000 to be paid as back pay . . . for the years 1973-74 and 1974-75 . . . to full-time female faculty members", and that "an additional \$114,500 be paid to adjust current salaries of full-time female faculty members".

There are no prizes for guessing how this suggestion will be received by the senate body. In a time when a crippling lack of finances is plaguing the administration, many senators will probably feel that the provision of back pay is an unjustifiable expenditure.

Not, they will hasten to add, because they are against equal pay for equal work, but because the budget can't support the increase.

That line of reasoning is unacceptable. If the budget is to be cut, obviously it will be cut in line with a set of priorities. And there are few priorities more urgent than putting an end to the fact of discrimination which has dogged this university, as undoubtedly it has others, for the past several years.

Thanks to the work of the senate task force, the university has finally been given a price on ending the monetary bias — paying the back

wages and rectifying future wages.

But money is only one part of the problem. The report takes pains to point out that all hope of equality is useless unless York makes a radical change in its attitudes.

There is a letter to the task force from C.U.P.E., in which the labour union local says, "If a woman has seniority and ability to do the male's job, she is allowed to bid for the job." (And the local has the temerity to suggest in the same letter that the union doesn't practice discrimination!)

There is a strong plea from the task force for the university to encourage women to apply to graduate schools, since the prevailing attitude causes many women to feel they haven't a prayer of being accepted.

And the report asks the university to send faculty into the high school system to stress the fact that career possibilities exist for women in all fields.

Obviously, one report can not change the entire attitude of the university. But the volume offers concrete steps toward such a change, not the least of which is a proposed

overhaul of York's autocratic staff grading system — a modern version of "snakes-and-ladders" — in favour of a more equitable system doling out pay to women and men on the basis of work performed.

The senate must accept the status of women report. But further, it must act on the report's recommendations, and throw its weight behind the document when it is forwarded to president Macdonald.

We have waited long enough for this report. Now we must follow through on its findings.



"Wow — if they accept the status of women report, my paycheque will go up \$500 to match yours." "I got news for you — they just cut my salary by \$500 to match yours."

### A letter from James Auld

With reference to the February 6 Excalibur story concerning difficulties in obtaining interviews with me, I am not now, nor have I ever been "elusive" when it comes to discussing issues of mutual interest with anyone.

You report that Excalibur made "no less than six telephone requests" for a meeting between January 3 and January 27 but that "unfortunately, on each occasion, the Minister was out of his office for the day".

In fact, I was away on holidays until January 15, something your reporter was told by my Executive Assistant. Upon my return, I was told of your request for a meeting and agreed to meet with you as soon as the current Legislative Session ends.

Your reporter agreed he would call my office at the end of the Session and I assumed he would do that

rather than write a story implying I will not meet with him.

I hope this clears up some of the facts for your readers and, incidentally, my offer to meet with you still stands.

James A.C. Auld,  
Minister, Colleges and Universities  
Excalibur's first phone call was made on January 3, the other five after January 15, when the minister had returned from his holidays. It was not until January 27 that he agreed to meet with us.

The point of the editorial was that a formal meeting with the minister was declared to be impossible (before the end of the legislative session) for Excalibur, and for the Ontario Federation of Students — yet such a meeting was readily given to a group of Ontario university board members.

Excalibur meeting today  
Editor selection criteria on tap  
2 p.m. in room 111 Central Square

Editor-in-chief  
Managing editor  
News editor  
Photo editor  
Entertainment editor  
Sports editor  
Graphics  
CUP editor  
Opinion editor

Staff at large — Alan Risen, Ted Mumford, Steve Hain, Bob Livingston, Ian Balfour, Shelley Rabinovitch, Julian Beltrame, Frank Giorno, Bob McBryde, Steven Brinder, Jim McCall, Anna Vaitiekunas, Dale Ritch, Paul Stuart, Marg Poste, Alan Shalon, Thomas McKerr, Greg Martin, Michael Hollett, Anne Camozzi, Ralph Ashford, Anthony Gizzie, Debbie Pekilis, Keith Nickson, Cathy Honsl, Mira Friedlander, Jettrey Morgan, Paul Wassman, Neal Humby, Dara Levinter, Dorothy Margeson, John Mansfield, Brenda Weeks, Lorne Wasser.

Business and Advertising

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### Harbinger's column

## A primer on the use of IUDs

The use of the intra-uterine device as a method of birth control is centuries old.

An IUD is a small piece of sterile plastic and metal inserted into the uterus to prevent pregnancy. The Lippes loop and the Saf-T-coil are the most widely used right now, because of their low expulsion, pregnancy and side effect rates.

Copper IUDs are a more recent development. The two common copper IUDs are the copper T and the copper 7, which consist of a plastic T or 7 form with fine copper wire wound around the arms and stem of the device.

This copper wire slowly releases copper ions into the uterus, helping to inhibit conception. So far, there is no evidence to show that copper spreads into the rest of the body or that it might have an adverse effect on a developing fetus.

The copper IUDs are smaller than most plastic forms and are therefore more acceptable for younger women and those who have not had a pregnancy. The small size also seems to reduce the blood loss and cramping that is common with IUD insertion. It is recommended that copper IUDs be replaced every two years, as their antifertility effect decreases as the copper dissolves.

For those that can use it, the IUD

is a very safe, cheap and effective method of birth control. It has no hormonal side effects; removal of the IUD removes the block to fertility.

It is second only to the pill as the most effective method of birth control. The Lippes loop and the copper IUDs have a pregnancy rate of three per cent in the first year of use, and their effectiveness increases with continued use.

The effectiveness of the IUD depends on the proper placement in the uterus. Insertion should be done by someone experienced in the technique, such as a gynecologist or a birth control clinic. An earlier visit to the doctor is required for a general examination, PAP test and gonorrhea bacteria test.

As soon as the IUD is in place, it begins to inhibit conception. Some doctors recommend using another method of birth control for the first month as that is the period of highest failure rate. Most doctors recommend a six week checkup to ensure there are no complications and to see that the device is in place.

Some minor side effects are common with IUDs. Many women have cramps. Some experience irregular bleeding and heavier periods for the first few months. Severe cramps or heavy bleeding should be reported to your doctor.

Between 10 and 12 per cent of all women who receive the device expel it in the first year of use. Most expulsions occur during the menstrual period, so check all pads and tampons to make sure the device has not come out.

Some women are poor candidates for using the IUD. Any women with current or recent pelvic infections are advised not to use it.

All candidates for IUDs should have a gonorrhea culture test, as insertion of an IUD while gonorrhea is present is likely to result in serious pelvic inflammatory disease. Anyone with uterine fibroids or abnormal uterine bleeding should not use the IUDs.

For more complete information on the use of intra-uterine devices, ask your doctor or visit the Harbinger office.

#### SELF-HELP CLINICS

Harbinger will be sponsoring self-help clinics for women. The goal is to learn how to do gynecological self-help (internal examinations and breast self-examinations).

Scheduled times are Wednesdays at noon and Thursdays at 6:30 pm. Additional times will be arranged as interest is shown. For more information, contact Harbinger (214 Vanier Residence, 667-3509).