

# editorial

## Student center

The ideal of a university is that of a social, academic community where students learn not just in the classroom, but also from interacting with their peers in an atmosphere conducive to the learning experience.

A university that truly fulfills its function is one in which students enjoy spending their time involved within the heart of the community. When an institution sends its graduates into the outside world with only a degree and a head full of cold facts and figures, then it has failed its purpose.

York University can, to a certain extent, be criticized for being such an institution, largely because it lacks the physical properties to allow this kind of academic community to grow and flourish. Because York has suffered chronic underfunding practically since its inception, students have been forced to make do with a university that is still only half completed.

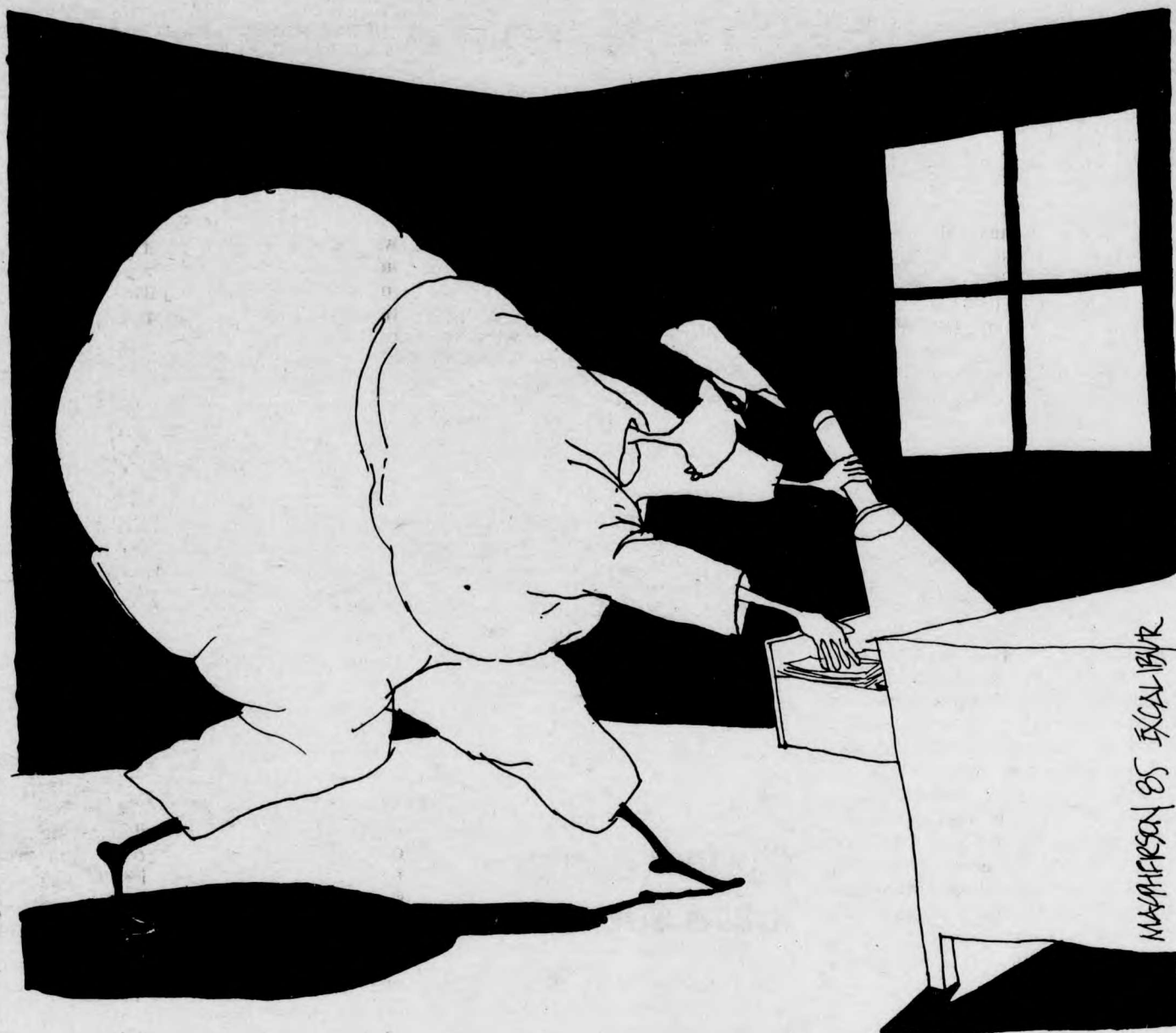
What this university needs now, and has needed for some time, is a facility to cater exclusively to the needs of its student population, and the best solution we can see would be to endorse the Student Centre Steering Committee's proposal to build a Student Centre, funded primarily and operated by the people it is designed to serve—students.

