

Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity — Lord Acton

Suggestions for avoiding the strike

People don't like to think of universities as big business. They like to think of them as special communities where human relations come first.

Some may believe that, no one in their right mind does.

York's recent dispute with the Canadian Union of Public Employees exemplifies the worst in union-management relations. Neither side trusts the other. And quite rightly. CUPE is negotiating their first contract here — after York had to wait over a year to meet them at the bargaining table.

Negotiations on non-monetary matters steamrolled ahead rather nicely under Department of Labor negotiator Gordon Greenaway. But when money and welfare benefits cropped up York and

CUPE found each other miles apart. Or so we've been led to believe.

York made an offer. The union thought it so low, they didn't even consider it. York says it can't afford what University of Windsor or what the Borough of North York pays.

If both are really sincere in their efforts to avoid a strike might we suggest two things:

1) that the union respond to York's offer, otherwise nobody really knows how far apart the two are;

2) that York show its budget and prove it really doesn't have the money to pay comparable rates. Other industries have done it, why can't York?

Then and only then will we know where we're at.

Perhaps then can some kind of meaningful dialogue begin.

Founders Festival - loss a danger signal

According to Founders College spokesman, Festival '71, a \$4,500 affair, lost a substantial, although not yet calculated amount of money last weekend. The festival featured concerts by Michael Cooney, Mainline and the Downchild Blues Band as well as workshops and other events. The loss was apparently due to poor attendance rather than poor management.

The fact that Festival '71, a well-organized and reasonably priced event, lost money merely adds one more footnote to the lengthy history of economic disasters which York groups

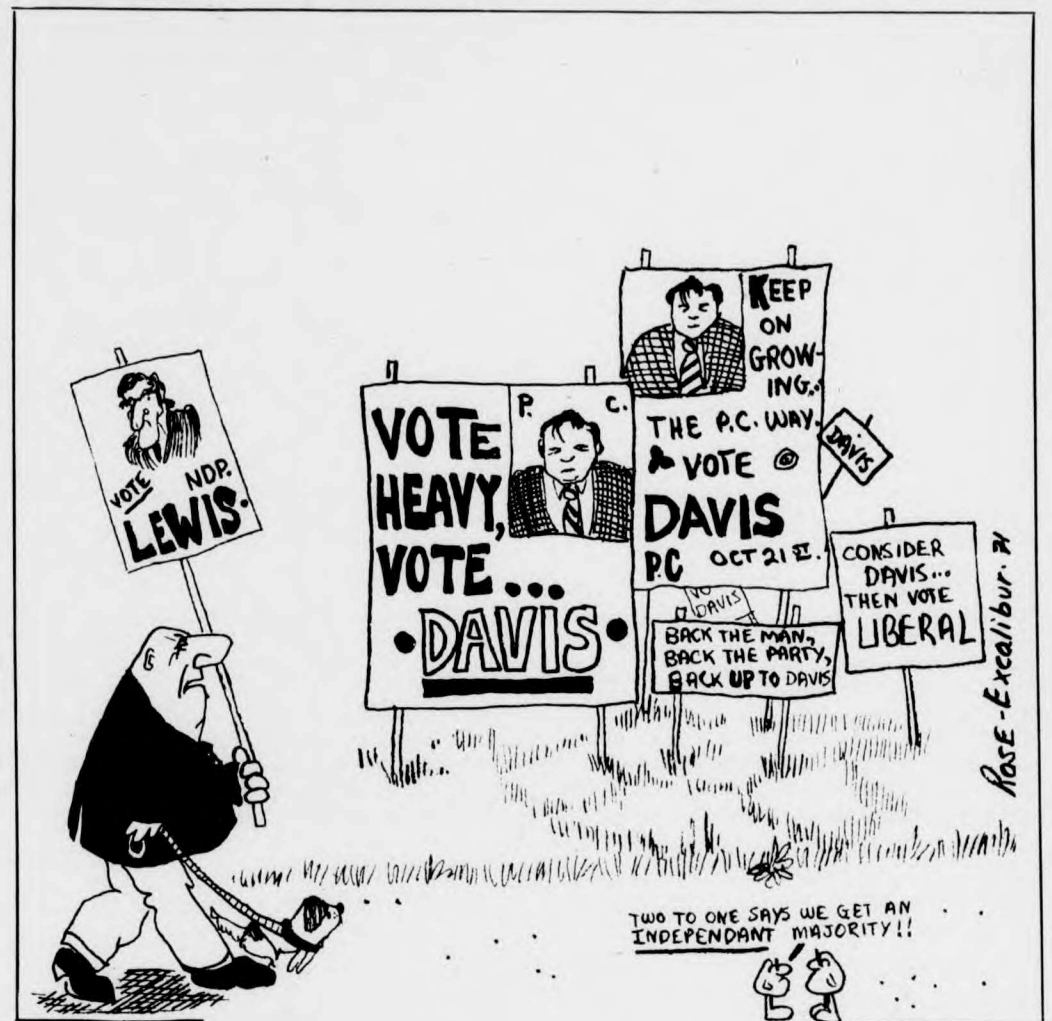
have arranged as entertainment events. To some degree, the York community deserves nothing but mediocre and expensive on-campus entertainment if it refuses to support worthy events like Festival '71. The promoter of a strip show (almost held last year in Founders) lost money only because too many people came.

