

EDITORIAL

Strength in dollars

Next Tuesday and Wednesday, we will be voting to join both a provincial and a national student organization.

It will cost us seven dollars per year more on our tuition. And we will finally belong to the Ontario Federation of Students and the Canadian Federation of Students.

If you didn't know any better, you might think the decision had already been made for us. Lately, in fact, you may have found it difficult to walk around Central Square without feeling compelled to join OFS and CFS right on the spot, what with all the promotion in sight.

The YES-Coalition on campus has been extremely effective in spreading the good word about joining a collective student movement.

But what about the bad word?

Is there any?

Where's the resistance, you might ask? Is there an official NO-Coalition that can offer criticisms about OFS and CFS or are these two organizations beyond reproach? Are we truly going to be making an informed decision at the referendum ballot box?

Call me old-fashioned, but I think it's important to get both sides of the story before committing myself.

In the October 22 issue, *Excalibur* will be publishing the closest thing any newspaper has offered to a pro-con debate on this issue.

Personally, I am in favour of expanding the student movement to the provincial and national levels, but I object to the campaign process that has been used at York.

The central student government (YFS) and several college councils recently voted in favour of endorsing the YES-Coalition. But by forsaking any neutrality in favour of advocacy, our student representatives have overridden the democratic process.

It's simple enough to understand: those who advocate one position can no longer represent those who stand on the other side.

If it is truly the students (one person, one vote) who must make the decision, then the impetus for the pro-side should have come from the grass roots and we should have only seen it at the ballot box.

As it now, we have one very strong group unfairly influencing their constituents before voting day. It reminds me of what the federal Tories did when they promoted Free Trade and the GST before these bills had even been passed.

I mentioned the word, "unfairly." Let me explain.

The OFS and the CFS have already convinced most universities to join up, but York's membership has remained ever elusive.

Make no mistake, York University is a key client for both organizations. Of course, York could benefit from the lobbying clout these groups possess, but in turn, they also stand to gain York as a very formidable partner in their quest for optimum student advocacy.

OFS has allocated \$5,000 to hold membership referenda at three different post-secondary institutions this year. York is the largest of the potential members, so it's reasonable that the lion's share of that money will go to bringing York students on side.

I already think the decision to vote YES has been made. And I don't even think that it's such a bad decision. But then again, I also realize that advertising gets results.

It's true: there is strength in numbers. Unfortunately, these days, numbers usually carry dollar signs in front of them.

EXCALIBUR

Editor-in-Chief	Peter Stathis
Managing Editor	James Hoggett
Production Manager	Stephen Perry
Cover Photo	Elizabeth Pryer
News Editor	Vacant
Arts Editors	Trevor Campbell, Joanne "Switch" White
Features Editor	Vacant
Sports Editor	Josh Rubin
Photo Editors	Clive Cohen, Emmanuel Papachristou
Staff	Richard Abel, Bruce Adamson, Jeanine Amber, Melissa Barnett, Frank Cameron, Mary Cerisano, Suzanne Crnic, Mark Dillon, Ed Drass, Jill Flohil, Patrick Follens, Brett Gellert, Kerim Gomleksiz, Garth Hagey, Hugh Hardy, Dan Judd, Howard Kaman, Linda Kingston, Michael Krestell, Dave Lake, Alex Lam, Brett Lamb, Jennifer Lim, Azed Majeed, Alain Marsman, Laura Martins, Paul McLellan, Michael Nachoff, Salman Nensi, Jason Nolan, Robert Pincombe, Brent Poland, Alneida Quim, Peter Roe, Riccardo Sala, Jennifer Salter, Natalia Smith, Andre Souroujou, Tobi Wunch
General Manager	Merle Menzies
Advertising Assistant	Patty Milton-Rao
Advertising Rep	Meiyin Yap
Distribution Manager	Boris Koechlin
Typesetters	Mary Jankulak, Shaun Laboc
Board of Publications Chairperson	Kevin Connolly

Excalibur is York University's community newspaper. We publish 20,000 copies twice-weekly, distributed across York and Glendon campuses and various locations within the North York community.

