

# This was 1976-1977 at York as seen through the pages of Excalibur

Charles Dickens, the great English novelist, described the dying years of the eighteenth century saying, "it was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

Well, academic year 76-77 can't be described in quite such terms. Maybe fair to muddle?

The government raised tuition \$100, our student leaders forgot to tell each other they were holding a Board of Governors election, we had the coldest winter in years, and prospects for next academic year were clouded by what is shaping up to be the worst summer of student unemployment in decades.

Anyway, as far as it concerned York, you read about it in the pages of Excalibur, and here is our synopsis of the best, and the worst.

COMPILED BY MICHAEL HOLLETT

## September 16, 1976

• First issue of Excalibur for 1976-1977 hits the stands.

• It is reported that at the summer meetings of the Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF), among other things, the council voted in favour of differential tuition fees for foreign students, and then changed its mind. According to CYSF president Edson, "...council meetings did sometimes become somewhat like a zoo".

• Radio York is saved from being shut down following last minute negotiations with university assistant vice-president John Becker.

• The York University Staff Association and the Graduate Assistants Association sign their first ever contract with the university thus squelching strike rumours that had circulated all summer.

## September 23, 1976

• The York local of the Canadian Union of Public Employees votes to strike on October 14 as part of the Canadian Labour Congress's Day of Protest.

• Posters are banned on all walls in the Ross building and Central Square following a memo from



The man with his head in his hands is Minister of Colleges and Universities, Harry Parrott. Could he be having second thoughts?

assistant vice-president for student affairs, John Becker.

• A plan to set up a student security patrol of the York campus is okayed by vice-president of administration, Bill Small.

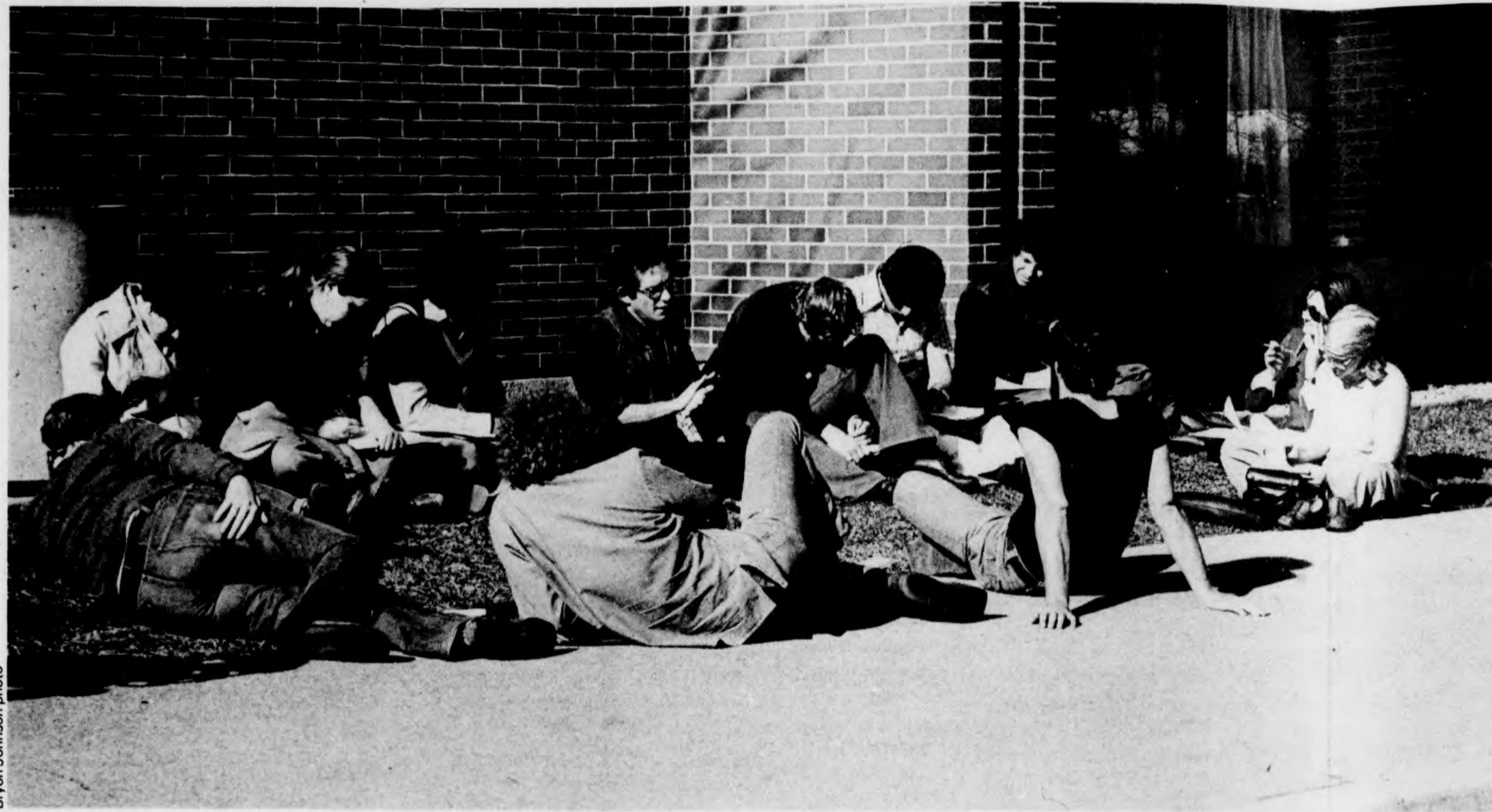
• Ontario premier, Bill Davis speaks at Osgoode Hall on what he calls "not the most stimulating topics", the Canadian constitution.

