

letters & comment

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, Excalibur, room III, Central Square. Please type letters, triple or double spaced, and keep them to around 250 words. Name, address and phone number must be included, but name will be withheld on request. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for grammar and length. Deadline Monday 4pm.

Happy with Happy Cooker

Thanks to Denise Beattie, from the Visser family, for her recipes this year. We've tried most of them, found them delicious and sensible. Three have made it into our "regular" list: ginger cookies, vegetable pie, bean-sprout and avocado (etc.) sandwich. The best column in *Excalibur*.

Margaret Visser
Lecturer, Classics

Support for CUPE

The 220 members of the CUPE Local representing maintenance and cleaning staff on campus have been negotiating for a contract since last November. Negotiations have broken down and CUPE is preparing to strike. As campus unions we want to express our concern over the course of negotiations.

Also we are alarmed at reports of the Administration encouraging workers in other unions to do the jobs of CUPE workers. This kind of infringement can lead to jobs being eroded and can result in bitterness and divisiveness between workers in the York community.

The Administration's offer of only 4% to CUPE workers with inflation running at about 9% amounts to a 5% wage cut. On top of this the Administration wants to take away gains won in the past in relation to job security and contracting out.

It is in the interest of the entire York community that there be good morale amongst all who work on campus. The quality of education is bound to be affected if any portion of the York community is overworked or underpaid or demoralized.

We think that it would be very unfortunate if CUPE is forced to strike because of the Administration's intransigence. We call on the Administration to avoid the inevitable disruption of a strike. The Administration's encouragement of infringement on CUPE jobs coupled with their demoralizing contract offer gives us cause for concern over future labour relations at York.

YUFA, YUSA, GAA

Thanks for support

I would like to thank all the students who participated in the last C.Y.S.F. election and my sincerest words of appreciation to all of my supporters. The coming year will be a difficult one for York University, in 1978-79 C.Y.S.F. will do its utmost to promote student interests. The Council of The York Student Federation will be a unified body which will enhance the academic and social environment of York University. In order to achieve this goal, we will be busy planning activities over the summer for the fall.

Best wishes to all York students for success on final exams and for a safe and a healthy summer.

David W. Chodikoff
President-Elect, CYSF

'Bye from Bell

One of the things I found to be the most fulfilling in the eight years I've enjoyed at York, was the opportunity to serve my fellow members of the university community as your member of the Board of Governors. At my last meeting I intend to remind the members of the Board that there is much that remains to be done to protect the quality of education and the future of this university. To those of you who gave me the opportunity to serve, by electing me to the Board, I thank you.

Jay Bell,

Scientology con

Professor Wightman's letter (March 30th) in which she endorses the 'study-technology' of Education

Alive, as a means of alleviating the problem of declining academic standards and what she refers to as 'the ruin on our hands' deserves comment. First of all, it must be mentioned that Education Alive is an operation conducted by the local Scientology organization (ORG in Scientologese). This high-power philosophy which has achieved a global status in recent years, was founded by L. Ron Hubbard, a former science fiction writer. Scientology states its goal as 'the clearing of the planet' or in other words, the massive intervention in normative psycho-social relations and the effecting of pseudo-technological and pseudo-scientific atandard of global 'sanity'.

Education Alive, though billed as a student-help organization, is really a student-trap. It is through this and other sorts of seemingly benign programmes that Scientology obtains converts to its inordinately stressful philosophy of 'survival', 'winning', and 'becoming clear'.

The idea is to entice students firstly with an attractive display of potential academic upgrading, and then, while they are enrolled, begin a covert series of psycho-subversive procedures. The end product is a new devotee, a fanatic in fact, who serves the interests of the ORG without question. Where the money goes is quite another problem.

Wightman's letter, though not an endorsement of Scientology by name, is nevertheless written in semi-scientologese. I suggest that Wightman is herself a scientologist on this evidence, and question whether her motives are her own. At any rate, this letter will fulfil its purpose if only it acts as a warning to all students who feel attracted to the programme Wightman outlines. L. Ron Hubbard, a genius, in Wightman's estimation, is really no more than a very clever con man. I doubt seriously that York's problems can be solved by 'persuading' *Scientology* to come on campus, and in fact, I doubt scientology would need much persuading...

