

NAKED CAME POLONSKY: *The sunny side*

It has been suggested to me that in my official capacity as an EXCALIBUR columnist that I should feel somewhat obligated to devote at least one of my columns to the hustle and bustle of student politics at York University. Well, the first thing to consider is that the friend who made this suggestion to devote some space to the York political scene, was the same one who a few weeks ago advised me that he thought it would be terribly exciting that for one of my political science courses, I hand in a synthesis of the humorous elements of Robert Standfield's lesser speeches. Yet, even with this in mind I have decided to forge ahead in pursuit of student politics.

The first thing which I guess should be pointed out to you, is that student affairs costs you money. You pay \$27 a head for all the advantages of having student council looking after your needs. Of this the York Student Federation ends up with a total budget of about 78,000 dollars, 25,000 of which goes to EXCALIBUR. This means that my column costs you roughly two cents per issue. And so for this I say thank-you.

CYSF

The York Student Federation — Abolish it! About the only organizations on this campus which are more inept than this council are the college councils. For some strange reason the student

bodies on this campus seem to attract individuals whose collective outputs as student politicians are most noticeable for their singular lack of creativity. After all, it was merely two weeks ago that the vast majority of students on this campus, what with their sophisticated understanding of politics being what it is, voted in as their president a man who labeled himself as a "radical liberal free enterpriser." In other words, a sort of Abbie Hoffman - Hubert Humphry - William F. Buckley, if you may pardon my slight allusion to our friendly neighbour to the south. At least, it is reassuring to know that our new president is a man who possesses an open mind.

But the most striking thing about our new president is that it really is quite inconsequential what he or his council thinks. The council, you see, has no power. Now, the students do not seem terribly bothered by this, and apparently neither does the administration. So, the functions which the council ends up performing are a) making sure the checkers club has sufficient funds to repair battered checker boards, b) arranging pamphlets to be available so that students may find out about student flights to Europe, and c) allowing 9.8 per cent of the student body an opportunity to practise voting once a year, so that they don't blow it in the big league.

Therefore, it is on the basis of this intense research into our political scene, that I have arrived at my original conclusion. Abolish CYSF. By the way, I do believe that Morton the Maoist (in his usual spot in front of the Post Office) is starting up a petition to this effect. Besides which, rumour has it that Brian the Trotskyist has been doing better business than Morton the Maoist lately, and this has lead Morton to seriously consider giving up Maoism and going into the Hare Krishna trade. So do go visit Morton.

EXCALIBUR

EXCALIBUR — I do not feel quite at ease attacking EXCALIBUR, as such an attack usually warrants a severe beating up of one's girlfriend by the reporters for the girl's volleyball page. Perhaps the most persistent critique by others of the paper is, other than the fact that it is a reasonably dull newspaper, is that it carries only one political line and that one must be in agreement with the line in order to merit one's name in the staff box. Unfortunately this is not correct. Absolutely anybody can write for EXCALIBUR, and it should be painfully obvious that anybody does. The writing staff, for a university paper, is remarkably apolitical. Of a news staff of about a dozen, maybe two have any firm political beliefs. They work for the paper

either because they enjoy writing, or because they desire the supposed security of belonging to the school newspaper. So, if one is going to attack EXCALIBUR, at least attack it for the right reason, that being that it is simply not a good paper. And the reason it is not a good paper is that a handful of people, who are also carrying five credits, no matter how talented can not weekly turn out a paper on their own. The paper just demands too many minds and bodies for it to be a success, and York is not willing to come up with them.

Radio York — The problem with Radio York is that nobody listens to it. At no given time there seems to be any more than two dozen people tuned in. All of which is not surprising, when one considers that the product churned out by a half a dozen quasi professional CHUMS has as much originality as the all night show on radio station CRAP broadcasting live from Ingersoll, Ontario. Unlike EXCALIBUR, Radio York is a closed shop. You either go along with the non-personality of the average Radio York personality, which resembles a cross between Jan and Dean and the Partridge Family, or opt for a career as a stand-up comic in the central square.

I have now completed my survey of York student organizations. May they rest in peace!

Excalibur needs more layout people, photographers, reporters



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