Festival '71 probably lost money because it wasn't sufficiently publicized. This was not the fault of the organizers, but due to the complete lack of coordination between the colleges and individuals who promote on-campus entertainment. The resources of one college or group are very limited when it comes to giving campus-wide, or off-campus, publicity to an event. Ideally, Council of the York Student Federation would fulfil this function. Unfortunately, the social affairs commissioner, Jeff Otis, resigned claiming that he could not get the colleges to co-operate on anything. Neil Sinclair, CYSF communications commissioner, commented; "At present, the status of social affairs at York is dismal." That sums it up well.

It seems self-evident that social events organized on an economic scale requiring support from more people than one or two colleges can supply, need inter-college cooperation for success. A responsible committee or individual could save the colleges money by coordinating concerts and other events so that they are well publicized and do not occur too soon after each other. This would not override the creativity some colleges have shown in planning events but would help them realize their ideas.

York needs a centralizing influence in the realm of social affairs. Such an influence could insure that worthy events receive the advertising and planning necessary, and that no one profits by running on-campus events of a questionable nature — such as a strip show — without the community being aware of exactly what, or whom, their money goes to support.

Social affairs held at York cannot continue to lose money.



Our election nod goes to the NDP

The three major candidates for York-view gave their views to Excalibur last week. For the most part, they stood behind their party platforms although there was some deviance.

Progressive Conservative Mike O'Rourke gives the impression — despite the slick "I think" ads — of not being too sure where he's really at. He stands behind the party's weak labor platforms: seasonal employment programs and aiding individuals to create, new consumer products on the market. He didn't say where consumers were going to get the money to buy the products. As for part-time work, he said there's lots available but students lacked ambition to get it.

Bill Davis sent out a letter saying "wouldn't it be nice if you hired a few Canadians?", but O'Rourke says he sees no priority in hiring Canadians. On high university costs for the students, he says he'll investigate that once he's elected. Thankfully, he backs the Tories on Rapid Transit on Spadina.

The Tories have brought Ontario through a divisive decade. They have created the present educational system and were unable to find the jobs — like any other province.

Liberal Jim Fleming has all the Liberal responses to Ontario ills. Take-over review boards for foreign investment and fines to match polluters' profit margins. His answers appeared frank and honest. The answer to Americanization: within two years, all Canadian universities must have Canadian majorities; in six years, two thirds of every department must be Canadian. Unfortunately, he also supports the Liberal platform of continuing the Spadina expressway to Eglinton Ave. — \$140 million can't be wasted.

The Liberal Party's response to the election was not to create a fresh outlook on governance but rather a program

response to the Tories. Their blueprint for government — though admirable in places — lacks a clear depth or new philosophy for Ontario. That is what Ontario has lacked so far and that is what the province needs.

New Democratic Party candidate and riding incumbent Fred Young supports the party platform of massive housing program and GO Transit to relieve unemployment. He stands by his party in their Stop Spadina stand. He knows that only 6 cents of every investment dollar comes from the U.S.; the rest is generated in Canada. To combat U.S. penetration of the Canadian universities, he supports content laws to make faculties Canadian once again. In agreement with the NDP policy, he states that polluters receive fines that are just too low. Drawing on the Scandinavian experience, he states university should be free for all students to attend. And furthermore, he believes labor disputes would end if — as in Sweden — wages were geared to productivity with increased benefits going to all in the society.

Whereas the Tories' campaign was heavily advertised, its programs were reduced to "Bill Davis knows and cares." The Liberals had their blueprint and their advertising. The NDP had light advertising and a whole new philosophy of government.

Despite their unequivocal support of separate schools, the NDP professes to know how to meet the crucial problems that face all people today: unemployment and the Americanized economy. Through the Ontario Development Corporation with funds channeled to Canadian companies and the switch of taxes away from the private sector onto the corporate, Ontario could lead the way to a more independent and more humane Canada.

The NDP has potential. Fred Young seems to have some concrete answers. The two are best for Ontario and for Yorkview.

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