

**ikes headline**

Editor:

Oh how appropriate your headline was last week! There certainly have been unfair tactics in the CYSF race. But the culprit is not only Michael Strapko but also *Excalibur*.

Unfortunately the knowledge most voters have of the candidates comes from campaign posters and a university newspaper that feels no obligation to be impartial. In fact, the week before the election, the editor thought it would be fair to systematically slaughter all of the presidential candidates in print; all except for the incumbent, Chris Summerhayes.

In doing so, the editor has shown a lack of journalistic integrity and has virtually assured Mr. Summerhayes another term in office. Perhaps he is the best choice, but surely the president of CYSF doesn't need *Excalibur* to campaign for him, or does he?

—P. Varma

**What about me?**

Editor:

I object to some of the assumptions in *Excalibur's* review of the latest issue of *Existere*.

Your reviewer Kevin Connolly suggests there was a lack of advertisement for contributors. This may be so, but my understanding is that the editors *did* approach creative writing instructors and *did* distribute flyers for the publication. As for those who were unaware of it, *Excalibur* has provided the best possible un-advertisement for *Existere*, a reinforcement of the perennial student-level fear that things are really run by "élites" that won't accept outsiders or their work, or will always give preference only to those "within the circle."

Right, so he presumes *Existere* is run by an "élite." Any repetition of contributors to the publication does not indicate to me a "self-proclaimed élite" (and where was this élite "proclaimed," anyway?) It means that some have the ambition and faith in their work to want to have their writing published.

**Radio York vote denial 'undemocratic'**

Editor:

Living in a democracy, we hold the contention that power and authority are to be respected, and that those in positions of authority must exercise their power in just fashion. Failure to do this results eventually in tyranny, whereby the rights of individuals are violated, and paths to justice are buried beneath excuses and minute technicalities. Such is the case of Chief Returning Officer James Crossland and the current CYSF elections.

On Tuesday Feb. 28, in a hearing of the Election Tribunal led by Mr. Crossland, it was ruled that Radio York would not be permitted to proffer its referendum question on the CYSF ballot on March 15. This ruling was based on the fact that the referendum question, which had already been approved by CYSF and had appeared publicly on CYSF's page in this publication, had not been officially forwarded to the CRO within seven days of the commencement of the campaign period. This oversight violated Article IV, section 1.3 of the Election Bylaw. With no right to appeal, the referendum was called off.

Radio York, though, was not about to halt its drive towards increased funding. The Radio York Executive decided to hold its own referendum on Mar. 15, independent from CYSF, and governed by an arbitrary, impartial CRO. Radio York's staff then undertook a tremendous campaign on short notice, that included large capital spendings for printed materials. On Monday March 12, Radio York was told that its independent referendum

The overall tenor of your reviewer's criticism is that there is *pretense* in the paper. First, where, at the university stage, *isn't* there pretense? Who is not drawing on an incomplete knowledge of the masters in his or her field in order to become a master him/herself? As for "pretentious" in the vaguely resentful way Connolly uses the word (to mean "clever," "pedantic," "dishonest," or "shallow masquerading as meaningful"), I find it to be inapplicable to the issue.

Connolly comes off as a philistine, with the standard philistine approach, that what veers from the usual in art is pretentious and "obscure." Why, otherwise, the continual (sic)'s behind those names with lower-case letters? By now (i.e., since e.e. cummings) it must be a given that there are reasons for artists to sign their name this or any other way.

I don't mean by all this that *Excalibur* has no right to criticize York students' production. I *do* think, although it mimics a city—that is, "objective"—newspaper, some emphasis should be on support, even if a thing is of mediocre quality, with a sensitivity, not necessarily to the feelings of the "sensitive young idealist" (Connolly's phrase) but to the facts and realities of *any* student endeavor. Writers at this stage are obviously trying their wings for the first time: to give them a bit of "air space" is the purpose of a thing like *Existere*.

Finally, there may not be such an abundance of brilliant writers at York as Connolly supposes. As anywhere else, there is probably an abundance of mediocrity and some outstanding work, and for a while they stand together. *Existere* could be criticized for its infrequency, but I'm sure three or four issues a year would show up the same fact.

I advise the lamentably tiny minority of those who are open to writing and enjoy brand new work, to simply find a copy of *Existere* and to pay no attention to what *Excalibur* or any other "authority" says about the work it contains.

Signed, the disgruntled person who contributed to *Existere* and who was not even mentioned in the review.

—Chris Warren

was illegal. Although Mr. Crossland could not cite a specific breach in the Bylaw, he declared that the Election Tribunal decided that Radio York's referendum would "reduce the integrity of the Election Tribunal," and Mr. Crossland threatened a halt to Radio York's funding from CYSF if the referendum was held.

Mr. Crossland's decision to maintain such a self-righteous attitude that only regards the letter of the Bylaw has made him blind not only to the opinion poll nature of a referendum, but also to the fact that the spirit of a law must also be considered. Article XIX, section 2.0 of the Bylaw states that "no rule shall be made which infringes the principles of natural justice." Natural justice includes both the letter and spirit of a law, as well as the right to an appeal. On questioning Crossland on Article XIX, section 2.0, which would enable the Election Tribunal to revise its Feb. 28th ruling, our pleas fell to deaf ears. Radio York had been told by the Tribunal that if the spirit of the law could also have been considered, then the ruling would have been made in our favor. Article XIX, section 2.0 allows for the spirit to be recognized, but it became evident that Crossland would not budge.

People who are not willing to listen to other points of view should not be in the possession of power. Mr. Crossland's deaf ears and blind eyes have considerably hindered Radio York's attempt to ask the student body for its opinion.

—Robbie Sheffman  
News director, Radio York

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