

## Correspondence

### Excalibur's mediocrity?

In the article "How good a university?" (*Excalibur*, October 22, 1980) Professors O'Neill and Bar-Lewaw criticize York as a mediocre institution. I disagree with them, but your article itself illustrates the point they are making. Professor Bar-Lewaw does not teach in the "Department of Hispanic and Latin-American Literature and Civilization". There is not and never has been any such department. York has a Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, a Latin-American and Caribbean Studies Programme and CERLAC (Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean). If our university newspaper is so ill-informed and so careless that it does not know (or is too lazy to check) the names of our own administrative structures perhaps O'Neill and Bar-Lewaw have a point after all.

**K.J. Golby (Ph.D)**  
**Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics**  
 P.S. The fact that *Excalibur* devotes this week's cover and feature article to the rapid personality and trivial opinions of a pop musician does little to counter the views of those who consider York a mediocre university.

### Election questioned

I am dismayed to find that two questionable procedures, which affected students' ability to participate in the electoral

process, occurred during the CYSF election over the past two weeks.

The first deals with the ability of CYSF staff to influence the vote of students. Both Don Sugg, Lyceum bookstore manager and Gary Empey, business manager actively supported some candidates, and in this instance, were technically able to do so according to their contract with CYSF. In almost any type of election (student and otherwise), government staff members are not allowed to take an active role; the reasons are obvious, I am not suggesting they should not have their personal preferences; however, council contracts should require the impartiality of staff in dealing with political decisions made by students and student government.

The second procedure deals with the technical inability of those who have not yet paid their tuition fees to either run for office, or vote. The election tribunal was, by CYSF bylaws, correct in eliminating Chris Savvas from the election, since he had not paid his fees. However, should students who are unable to pay their fees until October 31 (official university deadline) because of financial difficulties be barred from voting or running in a council election? I would suggest that CYSF should either change its bylaws to accommodate this problem, or demand that the administration change its regulations to allow for the full participation of students with financial difficulties.

Although CYSF underwent a full constitutional review this

summer, they could not be expected to forecast all possible problems. Therefore, I would suggest that the outlined changes should be made as soon as possible to allow for the equal participation of all students in the electoral process.

**Barb Taylor**

### A vote of thanks

I would like at this time to express my sincere gratitude to all those individuals who supported me in the most recent CYSF Presidential By-election. A special thanks goes to all those people too numerous to mention who took an active interest in the campaign, especially my loyal campaign workers without whom I would never have been elected. In the future I will endeavour to live up to the expectations of that special group of voters who supported me.

**Malcolm Montgomery**  
**President-elect of CYSF**

### Sex attacks scarce says student security

In response to the letter published in October 16 edition of *Excalibur's* correspondence column, dealing with sexual attacks on campus.

I do not believe that sexual attacks at York are as frequent or as severe as Ms. Strachan suggested in her letter to the Director of Housing Services. However, I do agree that the potential for this to become a serious problem is very real, and that all possible precautions should be taken by individuals to

safeguard against such incidents.

In addition to these precautions which all members of the York community should acquaint themselves with, the York Student Security program, sponsored by the Department of Safety and Security and the C.Y.S.F., offers an escort service for individuals who feel uneasy about traversing the campus late at night. By necessity, such activities are restricted to our regular patrol hours of 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Mondays to Wednesdays, and 9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Thursdays to Saturdays.

Because of staff limitations and the potentially large demand for this service, individuals are advised to make arrangements to be accompanied by a friend. However, should such arrangements not be possible, then York Student Security members would be more than happy to help whenever possible.

More details in the form of a memorandum are available at the following locations:

York Women's Centre  
 York Connection  
 C.Y.S.F. office  
 Information York  
 York Bookstore

Main circulation desks of Scott, Steacie, Osgoode, and Administrative Studies libraries. Thanks again to Ms. Strachan and the Women's Caucus of Osgoode Hall School for their genuine concern for the safety and well-being of fellow members of the York community.

**Pat Stallaert**  
**Co-ordinating Officer,**  
**York Student Security**

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# UNIVERSITY NEWSBEAT

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## University statement about the proposed CUEW contract

Following agreement between the University and any union negotiating team, the University routinely refrains from any public statement regarding the terms of the settlement until the membership has had the opportunity to vote on it. In this case, events subsequent to negotiations require a departure from that practice.

On Friday, October 24, 1980, the CBC-TV program "Newshour" included a segment dealing with relations between CUEW and York University. The program focussed on a discussion paper on long-term planning in the Faculty of Arts, released earlier in the week by Dean Harold Kaplan, and the CBC misinterpreted one section of that paper to be a statement of a University policy to effect budget cuts and major reductions in part-time faculty appointments for 1981-82.

Dean Kaplan's discussion paper is a long and complex document; the examination of specific parts of it out of the context of the whole led to misunderstandings of its intent. Dean Kaplan's comments on part-time faculty describe his Faculty's existing practice of requiring departments to justify requests for part-time appointments on an annual basis, in order to ensure that part-time resources can be allocated each year to the points of greatest need.

The result of this process in the last two years has been an increase in part-time academic jobs. Indeed, contrary to "Newshour's" assertions, Dean Kaplan's paper advocates neither budget cuts nor faculty reductions.

Three Drop-In Days remain for both the public and the York community to participate in a variety of lectures, open houses, information sessions, demonstrations, tours, exhibitions and films. The week winds up with three special events on Saturday. The Fine Arts department will feature a film and guided tour of the Fine Arts Building in the Faculty Lounge of the Fine Arts Building from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

From 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, 52 high schools will participate in the annual Science Olympics. High school teams will challenge each other on seven events, with prizes going to the best teams, and a trophy to the winning high school.

Information on event locations will be available on Saturday morning at the Science Olympics information booth at the main entrance off Keele Street.

York University has not yet established its budgeting policy for 1981-82. In making its budget decisions, the University will do all that it can to mitigate the impact of underfunding. Any base budget reductions, and especially the

impact of any cutbacks on academic programs, will be the minimum possible consistent with fiscal integrity.

At the same time, it would be irresponsible to commit the institution to a total maintenance

of any major category of the University's expenditures, given the realities of funding inadequacies and in advance of our overall review of next year's budget needs.

## Drop-In Days winds up on Saturday with Science Olympics and open forum



One of the many school groups 'dropping in'

Also on Saturday, from 9:30 to noon, there will be an open forum titled "Planning for the 80s: The University and You". Parents,

teachers, high school and mature students have been invited to this event, to help them analyze the university experience with York

personnel.

The forum features two speakers. President H. Ian Macdonald will talk about "University in the 80s" at noon, and Dean of Arts Harold Kaplan will discuss "The Concept of General Education" at 10 a.m.—in the Moot Court at Osgoode Hall Law School.

Concurrently, German Cultural Week continues with films, poster art, art books, art exhibitions and lectures. **Please note the changes in the schedule:** the German film "Die Wildente" (The Wild Duck) with English subtitles, will be shown on Thursday at 7:30 p.m., instead of Saturday, in Room L, Curtis Lecture Hall. And on Friday, there will be one German film, instead of three; this film, "Flammende Herzen" (Flaming Hearts) with English subtitles, will be introduced by actor Peter Kern at 7:30 p.m. in Room D, Stedman.