

# editorial

## 'Entrepreneurial' university

York's administration has quietly but firmly snubbed its nose at the intransigent provincial Tories and the pleasure of it all is invigorating.

After a decade of standing on the sidelines watching the Tories preside over York's prolonged fiscal famine, York's administration has thrust itself into the melee by turning its back on the province and sowing its own new sources of future funding.

By doing so the administration has finally begun to climb out from under the pall of gloom that has pervaded the University since the Tories froze York's development in mid-stride in the early seventies.

Board of Governor members are excitedly conducting studies about what could be done with the university lands, and President Harry Arthurs is suggesting we crank up our entrepreneurial activities such as fund raising and contracting with external scientific organizations.

After years of valiant, but ultimately ineffectual, quiet—and later megaphone—diplomacy between the province and former York president H. Ian Macdonald, it's heartening to see the University take its destiny into its own hands.

The major reservation most people would have about these "entrepreneurial" proposals is that York might lose its political independence by shifting too far in the direction of commercialism. While acknowledging that his is a valid concern we have to honestly ask ourselves whether universities in Ontario, or Canada for that matter, are really the autonomous institutions this type of criticism implies.

Currently we are wholly dependent on a select group of politicians and administrators who control the University's funding and if we diversify our sources of income by engaging in more commercial ventures one could argue that we are actually increasing our self-control by decreasing our dependence on the province.

Unfortunately the stereotypical neutral academic, and academic institution, is a fiction. Therefore as long as York's administration does not let itself become subordinate to commercial interests their current attempt to lessen their subordination to the provinces' political interest could be an astute move in the best interest of the University.



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EXCALIBUR

PROMISES . PROMISES

## letters

### CCOY backlash

Editor:

Last week's editorial was factually incorrect.

Because of these errors, you have misled the students of York University.

In your editorial "Two heads are better than one—if attached to same body," you said that CCOY is a "New campus-wide council to replace the old one" (CYSF). In fact, there would be two separate councils complementing each other and not competing with each other.

CYSF would handle all the club funding, financial and administrative matters (as it does now) as well as the administration of a new Student Centre. CCOY would deal strictly with those issues which are of concern to all York students, such as the York Fund Levy and the CUEW strike, and it would not deal with club funding, etc.

You said "by pouring more money... into CCOY we are only threatening to further fragment student politics." This is not true as no money has been "poured" into CCOY. We do not have a budget nor do we foresee the need for one in the near future.

You claim that CCOY has not made any decision on the issue of how to spend the York Fund levy. This is not true. On January 13, we came up with a proposal and on January 27, we passed a motion and made a recommendation to the Provost. Therefore, this is "CCOY's united voice in action." If you will allow us to have space in your newspaper, we will spell out this recommendation in detail.

The future roles of CCOY and CYSF are of vital importance to the future of the student body of the University. Therefore, all candidates for the upcoming elections should become more familiar with the facts and the objectives of CCOY

so that they can discuss the issue intelligently. It would be unfortunate if an issue of this magnitude did not get the kind of attention that it deserves.

—On behalf of CCOY.

- Terry Conlin, President, GSA,
- Alex Nobile, Chairman, Calumet College Council
- Cynthia Crysdale, President, Norman Bethune College
- Sean Squires, President, McLaughlin Student Council
- Carole Strychuk, President, Glendon Student Union
- Ian Beverley, President, Legal & Literary Society
- Chris Costello, Chairman, Student Senate Caucus
- Colin Lachance, Past President, Environmental Studies Student Association
- Pamela Fruitman, Chairperson, CCOY
- Steven Coleman, President, Vanier College Council
- Tom Walsh, President, Founders College Council
- Jeff Smith, Chairman, Stong College Council
- Carol Finbow, President, Graduate Business Council

### Pinklip pseudonym used falsely

Editor:

To set the record straight: "J.P. Arcuthey" is a pseudonym which I have used in the past, and which I intend to use in the future, as a signature to certain pieces of my artwork. Although I am a fan of Harry Pinklips and The Throbbing Purple-oids, I am not the author of the letter which appeared on the editorial page of the Jan. 31 Excalibur. Another HPL&TP afficionado used my pseudonym without my knowledge or consent.

Since this situation has caused me a considerable degree of embarrassment, I would hereby like to disassociate the name of J.P. Arcuthey from any of the opinions expressed in said letter, and from any present or future quarrels between the GSA and the band.

—Kenneth Herman

### York professor accused of being Hydro mouthpiece

University Newsbeat (Department of Communications, York University):

Arthur C. Johnson is speaking for Ontario Hydro and the Conservative government, not environmentalists or the alternative energy community when he argues in favor of nuclear power (News Beat, January 24). It is sheer hypocrisy for an energy expert to claim that Ontario Hydro's huge oversupply of nuclear electricity is "astute."

Nuclear power is another form of "hard" energy based on a non-renewable resource—uranium. Nuclear power is responsible for most of Ontario Hydro's massive \$22-billion debt. In addition to serious safety problems (witness the one and a half year shutdown of two reactors at Pickering) no safe method of disposal for radioactive waste has yet been found.

Why doesn't Professor Johnson speak out against the recent decimation of conservation and alternative energy programs at the Ontario Ministry of Energy?

—David H. Martin

Faculty of Environmental Studies I

There will be no *Excalibur* next week, as we too are (ahem) catching up on our reading.

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