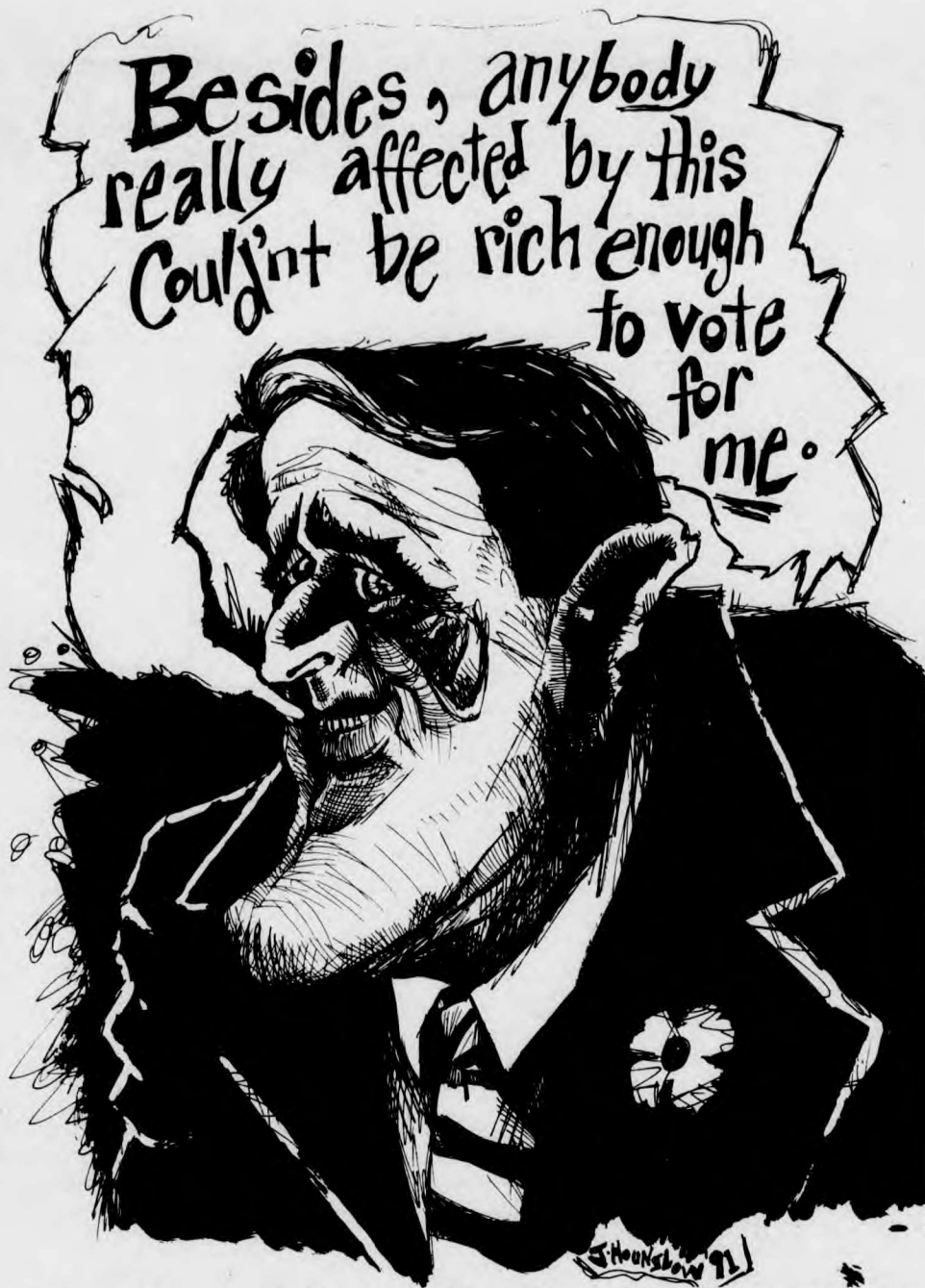


editorial



Despite hard times the Tories tax student loans to the tune of 3%

I ain't no Bryant Gumble

Traditionally *Excalibur* has done little to reflect the concerns of students of African descent. There has been a dearth of Black writers and a consequent trend toward misrepresentation and under-representation of our issues. The situation was a self-perpetuating one: the less coverage there was, the less interested the Black community was in getting involved.

