

Editorial

CYSF elections no laughing matter

Very shortly, York students will be given a rare privilege. They'll be asked to select the President of the Council of the York Student Federation.

They haven't had that opportunity since 1978, when the last uninterrupted election with more than one candidate put David Chodikoff into office with a majority of 35 votes.

The next year, Keith Smockum was acclaimed, after Gary Empey dropped out to pursue the position of Council Business Manager.

The year after that, last year, there was no election at all, because of certain irregularities too complex to be hashed out here.

With the opportunity to vote such a rare and precious thing, we can only urge students to take advantage of it.

Impassioned pleas against voter apathy are the norm for student papers come election time and this is no exception. CYSF elections have become something of a joke even among members of the Council's executive.

But easy access to birth-control information, the continued existence of religious and cultural clubs, the fate of problem-plagued Radio York are

not jokes, and each of them depends more or less closely on the executive of the CYSF.

It is the CYSF that gives direction, funding and advice to important campus organizations like Harbinger, CKRY, the Muslim Students Federation, and no less than 84 others.

Don't laugh off this election. If you do, it may be your club, team or course union that suffers for it.

Earlier this week, *Excalibur* staff members got up early from their Thanksgiving day lunches to come meet the candidates and hear their platforms and vote on whom the paper would support. (You can read the platforms on page 6).

We shared their ideas, asked them questions, and in the end spent a long time discussing whom we would back.

When the ballots were counted, although each of the candidates made a respectable showing, an absolute majority of the staff assembly voted to endorse Malcolm Montgomery in his bid to become President of the CYSF.

We are no great savants. If many of us know more than most students about the CYSF, it's only because our job forces us to keep abreast of theirs.

First, our impressions of those we did not support.

James Boyle, who was also a candidate in last year's cancelled effort, made a far better impression on us than last time. He has given some thought to the issues, and has well reasoned positions on them.

His chief liability in our eyes is his lack of experience in campus politics. We can't help but feel that an individual strongly committed to student government and student issues would have participated more in them than just by running for council president two years in a row. Some related activity before or between the two campaigns would have made him a more credible, attractive candidate.

Jenny Gonsalves has demonstrated just this sort of commitment. She has been active on the Council, and in various other organizations in past years. But we found that many of her concerns lie off-campus with larger student issues, and that she had less of interest to say about campus life.

Malcolm Montgomery, who was found most suitable by the staff assembly, has the experience which many of us think essential. He has sat on the university's Senate and Board of

Governors, two important, if unsung, tasks which demand a great deal of effort.

He has interesting ideas, which, if implemented, could mean a great deal to students. *Excalibur's* staff particularly like the idea of creating a course evaluation booklet to help

students find out how students in past years liked particular courses.

Montgomery's only real liability in our eyes is his stand against the OFS fee hike. *Excalibur* supports that hike, and finds his position on this issue regrettable.

Yes to OFS!

During the course of its eight years of existence, the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) has attempted to teach the students of this province the art of self-preservation.

Their sock-it-to-Bette Stephenson campaigns seemed to instill a glimmer of hope in even the most cynical of us.

The OFS has surfaced as a high-profile lobby group, voicing the concerns of 26 post-secondary institutions, as well as a disseminator of vital well-researched information. It has offered its members organizational aid and help on local campaigns.

With an accumulated deficit of \$14,872, however, the OFS is entering unstable times. They are now seeking support for a fee increase in student dues from \$1.50 to \$3.00 per year.

Referendums on whether or not to support the fee hike will be held by its member institutions throughout this academic year.

While it is impossible to measure the effects such lobbying really has on the Ontario government's decisions, especially when Ontario provincial spending on post-secondary education has dropped to the lowest rate in Canada, we at *Excalibur* support the efforts of the OFS.

On October 23, CYSF election day, York students will have their chance to vote in the OFS referendum. We urge you to support their fee increase. It is in the interest of all of us. The cost of minimal—the price of one beer—yet the benefits are so great. It is really the only way that we, the students of Ontario, can have a voice.

Our Town

Reel and Screen

Tonight the Reel and Screen presents "Cartoons for Grown-ups". Vintage cartoon collector Reg Hartt will be present. Curtis "I", 8 p.m. This Tuesday, October 21, the Reel and Screen will feature an Ingmar Bergman double bill with *Face to Face* and 7:30 and *Serpent's Egg* at 9:45. \$2.75 for both films or \$2 for *Serpent's Egg*, Curtis "L".

G.A.Y.

Coffee house, Wednesday, October 22 from 7 to 10 p.m. in Senior Common Room, 305 Founders College. There will be a demonstration of self defense for gay men and lesbians. Come out and learn how to defend yourself!

Bethune Movies

Hoffman and Streep, Friday and Saturday, *Kramer vs. Kramer*, 8:30 p.m. Sunday at 8:30, *The Black Stallion*. Admission \$2, Curtis "L".

Music Department

Various artists from the Music department will be performing an afternoon of free music in Central Square's Bear Pit. The sessions will start at noon and continue through to 4 p.m. all donations will be sent to the Cancer Society's "Marathon of Hope" in honour of Terry Fox.

NDP Club

The next meeting of the York NDP Club will be on Wed., Oct. 22 in room S717 Ross at 4 p.m., not Oct. 2 as mentioned in last week's *Excalibur*.

Women's Press

Slightly damaged book sale, 50-90% off. Saturday, Oct. 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 280 Bloor West.

Student Strike Support

Student Strike Support Committee meets every Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. in the CYSF Office, Room 105 Central Square. Everyone Welcome. Strike Forum in the Bearpit, Friday, October 17 at Noon.

Caribbean Art Show

Tuesday October 14-Wednesday, October 15. Samuel J. Zacks Gallery, Stong College. Hours 2:00-7:00 p.m.

Options Drop-In

Are you interested in becoming actively involved in the community. Find out how to volunteer. Options invites students, faculty and staff to meet with them on Tuesday, October 21, 1980 at 12 noon in the Vanier College Senior Common Room beside the Open End Pub. Refreshments will be served.

Education Students Association

On Sunday, October 19, FESA will be presenting a walk-a-thon in order to raise money for York's preschool for hearing impaired children. We invite all of the York community to get involved. Information and sponsor sheets available in N805 Ross.

Mose Scarlett

Mose Scarlett, a singer-guitarist with an international reputation, will be appearing at York next week. This engaging performer will be bringing along accompanist Thomas Handy for an evening of jazz, blues and ragtime at the Calumet College Common Room, by the Ainger. Wed., Oct. 22 at 8 p.m. sharp. Admission \$3 and \$5.50.

Crack a pack of Colts along with the great outdoors.