

editorial

ACSA's sad saga

The saga of questionable student politics at Atkinson College under the leadership of ACSA president Rosamond Rogers continues.

Last year Rogers, with help from former Atkinson council treasurer Avi Cohen, created a scandal by borrowing \$4,000 of council funds to make a payment on her home, informing the ACSA executive only after the transaction had already been made.

Faced with this neat fait d'accompli, the executive voted, with five abstentions, to pass the loan. No loan from student funds has ever been made to at Atkinson student before, and no others have been made since.

To make matters worse, far worse, Atkinson council held that portion of the meeting in camera, and 'requested' that former *Atkinsonian* editor Mary Ellen Kelly not print the fact of the loan. The effect of all this was that the \$4,000 loan issue was buried until it appeared on the front pages of *Excalibur* the following March, but Rogers was nevertheless re-elected by the assembly shortly after.

This year Rogers *et al* continued the farcical antics that have given the council the worst reputation on campus.

Early this year three ACSA executives resigned their positions. Rogers responded by making unspecific, unsubstantiated accusations that she was the victim of racial persecution by other council members, accusations made all the more ridiculous since the majority of the executive is also black, and since she has been voted into office three years running.

Rogers then resigned with just the right amount of self-righteous indignation, but made a triumphant return to office at the next assembly meeting before her resignation was even formally accepted.

Now ACSA is in the midst of more controversy, and if the information dredged up by present *Atkinsonian* editor M. Nico Krohn is correct, five of the nine council executives are holding their posts in direct contravention of ACSA regulations, Rogers included.

ACSA's by-laws prohibit non-students from participation in the assembly or the executive, but there is no clause requiring a member to prove s/he is actually a student. Rogers in particular has refused repeatedly requests that she substantiate her status, saying it is an invasion of her privacy.

How her proving she is a student when she is already claiming to be a student violates her privacy is unclear. Surely, if Rogers is telling the truth then she should have no objectives to releasing the necessary documents and clearing up the issue once and for all.

Instead, Rogers has not only denied the assembly access to her records, she also threatened to sue the *Atkinsonian* if it printed any information about her academic status, a blatant attempt to once again muzzle the press. The *Atkinsonian's* position is made even more precarious because the assembly of which Rosamond is president owns the newspaper, and because three of the five members mentioned in the article, including Rogers, sit on the paper's Publications Board, which among other things, has the power to hire or fire the editor.

The situation at ACSA has now become intolerable. The assembly controls over \$250,000 of students' money, more even than does CYSF, yet their executive is the least responsible to its constituents of all the representative bodies on campus.

To rectify this situation the assembly must exercise its right to vote on council affairs, and demand, not ask for, proof of their executives' status as students, and if they are not students, remove them from their positions as the ACSA constitution stipulates.

Also, to prevent the political manipulation it has seen subject to in the past, the *Atkinsonian* should be established as an independent entity, outside of the council's control. Only then can Atkinson students rely on their newspaper for responsible reporting of ACSA's actions.

Finally, ACSA should open elections to the general student population, instead of reserving the right to choose their representative for the few with the time, and the ability to endure, assembly meetings. Rogers has been promising to stage general elections for ACSA's executive council positions since becoming president three years ago, but nothing has yet been accomplished to this end. Whether or not the claims made in the *Atkinsonian* are true, the assembly must act on this issue. Otherwise Atkinson students, since they have no real influence on Those Who Spend The Money, would be perfectly justified in withholding their contribution until a more democratic, representative system is initiated.



... AND LOOK! BETTE STEPHENSON LOANED US TWO WHOLE BRICKS, FOR OUR NEW BUILDINGS!

letters

Excalibur attempts to print as many letters as space allows. Please be brief—letters over 250 words may be subject to editing for length. All letters must include the author's name and phone number for verification purposes. Pseudonyms may be used upon request.

Free elections

Editor:
Recently elections have been held in Nicaragua, in which opposition candidates were allowed to appear on television, opposition candidates have not been assassinated by Death Squads (in contrast to El Salvador and the Philippines), and a third of the population voted against the government (unlike the Soviet Union). In other words, they were reasonably free elections.

