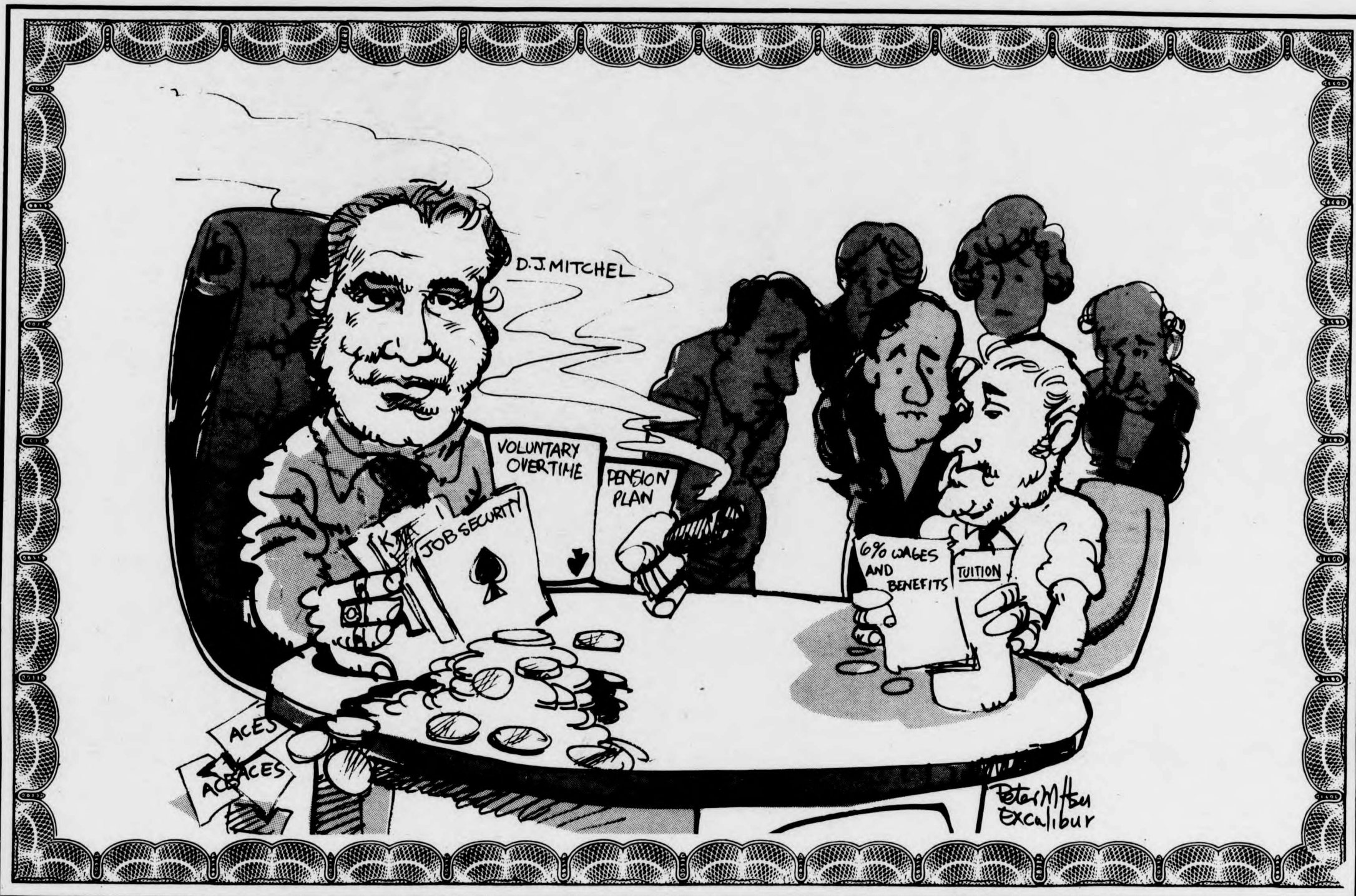


# EXCALIBUR

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 under the auspices of the Council of the York Student Federation.

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## CUPE was facing a stacked deck

The strike has been averted and it looks like some last minute dealing decided the game. Now that all the cards have been shown it appears that the York workers were facing a well stacked deck.

Offering secretaries overtime to scab while final negotiations were going on is a clear example of administration double dealing. Pitting one group of underpaid workers against another has proven to be a well-worn tactic employed by those that hold the purse strings.

While some may applaud the university for staying within its decimated budget, Excalibur feels that more humane criteria should have been palliated. No matter whose version of the

figures you compute, the CUPE workers only received a few crumbs more than the six per cent originally offered. Free tuition for workers is a gain in line with a policy long given to faculty and staff.

Considering the contract's two year duration and the seven per cent or more yearly rise in the cost of living, it looks like the workers' families will have a lot more trouble balancing their personal budgets.

It is hard to understand why the

union's negotiating committee endorsed a contract that didn't satisfactorily deal with three of the major issues confronting the workers. The problems of job seniority, contracting out and overtime have all caused much distress this year.

Management still has the right to contract out (for non-union cleaning contractors) for the new buildings on campus. But now they have to open their books 3 months before doing so. The

question of voluntary or compulsory overtime — cause of the suspensions and lock-out recently has been 'resolved' by a non-bidding 'gentleman's agreement'. The new seniority clause is also in management's favour by allowing them to lay-off people in any job category.

With a two year contract to go, Excalibur urges all workers to become much more involved in the union and it's executive for a more representative negotiating committee next time.

## Elite says end fee strike student opinion not sought

Not with a whimper but a bang. That was the rationale adopted by York's student federation Tuesday night in voting to call off the fee strike.

"It would be disastrous to continue," said president John Theobald in arguing for the end. It certainly would have been disastrous for Theobald; he took out a full page ad in Excalibur Tuesday morning to say "the fee strike is over" even before council had decided that it was indeed over.

That kind of autocratic move has been used by the so-called leaders of the Ontario Federation of Students through the whole campaign. With OFS managing the fee strike, it was doomed from the start — but not because of the root issues.

The OFS tactics — a strategy that never was — revolved hopelessly around march after march on Queen's Park.

Signing a petition is like whispering at a brick wall; picketing Queen's Park is like screaming at that same brick wall — in isolation from other actions, neither has any effect.

Concrete actions through serious study and research of the provincial loan scheme, the inequities of a bursary-scholarship program, and a critique of the learning institution were never fostered by OFS.

Consequently, rank and file students never became involved or committed, in spite of the initial concern they showed by obeying the mass call to withhold fees.

If we accept this decision of the "leadership" — and there's some doubt that students will — the study and research still remain to be done. The government hasn't backed down; the cutbacks will continue.

### Eat shit

— said the king. And a 1,000 loyal subjects did, for the king's word was the law of the land.

"Get your ass on over to the staff meeting," said the king, and 1,000 loyal Excalibur staffers did, for they knew they had to report the foul language of the king.

It's happening at 1 p.m. today, in Excalibur offices, Central Square.

### The race is on

We're off and running for the selection of next year's editor. Screening sessions begin at noon and 4 p.m. tomorrow, and will continue Thursday and Friday next week. The final choice will come in under the wire next Friday.

If you've contributed to Excalibur this academic year, you're eligible to attend the sessions; but only those staffers who have contributed to at least six issues of the paper may vote.