Last year I was elected editor of *Excalibur*. As a Black woman there were a lot of questions about what I intended to do in my position. Was I, as one person put it, "going to be another Bryant Gumble, or was I going to do something for the community?"

First, I do not believe in 'objectivity' in the press. I think that is a concept devised to give credibility to an industry that is, for the most part, operated and owned by white men. And it is, of course, in their best interest to promote anything they say as objective truth.

The fact is that every writer who sits down at a computer brings with them their own preconceptions, their own political agenda and their own history of experiences.

As both female and Black my understanding of many things does not jive with the perspective promoted in the mainstream press. I don't believe that we live in a society of equal opportunity, I don't think we can overcome racism if we just learn to 'love' each other. I don't think multicultural policies, ethnic relations schemes and race policies that are shoved in someone's bottom drawer are in any way effective. I don't think "welcoming" women and people of colour is

enough of a progressive step in a work place.

Fundamental changes in people's understanding of race issues has to occur before any real change can take place. People must understand the implications of growing up as many Blacks did, with out any sense of their own history. People need to understand that the history of Black people did not begin with slavery any more than the history of Jews began with the holocaust.

Lest there be any misunderstanding, I appreciate my role as editor of a community paper: this is not *Essence* magazine. However, I make no apologies for what some of you might call a biased perspective in the paper. My perspective is no more 'biased' than what we're used to seeing in the *Globe and Mail*, the *Star* or the *Sun*. The difference is one of position — that is, a position far from the straight white middle class male centre of power.

The problem with journalism is it promotes one perspective as "objective" and invalidates the positions of other people, effectively silencing their views.

This is unacceptable.

I will make sure that *Excalibur* is a paper that reflects the diversity of this campus. I will reach out to the community to bring together a staff which is truly representative. Aside from issues of race and racism being dealt with more effectively by those who are affected, having a diverse staff promotes real debate within the paper. And this, more than anything, will lead to quality journalism.

Black Caucus

Get up • Get into it • Get involved

•James Brown

A black writers' caucus of *Excalibur* has been formed to work toward the promotion of issues and concerns of students of African descent. We're a small but vocal part of the *Excalibur* staff and we need you, your ideas and your input. No previous experience is necessary.

Black Caucus will have it's first meeting Thursday, September 19th.

Or come in and speak to Jeannine.

excalibur

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Excalibur is York University's
community newspaper.

Excalibur is a volunteer organization. We will consider for publication all submissions that are not deemed libelous or discriminatory by the editors and staff. The opinions expressed are not necessarily shared by all members of the staff or board of publications.

Final responsibility resides with the editor-in-chief as outlined in the constitution.

Editor-in-chief Jeannine Amber
Managing Editor Doug Saunders

Staff Stephen Balsky, Andrew Brouse, Simon Chung, Jim Hounslow, Azed Majeed, Pat Micelli, Wayne Morrow, Ira Nayman, Stephe Perry, Sam Putinja, Cindy Reeves, Josh Rubin.

Contributors David Camfield, Simon Chung, Patrick Davila, Dave Gardner, Paul Gazzola, Jennifer Holness, Jim Hounslow, Ian Kelso, Robert Klint, Azed Majeed, Cedric Morgan, Wayne Morrow, Sam Putinja, Rob Ruzic, Josh Rubin, Ryan (sorry we didn't get your last name), Riccardo Sala, Tom Schneider, David Sutherland, Clive Thompson.

Business Manager Merle Menzies
Advertising Assistant Patty Milton-Rao

Interim Chair Nancy Phillips

ANNOUNCEMENT

•Clive Thomson, the Provincial Bureau Chief of the Canadian University Press, will be giving a News writing seminar on September 18 at 6pm. In our offices, 426 Student Centre. It will be really excellent. Clive knows all sorts of neat things like ...like...like... like...like...how to overcome that writers block when you can't think of anything even slightly amusing to say.

CANCELLED

•The News writing seminar on September 11 has been postponed to the 18th. It will be super duper, see above.

• The Production seminar scheduled for the September 12 has been moved to September 19 at 6pm. in our offices 426 Student Centre.