

# Excalibur



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excalibur is published weekly by students of york university on york campus. opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the student council or the university administration. phone-635-2300

## Editorial

### INCOMPETENT!!

The Students Representative Council is almost hopelessly incompetent. That is the only possible conclusion one can get from observing their meetings. On Wednesday night, Ken Johnston, Vice-President in-charge-of External Affairs, walked out of the meeting before it was half over. Mr. Johnston was "disgusted with the lack of order" at the meeting.

Well he might have been! The council rescinded motions which had just finished passing--a procedure completely out of order according to "Robert's Rules of Order." The chair exercised its authority most cavalierly; interruptions from members were rife and rude, and the rulings from the chair confusing at best.

The S.R.C. discussed the Glendon Council Report on the Duff-Berdhal Report. It was painfully obvious that the councillors had not come prepared. One suspects that many of them had not even read it thoroughly prior to the meeting. The President should have instructed them to read the report completely and come prepared with their objections written up in the form of motions

of amendment. But, then, President Keith Kennedy, when asked by a councillor, whether the council was supposed to be discussing the Glendon College Brief or the Duff-Berdhal Report itself, replied, "both"--an answer unlikely to shed any light on an already confused and disorganized discussion.

That the S.R.C. should be in such a sad state is disgraceful. That the S.R.C. is so incompetent and so lacking in leadership at this early stage in its life when it needs above all to gain the respect of both the students and the Administration is tragic.

The students of York need a Students Representative Council. What other form of organization could give them a voice vis-a-vis other universities and the Administration. Moreover, York should have a strong S.R.C., so that they have not just a voice but an effective voice.

We do not have effective representation today. Unless President Kennedy insists on some order in council meetings; unless the council quickly reforms itself, we are in danger of having no representation.

### Letters

Dear Sir:

It is most appropriate that you chose your October 21st issue of Excalibur in which to comment on the so-called SRC.

I am quite amazed to see that SRC has been "representing" York's interests. I am sure there must be at least a few other people who are wondering upon whose authorization this is being done. The executive positions within SRC have been filled by acclamation (whose?), and the average turnout at the elections was 20%. It would hardly seem that they have a mandate from York students.

And saying that the students are apathetic is no answer. There is no reason why they should be expected to vote if they are not made aware of an election. This would be a stiff requirement, even of York students! Until the self-named executives and members of SRC can show a *raison d'être*, and let people outside of their charmed circle know what's going on, the administration has every right to ignore them. We the students have the duty to

fight such illegal "representation".

One word about "manana", Mr. Editor. I am from a partly South American environment, and the manana-like attitude shown by students attending lectures at York would not be tolerated by any self-respecting high school there.

Very truly yours,  
Winston A. Ashmeade.

### Yearbook

### Meeting

Do you want a yearbook this year? It's up to you. Would all students interested in editing or writing for a yearbook please attend a meeting Tuesday Nov. 1 at 12:50 p.m. in the Vanier social and debates room? Unless a yearbook staff is found (this is directed also to those who signed the list during orientation) there will be no yearbook.

## CUS AND ALBERTA: a Presidential View

The writer is Doug Ward, 29, president of the Canadian Union of Students. This is the first of two installments.

C.U.P.

OTTAWA--Should the University of Alberta withdraw from the Canadian Union of Students? Should we dissolve CUS? Certainly I would hope that in the Canadian student movement we have moved beyond the position that a national organization should be maintained simply because a national organization is a nice thing. If CUS has ceased to serve the students of this country, then I will be glad to be among those who help to give it a decent burial.

Actually it is not that Alberta has announced its intention to withdraw from the union that is so disturbing. Rather, the reasons which they have put forward to justify this withdrawal indicate acceptance of the view that a student and his colleagues are passive consumers of facts with no capacity to act upon their academic community the wider society of Canada, or the world.

Alberta's president, Branny Schepanovich, argues that he would like to see students involved with economic and social questions as individuals, but that as students, they should concentrate solely on their studies and other immediate and particular concerns. This is an attractive argument until one realizes that its effect is to emasculate the student community, which, in an age which has opted out of direct social responsibility, is an immediate form of community which can be instrumental in reinvigorating a national involvement.

Over the past two or three years the Canadian Union of Students has attempted to become an organization relevant to the problems of Canadians: Canadian students, people who should be Canadian students, and the society which sustains our present educational system. The Congress just held in Halifax was especially valuable in this regard and the vast majority of student associations there affirmed that the union should push for accessibility to higher education, not simply for the class of students presently enrolled in universities and technical schools, but for the thousands of young people with great ability who for reasons of finance or background, do not make it. This is the core program of the union.

Of course the organization also provides services for its members. We have the Inter-regional Scholarship Exchange Program (ISEP) which enables students to travel and study in Canadian centers away from their homes. We have life insurance available to members of CUS at very reasonable rates. (In fact, just this year we have cut its cost from \$3.50 to \$2.60 per thousand--an incredibly low rate.) In addition, many take advantage of CUS-sponsored international travel benefits including the International Student Travel

Card--the passport for students to Europe. At the same time we are working to obtain national discounts and inexpensive travel within Canada, and cheap accommodation for you at EXPO. But financial advantages for students should only be gained on the basis of our mass buying power, and not by forcing companies and governments to aid us at the expense of the rest of society. This is why we will not lobby indiscriminately for "more" for students.

CUS also has programs such as the Student Government Research Service which provide Student Councils, and in fact any student who writes, with information that will enable them to build better academic communities. Whether it is information on student union buildings to help campuses avoid the pitfalls of poorly designed buildings where students are unable to meet and talk to other students and to professors, or information for a brief on student finances to be presented to the provincial government, the SGRS is always available to provide information that will help student groups face their challenges more competently and more completely.

When CUS fought for, and won, the right for students to deduct from taxable income for income tax purposes, we did so because of the obvious need of students who work in the summer to finance their university education. That wasn't enough. We need adequate student aid for the present student population, and we will need even more to attract non-middle class young people to university. We are also working to encourage student co-operative residences, because they save everybody money--the student, the government and society--and because we are convinced that they have a contribution to make to the life of the campus.

The Canadian Union of Students has adopted as its first priority universal accessibility to higher education. This means we believe education should be a right for all who can contribute and benefit by it, and not a privilege to be enjoyed by the few lucky to come from the "right" kind of financial and social background. At the same time we are beginning to ask some hard questions of the institutions which we are trying to make accessible. If we find it necessary to try and represent the people who did not make it to the university by calling for universal accessibility, we also try to encourage students presently in attendance to work to improve the quality of education in our universities. There is not much point in making our universities more accessible if they do not become better places for the exchange of ideas and for the development of disciplined and liberated minds.

to be continued

RYERSON  
PRESENTS

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and also  
THE BROTHERS-IN-LAW

THURSDAY Nov. 3, 1966

RYERSON THEATRE  
8:30 P.M.

TICKETS \$2.00 & \$1.50

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