• The York football Yeomen lose what is to be the first of many games to the University of Western Ontario Mustangs by a score of 54-6.

## September 30, 1976

• The Ontario Municipal Board approves construction of a \$2.5 million track and field complex at York.

• The York University Faculty



Bryon Johnson photo

There was also some studying done this year

Association votes to "support" the CLC day of protest but decides not to walk out.

## October 7, 1976

• Rent review becomes an issue at York when it is alleged that the university violated rent review legislation when it raised residence rents by 13.5 per cent.

• The Graduate Assistants Association votes not to work on October 14.

• The Excalibur staff votes to support the day of protest and to not publish on October 14.

• The University of Waterloo student federation closes down the campus student newspaper, the chevron only to have the free chevron rise from its ashes.

• For the first time ever, every student seat on the Faculty of Arts council is filled.

## October 15, 1976

• Pickets are up at all entrances to the university, and outside Osgoode Hall but the October 14 day of protest does not have a huge impact on the York campus.

## October 21, 1976

• CYSF President Barry Edson decides to poll residence students to determine what action they wish him to take regarding the University's alleged violation of provincial rent review legislation.

• Dissension is in the air at Radio York as former station manager, Scott Marwood accuses this year's boss, Richard Gould of being a "dictator".

• A source within the university administration alleges that there are over 60 empty apartments in the graduate residences at the same time as over 1700 students have applied for rooms.

## October 28, 1976

• A front-page article in Excalibur predicts that the Ontario government will shortly announce tuition fee increases of between \$100 to \$175.

• Speaking on the topic of Pan-Africanism, Stokely Carmichael addresses a wild meeting of over 200 people in the Stedman lecture halls.

• York's men's swim team sweeps the first of many meets they

are to compete in this year.

## November 4, 1976

• Serious corrosion is discovered in the graduate residence plumbing.

• Next year's CYSF president-elect, Paul Hayden has motion to hold by-elections to fill vacancies on the council defeated with the intention of moving a motion to have no by-elections. Hayden's proposal would have seen the vacancies filled by appointment, however, following discussion with CYSF President, Barry Edson, Hayden and the rest of the council decide to hold the by-elections.

• Speaking at York, Opposition leader, Stephen Lewis of the New Democratic Party calls on the provincial government to scrap a deal with the Reed paper company that would see the government ceding the British-owned company 16 million acres of land.

• The Harbinger column answers the musical question, what is fist-fucking?

• Sir Michael Redgrave and his touring production of "Shakespeare's People" hit the Burton Auditorium stage.

## November 11, 1976

• National Student Day activities at York are marred by mixups. Across the province, over 60,000 students attend NSD activities.

## November 18, 1976

• The election of a student representative to the board of governors is dropped following a protest from the Glendon College student union that they were not told of the election in time to open nomination on their campus.

• Radio York decides to apply for a low watt transmitter.

• York's rugby team takes its second consecutive Ontario championship.

• Only four per cent of the eligible voters turn out for the CYSF by-elections.

• South African wines and brandies are banned on the York campus following a letter of complaint sent to the administration and signed by over 40 York members.

• Residence students opt for con-

cessions from the university rather than rent rebates in their battle over the administration's alleged violation of provincial rent review legislation.

• The bust of Norman Bethune outside of Bethune College is topped following the first of what are to be many attacks this year.

• The rumoured \$100 tuition fee increase for university students for 1977-1978 becomes official following an announcement by Minister of Colleges and Universities, Harry Parrott in the provincial legislature.