In the SCSC's proposal, which will be placed before the student body for approval sometime next month, the Student Centre would include services that could transform life at this campus, such as a large meeting hall (capacity 2,000), a student-run restaurant and cafeteria, a large lounge (complete with fireplace) and private meeting, or committee, rooms.

Building a Student Centre would also allow a more central location for important services such as the Office of Student Affairs or the Career Centre, offices for campus clubs, and academic resources such as study rooms, typing rooms, and computer facilities.

While the plans for the centre have not yet been finalized, and will not be until (or if) the proposal is passed in a campus wide referendum, the point is that the construction of such a building would improve every aspect of university life.

We urge you to vote 'yes' in the upcoming referendum.



INVESTIGATORS FOLLOWING UP C.Y.S.F. THEFT NIGHTLY

## letters

### Thanks for the mistakes, Excal!

Editor:  
Re: *Excalibur* Jan. 13st, 1985 "Free Law Clinic Re-Opens Doors".

I would like to thank you for running the story on the Black Community Legal Services Clinic (BCLSC). Many people who saw your article told me that they were pleased to have been made aware of the clinic's existence. However, there are a couple of errors in the article which need to be corrected.

1. The article describes Roger Rowe as the founder of the BCLSC. I did not found the clinic. It was started by Osgoode's Community Legal Aid Services Programme (CLASP) in the summer of 1984 with funding from a Summer Canada Works grant.

2. The article does not explicitly state that BCLSC is a satellite clinic of CLASP.

3. The article says the clinic was previously closed due to funding problems. The clinic was never permanently closed. It was temporarily closed to enable students to prepare for end of semester examinations. It is presently in danger of being permanently closed if CLASP is unable to obtain the necessary funding this year (the government only provided funding to start this clinic).

4. The article quotes me as saying that "generally we don't do indictable offences." Neither CLASP nor the satellite BCLSC ever handles any indictable offences.

Could you please print these corrections in the next edition of *Excalibur*? Thank you very much.  
—Roger Rowe  
CLASP

### Thank Lloyd and thank God!

Editor:  
The article "Trust Charity to Distribute Funds" February 7, 1985 issue was much appreciated. Thank you Lloyd Davidson. One comment I would like to add in support of your advice. There are a few organizations who supervise the distribution of food and funds on site. If

your gifts are directed through organizations of this sort you will be able to at least hold these people accountable. This is important since I believe we need to be accountable for what we have received and what we give.

There are still honest people around. They are the ones who welcome your scrutiny. Two such organizations I personally know of are World Vision 821-3030 and, ERDO (Emergency Relief Development Overseas.) 425-1010. Both charities are supported and encouraged by the Canadian Government.

World Vision will spend approximately 10 percent of monies they receive on administration. ERDO will send 100 percent of your contribution to the source you designate. Both charities will make their financial statements available to you upon request.

As a further encouragement to people who are concerned please read what Jesus said about giving. Matthew 25:40 "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

—Ralph Matthews

### Cult article misses distinctions

Editor:  
The authors of your full page feature on 'The Cult Controversy' nowhere reveal how, if at all, the cults they are discussing differ from all those other small religious or pseudo-religious groups which—as a Unitarian minister once rather nicely put it to me—"do very little business." For, if the enemies of these so-called cult religions really are condemning all such groups, which happen to be small and not widely influential, then such enemies are quite obviously guilty of the grossest religious intolerance, even persecution. So could we not, please, now be told what distinguishes cult religions (bad) from, presumably, non-cult religions (good)?

The only answer to this question which I have myself been able to extract is that the condemned cults are guilty of brainwashing. But then the further question arises: "What is meant by "brainwashing"?" Certainly those so eager to employ this term of abuse want it to suggest the manifestly illicit and altogether monstrous methods employed by their Chinese captors to convert or pervert, prisoners taken in the Korean War. But if any religious, or non-religious group, cult or non-cult, really was imprisoning people in Canada, and abusing these prisoners, then that group could, and surely would, be properly dealt with by due process of the criminal law?

However, again in my experience, the enemies of such so-called cult religions produce no evidence of anything more uncommon or more sinister than that "cult" converts have been somehow persuaded to believe a lot of nonsense. Yet if this is all that the enthusiasts for such cults have done, then their offence is no other and no greater than that of innumerable advertisers, politicians, and—as a vice-president of the Rationalist Press Association I would wish to add—spokespersons for old-time, mainstream, established religions.

—Antony Flew  
Professor of Philosophy

### Oops!

In the last issue of *Excalibur*, we mistakenly reported that Lily Contento is currently the president of the YSF. In reality, the YSF has no president at all, and Lily Contento has not been an active member for several months. *Excalibur* regrets any confusion or embarrassment resulting from this error.

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