Name withheld

Rally great, but struggle continues

There can be no question that the demonstration at Queen's Park on March 16 by 7,000 students, staff and faculty was a big success. The unexpectedly large and militant turn-out revealed a deep anger against the government.

The real key to the success of the action was the impressive unity shown between student, staff and faculty groups on the campuses. For the first time these groups took up the challenge of a common problem and worked together to solve it. At stake is not only the future of education but of jobs.

There were some problems with the demonstration and we must look at these as well. The major one stemmed from a lack of perspective about the need for an ongoing and increasingly broad campaign around the cutbacks. The speakers at the rally and the leaflet of the Metro Coalition were woefully inadequate when it came to this. It made the demonstrators feel manipulated and cheated by the rally organizers and made it impossible for them to channel the healthy anger of the demonstrators in a constructive direction. Their control over the rally broke down and it ended, not with a bang, but a whimper.

During the confusion at the end, a number of people argued for going into the legislature. Such a move would have been wrong. It would have led to a clash with the police and isolated the demonstrators and increased sympathy for the government.

What is the way forward for the campaign now Lobbying the government — the OFS strategy — has failed. So has one-shot action. What is needed is an ongoing campaign led by committees of

students, staff and faculty which can unite with others affected by the cutbacks in social services to build a powerful and popular movement. This will not be easy and it won't happen all at once. But now is the best time to follow up the initiatives already undertaken.

In Toronto the Metro coalition should play the role of organizing such a movement. It could use the summer to meet with other groups affected by the cuts and lay the groundwork for another big action in the fall. It can also help organize and participate in the anti-cutbacks conference called at Trent University for April 29 and 30. On York in the event of a strike by CUPE 1356 maintenance and groundskeepers, the anti-cutbacks committee here must support it as a fight against the cutbacks which hurt us all. March 16 was only the

beginning and a big success. Continue the struggle.

York Young Socialists
and Revolutionary
Workers League.

Poster prejudice?

I couldn't help noticing that, interestingly enough, the York administration's policy of conscientiously removing all posters from "non-approved" locations (and, on a rotating basis, from "approved" places) apparently does not apply to President Macdonald's pet projects.

Large sticker-type posters (which the Vice-President's Office some time ago informed me were altogether forbidden on campus) advertising the United Way campaign (which terminated some months ago) languish in prohibited

places month after month. One is forced to conclude that this is solely because the United Way is a charity supported by President Macdonald. His office coordinates the annual York fund drive for United Way and sends out letters soliciting contributions. York staff time and facilities are used for the campaign. This is doubly deplorable when one realizes that the United Way contributes substantial sums of money to organizations such as Big Brothers which blatantly discriminate against gay people.

One standard for President Macdonald and his projects, another for student groups, political organizations and everyone else at the university. But then, that's reflective of the overall way the university is run, isn't it?

Paul Trollope
Osgoode Hall Law School

Election controversies continue

Canning BOG elections called grim and grimy

The last issue of the year should enable us to sit back and take a careful look at what happened in the past year. Unfortunately we cannot take that luxury this time. Two matters have arisen which require exposure.

The first is the cancellation of, the refusal to hold, open elections for the Board of Governors student representative. The second is the possibility that impeachment of the CYSF president will be made essentially impossible.

The next student Governor of York is being chosen by the Student Senate Caucus which consists of approximately 20 people. Last year it was filled by

an open election in which approximately 15,000 students could vote, and any one of them could run.

This year, Bob Cash, chairman of the Student Senate Caucus, wishes to be the Governor. Paul Hayden, President of CYSF, doesn't trust students to make the "correct" choice. Rather than take a chance that someone similar in views to myself might be elected, he is scuttling the elections.

The whole story is both grim and grimy, but the bottom line, the most important result, is the additional blow to the poor remnants of student democracy at York.

Hopefully the Student

Of elections, Liberals and petitions

The Hayden clique has done it again, barely. When you can't win an election fairly, win it unfairly, right?