• York's senate vote overwhelmingly to recommend that the board of governors not implement differential fee increases for foreign students next year.

York because of a discriminatory housing regulation.

• According to The Toronto Star, a dog is elected mayor of Toronto.

## January 6, 1977

• Fifty-four per cent of the Ontario public oppose tuition fee increases according to a government study.

• Maintaining a York University tradition, rumours circulate that the administration plans to shut-down Glendon College. York president H. Ian Macdonald quickly denies the rumours.

• CYSF president Barry Edson, who ran for office as chairperson of the York NDP club, switches parties and joins the Liberals.

• A 'Special Report' article by Excalibur staffer, James Brenhan reveals although the developers of University City, Cadillac-Fairview, said on their application to the North York planning board to build the complex, they would provide 'suitable' housing for students, staff and faculty of York, barely 10 per cent of the apartments are occupied by students. To top it off, the university administration was involved in the project from the beginning.

• CYSF members vote to hold a referendum to determine whether York students will remain in the Ontario Federation of Students and the National Union of Students.

• The board of governors decides to reject a senate recommendation not to implement higher tuition fees for foreign students.

• The first clay letter appears in Excalibur. Many more will follow.

• The Atkinson College administrative council decides to adopt a report recommending preferential hiring for female candidates for teaching positions.

• A provincial government report comes out recommending that some heavy changes be made in the Ontario student aid program. Included in the report were recommendations that would severely limit the number of students who would qualify for grants. All other students would only be eligible for loans on which they would immediately be to accumulate interest.

• The York feminist magazine,

January 13, 1977

• Posters are allowed back on the walls of the Ross building and Central Square apparently as a result of student protest of the ban.

• CYSF toys with the idea of holding a referendum asking students whether they want an FM station at York. Students would then be asked whether they wanted to raise funds for the station by increasing student fees \$2.50 or by dropping out of OFS and the National Union of Students (NUS).

January 20, 1977

• The Ontario Federation of Students votes to hold a moratorium of classes "where possible" on February 10 to protest recently announced tuition fee increases.

• An Ontario court rules unanimously to reject an application to have the York University Faculty Association (YUFA) certification quashed.

• CYSF approves its new budget and cuts back Excalibur's funding by \$7,000.

January 27, 1977

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January 6, 1977

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• University of Waterloo student federation president, Shane Roberts, the man behind the closing of the UW student newspaper, the chevron, is removed from office following a successful recall petition with over 2,000 names on it.

• Plans to set up a 'counter-Ontario Federation of Students', led by representatives of the University of Western Ontario fail when CYSF president, Barry Edson is the only other student leader to express in-

terest in the scheme.

February 3, 1977

• A 'Special Report' article by Excalibur staffer, James Brenhan reveals although the developers of University City, Cadillac-Fairview, said on their application to the North York planning board to build the complex, they would provide 'suitable' housing for students, staff and faculty of York, barely 10 per cent of the apartments are occupied by students. To top it off, the university administration was involved in the project from the beginning.

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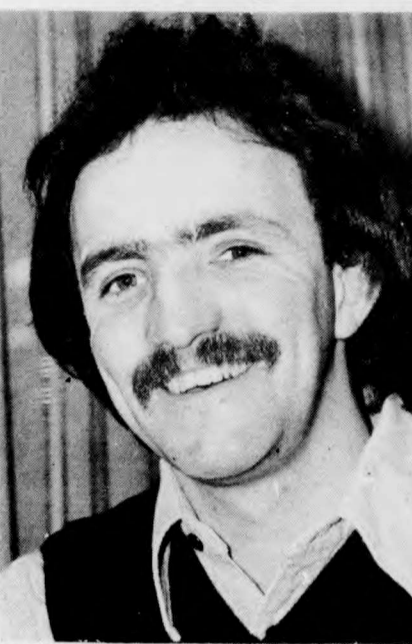
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CYSF, president-elect, Paul Hayden

Breakthrough runs into serious financial problems as the college councils do not come across with needed funding.

• Three candidates declare themselves in the race for CYSF president: Tom Diotte, Paul Hayden and Alice Klein of the United Left Slate.

• Representatives of the three provincial political parties address students on the issue of post-secondary education as part of the York February 10 activities.

• The York men's gymnastics

team takes their eighth Ontario championship.

March 10, 1977

• The OFS votes at its Sudbury conference to have a "mass lobby" of provincial MPPs on the first business day of new session.

March 17, 1977

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• Harvey Pinder of the United Left Slate is elected as student representative to the board of governors.

