

Excalibur

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

Excalibur founded in 1966, is the York University weekly and is independent politically. Opinions expressed are the writer's and those unsigned are the responsibility of the editor. Excalibur is a member of Canadian University Press and attempts to be an agent of social change. Printed at Newsweb, Excalibur is published by Excalibur Publications.

News 667-3201

Advertising 667-3800

Walls for posters blank space is boring, V.P. wasting his time

It's nice to see that in these days of cutbacks York's administrative staff, is not wasting its time. No, in fact this week, York's assistant vice-president of student affairs, John Becker solved a major crisis at this besieged university.

Becker, in an effort to preserve the concrete splendour of York's walls has banned posters from hallways in the Ross Building and Central Square.

Students who commit the sin of posting their notices on walls in York's sacred halls will have them speedily ripped down by the cleaning staff.

While this might seem an insignificant move, for York's many active clubs, colleges and so on, this new policy will create very real problems. They rely on heavy postering to publicize their events and to communicate with club mem-

bers and interested people. There are not enough notice boards to accommodate all the campus organizations, and this is a good sign. People need to use the walls to get out their message out and it is absurd not to let them.

When faced with the choice of boring, uninspired painted walls or a constant source of information on campus happenings, we opt for the information.

Becker, as was the case in the 1974 Clubs room incident has shoddily handled the situation. First, the move was not discussed with representatives of the student clubs or even with someone from CYSF. Council president Barry Edson first heard of Becker's move when questioned about it by an Excalibur reporter.

Becker also lays the responsibility for the policy on the CYSF from three years ago.



Doug Tindal photo

This picture raises the question, while York security is ticketing you, who is ticketing them?

This is clearly an attempt to mislead since the old council never enacted the policy and as demonstrated by Becker's non-consultation with this

year's council, CYSF does not have the authority to call for such a move.

In future, we hope Becker will concentrate his efforts on

more important business. Even if we can't have the ninth floor of the Ross Building, at least he can leave us the walls.

Who will patrol our patrolling York Students?

Two Mondays ago the Board of Governors approved the allocation of \$9000 to the Security department for the formation and development of a student patrol force. Ostensibly the money will go towards the purchase of walkie talkies, identification cards and wages for eight students to walk night beats in and around the colleges.

George Dunn, director of Security plans to dress his patrol men in York jackets to let midnight campus strollers know who they are and what they are doing.

The traditional rationale behind making the students visible on the job, is deterrence. The would-be vandal or thief will think twice before acting.

Visible or not, the argument for the York case is unfortunately a weak one. These young security enforcers do not have the legal and

physical training policemen have.

A patroller sees shady business lurking in the dark and goes to investigate. He sees a student picking the locks at Winters College residence, for example, and decides to arrest him.

The offender is caught, charged, and later returns to his residence home only to find that the patroller lives a few rooms down the hall. Relations between the two, will, no doubt be stifled for the rest of the year.

In a residence community such as York's, the average student over the years becomes familiar with many faces and personalities. It will be a difficult choice for him when he sees a colleague suspiciously darkening a doorway late one evening.

Then there is the frightening

thought of a student with a well masked social problem who gets a job with the security department so he can unleash his bitterness on hapless resident students.

The possibility almost brings to mind high school days when volunteer high school monitors would walk up and down the halls, tattletaling on whoever they could.

The student patrol, actually, has no more legal powers than the average citizen. The students will not have warrants so any arrest they chance to make will be under the provisions of the citizen's arrest.

All members of the York community, students or not, should be the reporting any crimes or offences they see anyway, so we wonder why the security department has to hire people to do the job we all should be doing in the first place.

Civil rights in jeopardy, no justice in courts

You'd think that having failed three times to persuade a jury to convict Dr. Morgentaler, the "justice" ministries in Quebec City and Ottawa would admit defeat and pack their bags.

However, eliciting no respect for the three jury verdicts, they are proceeding with prosecution of eight more charges against the doctor, all in substance, the same as the ones he has already been acquitted of.

It would be bad enough if it was just a case of persecution of one individual. It acquires frightening proportions when it becomes apparent that the various governments are arrogantly riding slipshop over the foundation of justice in Canada, the trial by a jury of one's peers.

If we lose the right to a trial by our peers, if jury verdicts are to be cynically ignored and we can spend 10 months in jail even though having been found not guilty - as happened to Morgentaler - then there is no justice in Canadian courts.

Adding insult to injury, Morgentaler, for the privilege of an unnecessary imprisonment and three agonizing trials and re-trials found innocent each time - has legal bills of \$165,000 and a heart weakened by a prison-induced heart attack.

The persecution must be ended and the jury system reaffirmed as the cornerstone of our legal system. The issue affects more than Morgentaler, it involves the civil rights of each one of us.

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**EXCALIBUR
STAFF MEETING
TODAY
AT 2 P.M.**