As a result, any possible justification for armed rebellion against the government and people of Nicaragua (and this revolt is aimed mainly at the civilian population) has ceased to exist, if it ever did.

There is no way a government which claims to be democratic (i.e., the US) can logically support this rebellion.

As to the supplying of defensive weapons by the Soviet Union, the US supplies weapons to three countries bordering on the Soviet Union and many other countries much closer to it than Nicaragua is to the USA.

Suggestions that the US forces should attack Soviet ships are totally justified, especially as this might escalate to a nuclear war which would destroy all Capitalists and Democrats along with Communists and everyone else!

—J.M. McNamee
Chairman
York University
Association for Peace

Peeve of the Week?" You could begin with these:

The lack of a bus shelter at the York Express bus stop. This stop is far enough away from the York 106 stop to make waiting in the present shelter pointless.

Students who stand, sit or lie in Central Square (especially near the Curtis Lecture Hall entrances, by the cafeteria) at class change. Am I the only one who has difficulty navigating past these heavenly bodies?

Students who flood into lecture halls the very second the first person leaves after a class. Do they realize how much longer it takes to get in and grab a seat when everyone is fighting tooth and claw to squeeze through the door? Honestly, this is a university, not Maple Leaf Gardens.

These are but a few to get the ball rolling. I have a lot more as I'm sure do others. Anyway, thanks for a delightful paper and keep up the good work.

—Paul Armstrong

whatever you believe in—as a mature and responsible adult.

If the recent vandals are truly concerned with the aesthetic appeal of the sculpture they have defaced then they have done their cause a great disservice. What was last week a sculpture is now, this week, truly ugly.

—Marshall Golden

Beatin' Eaton

Editor:
As university students concerned about labor struggles in Canada, we have to express our indignation with Eaton's hostile attitude towards their workers.

When the Eaton's employees won their battle for unionization, it was really only the beginning of their struggles against the Eaton's management. The current dispute is just a continuation of their fight for recognition as a registered union.

By refusing to compromise with their employees, the Eaton's management had made it clear that they are prepared to continue with a futile power struggle that that will accomplish little for their employees, and hurt the company in the long run.

We want to express our solidarity with the Eaton's workers, and ask the York University community to boycott Eaton stores until the management begins to accept that their disgraceful history of union busting in this country is over.

Joseph Asselin
York University
NDP Campus Association

For art's sake

Editors:
I am appalled by the most recent example of vandalism to artworks here at York. I am referring to the 'magic marker editorial' which currently covers most of the large orange sculpture situated between the Administrative Studies Building and the Ross building.

This is not a letter in defence of the artistic merits of the sculpture, which has been the focus of a minor aesthetic controversy since its installation two years ago. This is an appeal to stop the vandalism.

Art is a matter of personal taste and no work of art is going to please everyone. If you don't like some of the art here at York, that is your privilege. It is not your privilege, however, to deface, vandalize or mutilate in attempt to make known your displeasure.

York is a university with many forums of appeal far more mature and less destructive than a black magic marker. Write a letter, talk to the administrative body responsible for art placement or picket the artwork itself—just stop these juvenile, 'run in the night' tactics. If there's one thing you should learn in university, it's to stand up and speak out for

Aw, shucks . . .

Editor:
Just wanted to say how much I appreciate the content and quality of the *Excalibur* this year. I have noticed tremendous improvement in the writing, editorial comment, cartoons and layout. Compared to the other campus papers I've seen (especially the banal, pseudo-intellectual *Varsity*) the *Excalibur* is first rate. I especially enjoyed the article on film censorship and the truly inspired interview of Tom Walmsley, in the November 22nd issue. I don't know a thing about *Something Red*, but the interview alone is enough to induce me to go see it. I liked his comments on critics and Billy Idol. Interesting . . .

As a suggestion, I'd like to propose a companion piece to your "Question of the Week" column. How about a "Pet

excalibur

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oops!

In last week's *Excalibur*, statements concerning CYSF Director of Women's Affairs Elise Hallewick were incorrectly attributed to Graduate Business Council representative Don McMillan. *Excalibur* apologizes for any inconvenience or embarrassment this may have caused Mr. McMillan.