• In the largest vote in York's history, York students vote overwhelmingly to remain in the OFS and NUS.

• York President H. Ian Macdonald announces plans to hold a summer conference at the university to discuss Canada's future and the possibility of Quebec's leaving confederation.

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• Marc Epprecht is chosen York male athlete of the year while Christ Lovett-Doust was chosen female athlete of the year.

March 31, 1977

• Osgoode students vote not to join the OFS.

April 7, 1977

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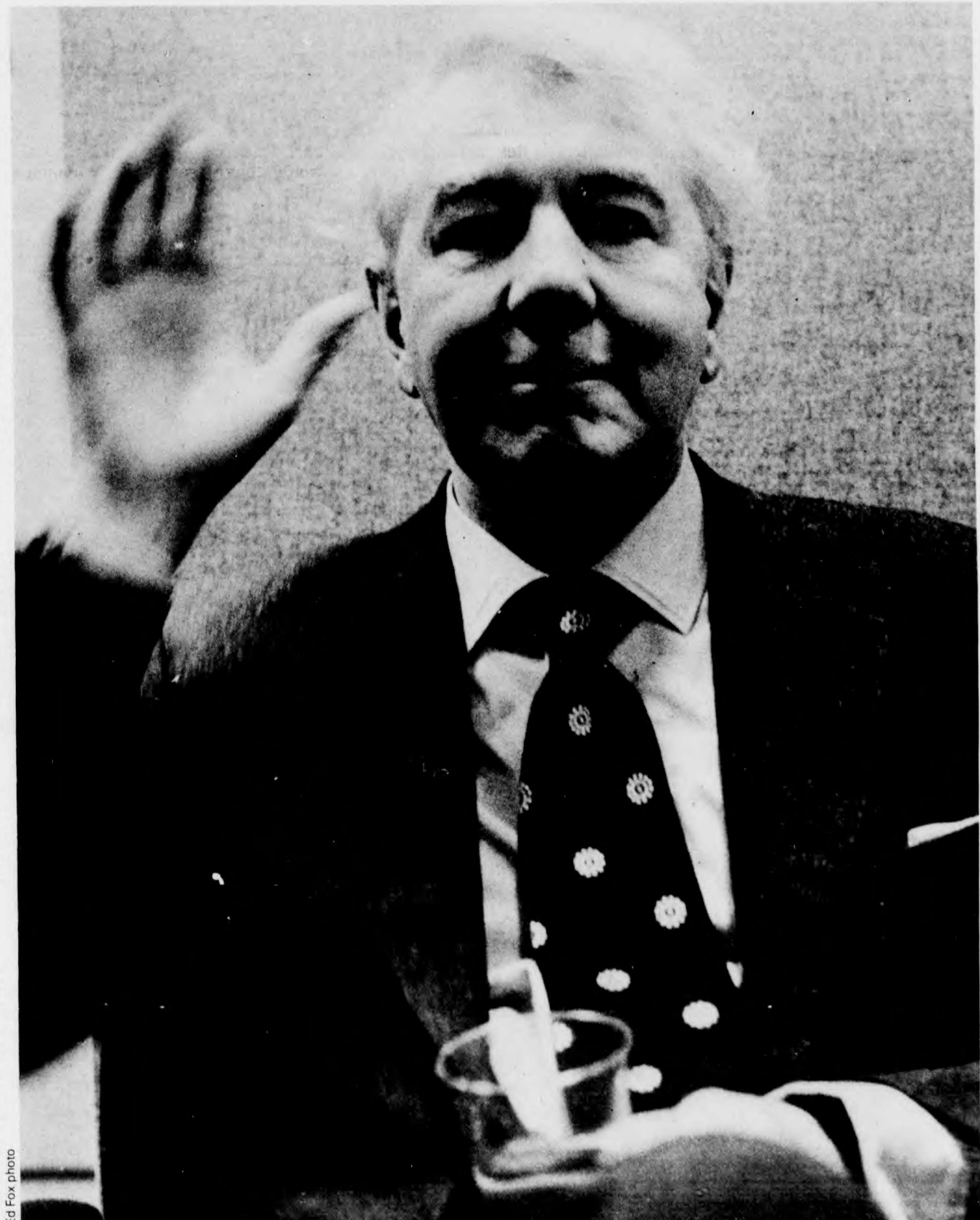
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Sir Michael Redgrave says 'bye-bye' to the York community. And so do we.



Pan-Africanist, Stokely Carmichael as he addressed a wild meeting at York last November.

Bryon Johnson photo

Eaf Fox photo