

Excalibur

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

Excalibur is the York University weekly and is independent politically. Opinions expressed are the writer's. Unsigned editorials on this page are decided upon by staff vote and do not necessarily reflect the views of individual editors. Excalibur attempts to be an agent of social change and a forum of democratic debate. Typography by Fotoset, printed at Delta Web. Excalibur is published by Excalibur publications, a body incorporated under the laws of Ontario.

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Universities squeeze libraries

OTTAWA (CUP) - While the short term future of Alberta's college and university libraries seems secure, those at Dalhousie University and the University of Toronto are in doubt.

In Alberta, the government is proposing to skim \$3 million off its rich oil profit pool, the Heritage Savings Trust Fund, to grease the wheels at 15 institutional libraries. Described as an act of "rare sensitivity" by one administrator, the grant would provide a two year cushion against budget cuts, inflation and a devalued Canadian dollar, all of which have forced booklenders across the country to reduce services.

Distribution of the money, which would come in the 1979 fiscal year, has not been settled.

At Halifax's Dalhousie University, it's a different story. The library needs a \$1.4 million dollar budget to maintain existing purchasing power, according to a senate committee on library collections. But next year's funding of just under a million dollars falls 40 per cent short.

The tight dollar problems are compounded by the creation of new academic programmes without a corresponding library budget hike. The report urged that three programmes implemented since 1974, and still in need of expanded library service, be dropped unless more funds are made available.

It also suggested that the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission halt the implementation of new programmes approved since 1977 unless matching library funds are provided.

At the University of Toronto, an identical spate of economic problems plague the Robarts library.

The result, according to graduate student president Barb Stewart, is a declining stock of books and periodicals and increased employee workload. Noting that "82 per cent of the research and academic books found in Robarts are not found anywhere else in Canada", Stewart warned that unless increased funds are budgeted sections of the library would have to be eliminated.



We need another sports editor

That's right. We need another sports editor and we need one fast. There is no money involved but the experience is fantastic. The job involves coordinating assignments and doing layout for the sports section—most of the work can be done on Monday evenings (we stay up late). If you don't know layout, we can teach you. Inquire at Rm. 111 Central Square (667-3201).



Room for more staff at Excalibur

You've got about one week left to procrastinate before your essays are due; you know you won't have the damn things finished until the last minute anyway, so...

Why not launch a career in journalism today. The quaint little Excalibur lounge is practically always open (at night anyway), and we always need new recruits.

A couple of the areas in which we would like to improve our coverage are:

- **Women's Sports:** It seems that a lot of our sports writers prefer to write about male athletics, especially varsity football and hockey. But this is by no means a reflection of Excalibur's policy. If you're willing to put in the effort to cover women's sports, we're willing to publish it.

- **On-campus entertainment and culture:** One of Excalibur's major shortcomings has always been a shortage of articles about the incredibly varied York entertainment scene.

Again a simple reason for this is that the people who've come forward to do the work have concentrated on things like downtown plays and commercial movies. We realize that our on-campus entertainment coverage could be improved and we're trying to do it. But remember, we've only got a volunteer staff, and its members are all full-time students — which means that we can't always have a person covering an event, even when it deserves it. Needless to say, we're always glad to have more volunteers. If you're interested in writing about the York scene, be it in the fine arts department or the colleges, you're welcome to join our staff and pitch in.

Today's staff meeting at 3 pm, may be a good place to start.

Xcal staff meets at three pm today

Profs are the first to go when the budget axe falls

OTTAWA (CUP) — When budgets grow tight, one of the first places colleges and universities look to reduce costs is the number of professors they've hired.

And, recently, more and more institutions have announced plans to cut or freeze those numbers.

Last month, Simon Fraser and Carleton Universities, the University of Waterloo, and Algonquin College said they would consider cutting or freezing staff sizes. They have now been joined by the Universities of New Brunswick, Lethbridge, Manitoba and Western Ontario.

At Lethbridge, the university is hesitating to fill one position in the department of English and another in the faculty of education because it may not have the money. At a meeting Oct. 26, the univer-

sity's board of governors agreed to defer filling the education position and only fill the English position for this year.

The board would decide next year, depending on funds, whether it could continue to fill the English position. If it does not, the university will not have a specialist in Canadian literature.

At the University of Western Ontario, university vice-president A.K. Adlington revealed in September that 75 support staff and 75 faculty positions would have to be cut because of funding restrictions.

University president George Connel later disclaimed the figures, saying the individual departments would have to decide. There will be, however, cuts, if not by attrition, then, according to Adlington, by "forced attrition".

Because of enrollment drops, the university will have to cut \$4 million from its budget over the next two years.

At the University of New Brunswick, a planning committee has recommended increasing the student-faculty ratio and eliminating 250 courses. To reduce faculty numbers, it suggested "encouraging" leaves of absence, especially for senior high-paid administrators, and voluntary early retirement.

It also recommended examining the policy of granting tenure and encouraged the in-house mobility of faculty.

At Manitoba, funding reductions have meant a reduction in hiring, according to faculty association president John Finlay. This will lead to an "aging professoriat" that will be "fatal to the long-term life of the

university," he said.

As well, he said, this means needed courses are not being taught because of the lack of professors. For instance, he said, the university could not replace its specialist in French-Canadian history.

At Algonquin, faculty members have reacted angrily to proposals that would lay off 31 full-time staff members, including 23 faculty and eliminate 22 positions by attrition next year in order to balance the college's budget.

Nearly 150 people, mostly faculty waring "No Layoffs" buttons, jammed the college's staff cafeteria Nov. 15 to hear the administration present its budget. The budget cuts would chop \$2.3 million — \$700,000 more than the \$1.6 million already chopped earlier this year.

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