Well, so goes the gospel according to Paul Hayden, David Chodikoff, and the rest of the Liberal Party crowd on campus. The latest is the decision of the Student Senate caucus not to hold an election for the student representative on the Board of Governors. Only Hayden was allowed to include a position letter in the mailed - out poll of caucus members. The vote itself? Well, it passed by one vote, 7 to 6 plus somehow, 6 "abstentions" one of which (that is known) did not even receive a ballot!

This, of course, comes after the exclusion of Harvey Pinder from the presidential election and the CYSF's refusal to hold a second, fair election for President. Strange, isn't it, how easy it was to hold a second election for President in 1975 when a student activist was elected, but now it's undemocratic... or is it?

There will have to be an election held for the BOG in the fall and the new council, of which I am a member, will have to ensure that there will be. But first we must make sure that there will be a new presidential election (the BOG and by-elections can take place at the same time). And there is a way of requiring that there will be. Students have a constitutional right to have a new election by recalling the president - elect, David Chodikoff, so that both he and Harvey Pinder may run. The way to do that is to endorse the following petition which is also being circulated. Write a note supporting it including your name signature, student number and college and send it back to Abie Weisfeld, c-o Graduate Office, Dept. of Political Science, York University through the regular or intra-university mail service.

"The 1977-78 CYSF [student government] and the Election Tribunal have decided to treat this past Presidential election as legitimate despite;

1) the arbitrary and illegal disqualification of the Student Action candidate Harvey Pinder, together with
2) the minimal margin of 35 votes between the Student Action surrogate candidate and David Chodikoff.

"In the 1975 election a similar series of events resulted in a second Presidential election which allowed all the candidates to run and now forms the sole appropriate precedent in this matter.

"Because of the reasons stated here, we, the undersigned, want a new Presidential election held in the fall and therefore support the motion that the President - elect be removed from office since it is the only legal manner of requiring that a new Presidential election be held".

Abie Weisfeld
Graduate representative CYSF
Student Action - NDP

Let's hope we get fall elections

During the past few months the usual practices of democracy have almost disappeared from student politics. First the CYSF election was so poorly organized that it had the lowest turnout in five years and candidates were kept off the ballot through technicalities. Now the Student Senate Caucus has done away with elections for the student member of the Board of Governors unless enough Student Senators object.

It only remains for the Student Senate Caucus to find a means of perpetuating itself without elections. Then there will be no democratic representation of students at this university whatsoever.

In the hopes of forestalling a total abandonment of democracy I would like to point out that The Senate Handbook specifically states that student senators "... shall be elected by all their constituencies to their seats..." It further implies that these elections should be in the spring of each year.

It is too late for elections this spring. Let us hope that student senators will be elected by their constituents at the first opportunity next fall.

Peter Brickwood
Member of
Student Action

Senators upset with the manoeuvring and manipulation by Cash-Hayden will be able to prevent this insidious intrigue and ensure that all students can vote for their BOG member.

The attempt to make impeachment a virtual impossibility is being put forward by Robin Carter, but who can wonder how far behind is Hayden. He, and others, fear that Chodikoff, President-elect, may not last out his term. Considering the abysmal results of this year's CYSF, and the likelihood that David will continue its ignominious tradition makes it a not unlikely possibility.

Carter is attempting to ensure Chodikoff's longevity by changing the constitution. He wants impeachment to be contingent, not only on the hundreds of signatures that have to be collected; but also on a 75% "yes" vote by the Council. A president would only need six votes to guarantee the impossibility of impeachment.

Instead of welcoming the possibility of fair and open elections which would express the actual desires of students, he is revealing once again the contempt that many members of CYSF have for students. They want to guarantee continued control of CYSF, by themselves and to hell with us, the students.

Any CYSF member who has one speck of respect for democracy and the right of students to recall their elected representatives must vote against this.

As for myself, there is one year remaining on my term as Governor. I will continue to put forward the positions I have reported on in my BOG Column, and, considering the importance of BOG in terms of cutbacks, next year will be a hard year.

Harvey Pinder
Student Member
Board of Governors