

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.

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Radio referendum deserves a look

If the past is any indication, student interest in the forthcoming Radio York referendum will probably be small.

It remains a curious paradox that York students who never finish complaining about their alma mater, refuse to participate in any action that might be of real benefit to the campus community. Explanations for student apathy, particularly in the area of elections or referendums run the gamut from general boredom to illiteracy.

One painful result of this situation is a student government elected by four per cent of the student population. Because of this alone, the referendum takes on increased importance as a measure capable of balancing a decision-making body that is not truly representative.

President Mouritsen's refusal to join the National Union of students would seem to demonstrate that he doesn't recognize such referendums as binding. His perception of the democratic system has hopefully changed.

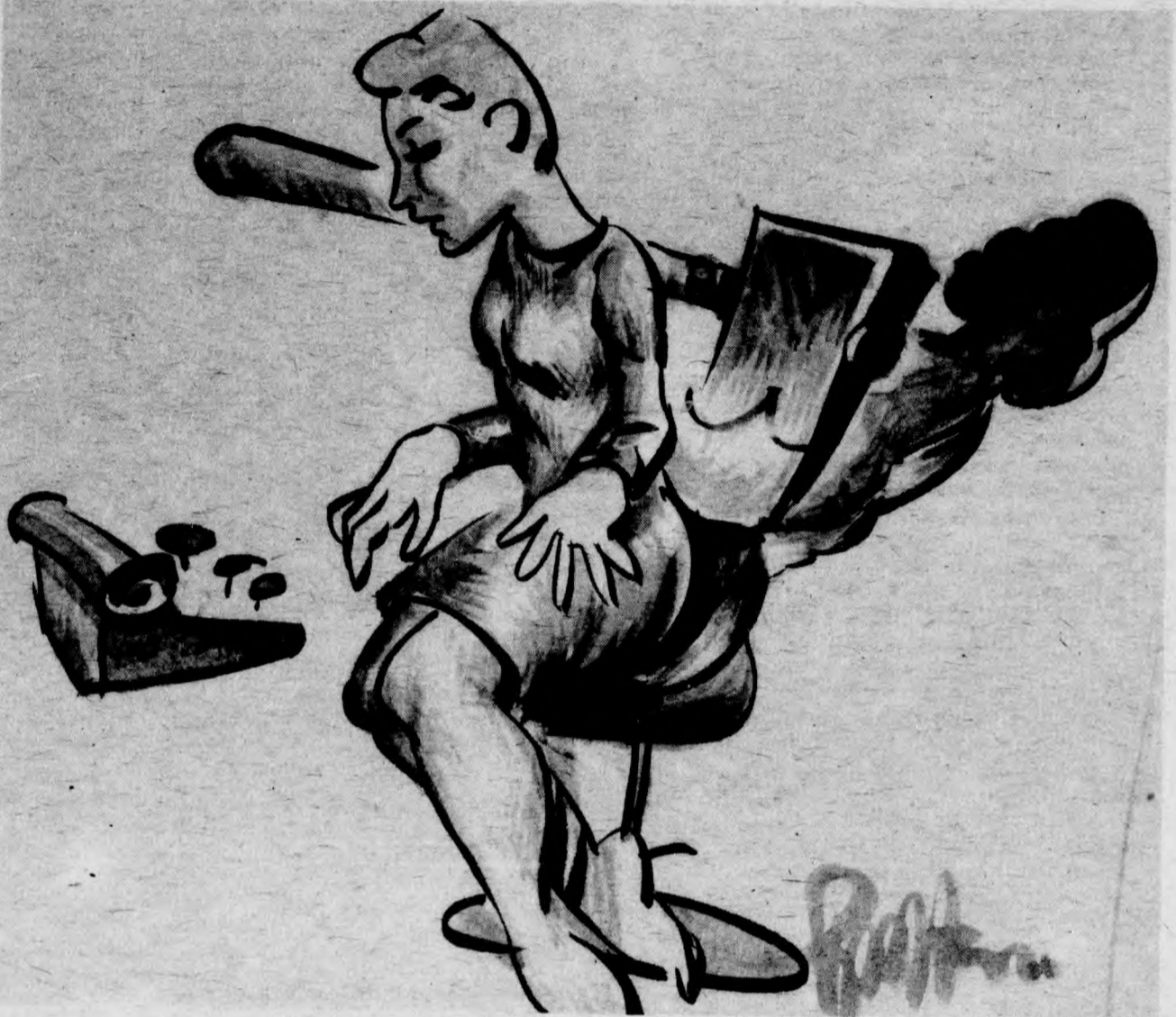
The Radio York referendum is important for many reasons. Calling for a grant of \$25,000 the campus station hopes to obtain a commercial licence, allowing it to broadcast professionally. The sum is considerable and the benefits of such a move must be examined closely.

Also of crucial interest is the approach the station has chosen to take. In an attempt to circumnavigate a council which granted them \$5,000 this year, the Radio York referendum is instead directed at the university Board of Governors. Whether the board would recognize this manoeuvre as binding is debatable. John Becker, assistant to the Vice-President, circulated a declaration earlier this year stating that student fees were not just within the domain of the student councils, and could in fact be used for various other functions.

If the referendum supports Radio York's bid, Becker and the board will be hard pressed to refuse the funds. The referendum could set a precedent in this way, an encouraging precedent that would allow students more direct control over their own.

