

## EDITORIAL

### Misinformed candidates

How can we take the presidential candidates seriously when they say students must become informed about issues and they themselves have shown their own lack of information?

During their debate last week, each of the candidates spoke passionately about space allocation for clubs in the new Student Centre.

However, they continually referred to lobbying the administration, rather than the board of directors of the Student Centre Corporation (SCC) proper. The all-important distinction is that the SCC is a student-run board. In this particular case, it is the students who own the building, not the evil administration (at least not yet).

With regards to the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS), at least one of the candidates talked directly about York's powerful stature in the OFS. (York has four votes at YFS because of its large student population as opposed to many schools which have only one).

However, if the candidates had read our newspaper which came out the day before their debate, they would have realized that weighted voting may be on the way out at OFS — as of this June. If implemented, this would mean that York, as large as it is, would possess no more clout at OFS than a small or mid-sized college with one vote.

One candidate mentioned several structural reforms to be imposed on York's community newspaper, including the election of the editor-in-chief by popular vote during the YFS election period and a return from two issues per week back to one.

There's a definite problem when YFS presidential candidates promise changes to an organization which is clearly out of their jurisdiction to influence. Unlike most campus newspapers, *Excalibur* has no political affiliations or ties to its student council.

Sorry, but the only way to influence the structural or editorial makeup of the newspaper is through the proper channels: you must come in like any other student and volunteer to be an active staff member. It's only fair, after all, since it's the volunteers who put the paper together every two days.

This particular candidate had no basis for their argument, showing a lack of research into the newspaper policy which they have insisted on putting at the forefront of their agenda.

Other candidates purported the idea that a media watch committee be established to scrutinize the content of the paper and to help ensure that it is free of racist, classist, gender-based and other stereotypes.

The candidates were perfectly within their rights to call for such a committee. An unconstrained, non-biased media watch organization could benefit a university newspaper, but not under the guise of the student government, which obviously would benefit from the manipulation of the campus press.

Besides, the newspaper can help to transmit valuable information to students. Information that it seems is lacking in several of the presidential candidates' statements.

*Excalibur* wishes to apologize for inadvertently naming the author of the article "Black History: The Struggle for Identity." *Excalibur* at all times takes full responsibility for the content of the paper.

## EXCALIBUR

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*Excalibur* is York University's community newspaper. We publish twice-weekly, and distribute across York and Glendon campuses and various locations within the North York community.

*Excalibur* is an autonomous corporation with a mandate to inform, educate and provoke thought among York University's diverse population.

The distinct opinions and articles appearing in *Excalibur* belong first and foremost to the individual writers and are not necessarily shared by any other *Excalibur* staff or board member.

Final editorial responsibility is retained by the Editor-in-chief.

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THERE ARE SOLUTIONS. WHY AREN'T THEY BEING TRIED?



COURTESY OF SETH TOBOCMAN

## LETTERS

*Excalibur* welcomes letters to the editor on all topics. We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 500 words in length. They must be typed, double spaced, and accompanied by the writer's name, signature and telephone number. The opinions expressed belong to the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of *Excalibur* staff or directors. However, we will refuse letters that are racist, sexist, libellous or those which attempt to incite hatred toward an individual or an identifiable group. All material is subject to editing. All submissions must be addressed to the Editor-in-chief, Room 111, Central Square.

### Senators ignored

To the editor,

In your most recent issue of *Excalibur* (Mar. 6) the paper did a feature on the upcoming student elections. In this feature, all positions for election received attention except for the Student Senator positions.

I and 11 other candidates are competing for these positions. The Senate of York University is one of the most influential and important governing bodies of the University — it governs academic policy, yet the *Excalibur* chose to ignore it entirely.

Strong student representation on this board is essential, however, *Excalibur* did not even announce, the time and location of the candidate's speeches. I hope that in the future, organizations of this importance, and the elections that determine student representation on these legislative bodies will receive the attention they truly deserve.

Justin Linden  
Student Senator Candidate

### Propriety questioned

To the editor,

In your profile of the candidates on Mar. 6, Caroline Winship outlined her record as the past YFS VP Internal for two years. What she failed to mention was the \$1000 bonus her

and the other YFS executives gave themselves *illegally* at the end of the 1989/90 year. At the time, she said she deserved the money and incurred personal debt because of her position.

In democracies it is crucial that politicians be accountable for *all* their actions. If Ms. Winship is not willing to accept this being brought up, she should not be a candidate for Board of Governors.

Sincerely,  
Michael Sullivan

### Support for Excal editors

To the editor,

Another day brings another controversial issue to the attention of students at York. ARE THE EDITORS OF EXCALIBUR RACIST? If they are, then I hope that the accusers will soon come up with a valid reason for their accusation.

What have I heard so far? Two things.

1. The coalition of groups who put together the petition demanding the resignation of the editors of *Excal* claim that the apology given in regard to the "racist" cartoon printed in the previous term was nothing but "flowery words." This perspective can surely only be held by people who are nursing a grudge and looking for someone — anyone — to take it out on.

The editors of *Excal* made a very strong apology for their printing of the cartoon. Not only that, they took back all the copies of that issue of the

newspaper and reprinted it without the cartoon. Not only that, they printed a blank space where the cartoon was, rather than replacing it with another illustration. All in all the editors of *Excal* through their actions, owned up to their responsibility and apologized.

If "adequately addressing the issue or the victimized party" means writing a book in apology or kissing someone's boots, then I guess *Excal's* apology was only "flowery words."

2. Robert Loudon, in a letter to the editor (Mar. 4) referring to an article on Black History Month printed in the Feb. 4 issue, says that "whether Ontario Housing is populated by black kids who do drugs and engage in other untoward activities is not up for discussion nor is it a matter of opinion. It is patently untrue and as such its slander to publish it." If this is the case, then sue *Excal*. Try it and see who wins.

It is obvious that not all black people in Ontario Housing are involved in "untoward" activities. It is also true that not all people in Ontario Housing are black. But Tawanna was not making an absolute statement.

The author's purpose in writing this article seems to me to be an exhortation for black people to rise up from their present conditions to develop an awakening appreciation for their own heritage and culture. This is expressed well through the story about Mafari. Maybe the author could have spent an extra page qualifying herself and restating her thoughts in several different ways in order to protect herself from people who can't see the forest for

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