Whether the referendum is supported or not will depend on how successful Radio York is in convincing the York campus that real benefits lie ahead. Interest in this issue should be high, both for the large outlay it entails and for the political precedent that could be set.

It is time the griping student put his money where his mouth is.



The Budget Solution

Don't drink the coffee, please

One of our eagle-eyed reporters discovered to his horror the other day that Excalibur uses Taster's Choice coffee, one of the infamous "banned brands." Patiently, we explained that we only use Taster's Choice jars. In reality, our coffee comes from a little monastery high in the Peruvian Andes. Despite recurring rumours, this priestly organization has not yet been placed on the prohibited list.

Kraft products are also suffering from boycott. Or are they? Food outlets on campus still stock Kraft products. So does every super-

market in the area. If they didn't, outraged housewives and pensioners would probably stage a velveeta protest march.

The painful truth is that the Kraft boycott is doomed to failure as long as one company is allowed to monopolize so much of the market. It's doomed as long as the public-spirited CBC, which we supposedly control continues to spread Kraft's good word across Canada. The same holds true for the effort to ban coffee containing Angolan beans.

About the only brands free of any Portugese-produced coffee

are a few house brands (considered of lower quality by the Maxwell House-conditioned consumer) and Brooke Bond, makers of the Red Rose brand. (Versafood coffee is rumoured to be free of all coffee beans, Angolan or otherwise).

We advise you to give up these products altogether, whether you care about oppression in Africa and the destruction of our small farms or not. Coffee is an irritant; and there aren't enough vitamins in processed cheese to make it worth the trouble of chewing the stuff.

Staff meeting

Room 111,
Central Square
2 p.m.

Editor-in-chief

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Entertainment editor

Warren Clements

Photo editor and graphics

Peter M. Hsu

CUP editor

Michael Hollett

Staff at large — Peter Matlainen, Agnes Kruchio, Sol Candel, Stan Henry, Anthony Gizzie, Michael Forman, Alan Risen, Rosemary McCracken, Vince Dorval, Chris Gates, Judith Nefsky, Robin Endres, Ron Rosenthal, Shelley Rabinovitch, Dynamite C. Strange, Michael Barris, J.W. Beltrame, Rick Spence, Bonnie Sandison, Norma Yeomanson, C.T. Sguassero, Julie Buck, Robin Kroft, Mike Distaulo, David Leach, Mira Friedlander, Ed Piwowarczyk, Steve Hain, Bob Foley, Colan Inglis, Honey Fisher, J.B.M. Falconer.

Michael Lawrence

Where the budget axe will fall

Alas, I've run out of villains, or so it seems. Reacting to what he called inaccurate and unfounded reporting on my part, Bill Farr, university vice-president, talked with me yesterday. Both my editor and myself were anxious to know what the administration thought was a more realistic projection of the staff-faculty situation next year.

Let me begin by quietly burping on a large piece of humble pie I consumed. I committed the classic journalistic sin, relying on a single source, only to be refuted by an administrator who's more practised at the statistics game than I am. It seems the 25 per cent personnel cut figure I was using was a little off base, and for that I apologize to all concerned.

After speaking with Mr. Farr, the futures of many of the staff and faculty still remain precarious. Speaking sympathetically of what he recognized as a weak staff position, Farr stated quite frankly that "the staff is going to get it in the ear." Working from a deficit position, the university, like most across the country, finds itself dictating a budget that will reduce faculty spending by five per cent and staff spending by fourteen per cent.

What must be disquieting to the support staff is the large discrepancy between the faculty trimming and their own. The

explanation for this lies in the weak bargaining position the staff assumes, making even clearer the need for a strong and effective staff association.

Farr admitted that as an employer, York pays lower wages to their non-union support staff than almost any other in the city. What makes this possible, is the almost captive geographic market the university holds in the area, particularly for low income bracket women who work to supplement or provide a family income. Farr is clearly not proud of this and expressed that sentiment, but unfortunately his honesty does nothing to improve the situation.

To call Farr a hypocrite would be wholly unfair, for contrary to the popular and well-deserved image of administrators as less than human, he impressed me as a sincere man who finds his hands tied. And no, he didn't pay me to write this piece.

The tragedy of the staff situation is symbolized by YUSA's failure to present itself as a representative of the staff as a whole. Farr commented that as long as the staff failed to strongly organize, the administration would continue to find itself in the uncomfortable position of bargaining for itself and its opponent.

Though Keith Oleksuk, former chair-

person of YUSA, denies that he and his executive were more concerned with personal petty politics than the staff they were meant to represent, the future staff reduction no longer allows him to plead that kind of naivety. With the upcoming YUSA executive election, one can only hope that Oleksuk and his friends remain retired.

The faculty outlook is not quite as bleak that is if you're full time personnel. The Faculty Association remains a strong bargaining unit. Cuts will take place, but only individuals that the Faculty Association feels fit to sacrifice. As a secure position becomes more and more important, the FA moves ever quickly away from the part-time faculty. The altar has been prepared and loss of such individuals will be felt.

So where's the villain? Perhaps if our parents had been more amorous twenty years ago, we wouldn't be in this mess. But enrolment is down and with it go those infamous BIU's. They say money isn't everything, but in this case it might be. Complain about tight administrators if you will, but after all, the money they receive is dictated by the province.

Perhaps its time to stop complaining about the tune and slap the Queen's Park Piper instead.