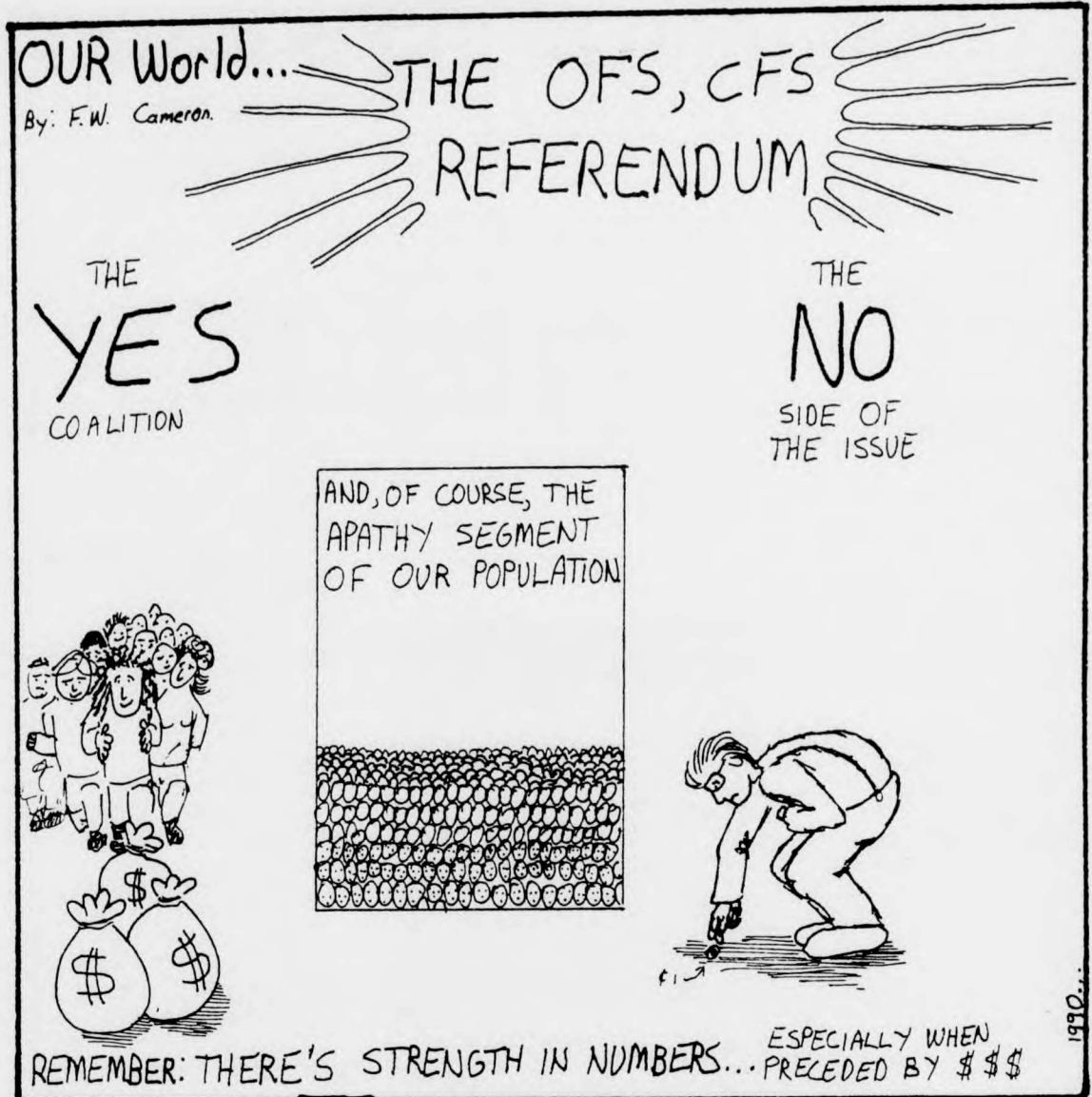
Excalibur is an autonomous corporation with a mandate to inform, educate and provoke thought among York University's diverse population.

The distinct opinions and articles appearing in *Excalibur* constitute our collective voice. However, they belong first and foremost to the individual writers and are not necessarily shared by any other *Excalibur* staff or board member.

Final editorial responsibility is retained by the Editor-in-chief.

EDITORIAL: 736-5239
TYPESETTING: 736-5240
ADVERTISING: 736-5238

MAILING ADDRESS:
Room 111, Central Square
York University
4700 Keele Street
Downsview M3J 1P3



LETTERS

Excalibur welcomes letters to the editor on all topics. We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 500 words in length. They must be typed, double spaced, and accompanied by the writer's name, signature and telephone number. The opinions expressed belong to the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of *Excalibur* staff or directors. However, letters judged to be racist, sexist or libellous by the editor will be refused. All material is subject to editing. All submissions must be addressed to the Editor-in-chief, Room 111, Central Square.

Mayol not god of recycling

To the editor,

I never really believed the rumours that *Excalibur* was a proponent of one sided reporting, until now. Paul Mayol is anything but the RECYCLING GOD.

Not only has he failed to implement a RECYCLING programme at York, but he has set up an insufficient system where by the only way for students (who are trying to implement a programme at their college) to recycle is to go through him first.

This is problematic for those of us trying to set up our own system because:

- a) going through Paul Mayol is time consuming, and very little has been accomplished
- b) the colleges in 1989/90 were able to set up a recycling programme through housing which seemed far more efficient
- c) the idea of setting up a council to look into what students need vis a vis recycling does not seem to be moving this process any faster.

During 1989/90, Bethune college operated a recycling programme using only half an hour per week of the Housing department's time. This year Bethune has developed a recycling programme in Jacs pub. After collecting 12 bags of assorted bottles, plastic, and cans they were told no one would be picking them up. The recyclable goods were therefore thrown in the garbage. Waste management does not

mean the waste should go into one pile to be thrown out in another.

Respectfully,
Elan Thomas

U.S. threat is greater

To the editor,

While Ingrid Walter (Opinions, Oct. 10 *Excalibur*) correctly notes that underdeveloped countries will suffer from higher oil prices caused by the Gulf crisis, there is a greater threat facing them: the threat of a strong, confident U.S. imperialism.

In the years following its humiliating defeat in Vietnam (1975) and the fall of key client regimes in Iran and Nicaragua (1979), the U.S. ruling class suffered from the "Vietnam Syndrome." It was unwilling to intervene directly against any threat to its imperialist interests in the "Third World."

However, the U.S. began to regain its confidence by invading Grenada and Panama, by defeating the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, and by intervening in support of Iraq in the Iran-Iraq War in 1987-88. Now it feels strong enough to send a huge armed force to the Persian Gulf to defend Western imperialism's oil interests against Saddam Hussein, and to go to war over them.

A U.S. ruling class that is confident enough to risk all-out war with Iraq will have no second thoughts about intervening against the next nation that tries to "do a Nicaragua" and fight

imperialism.

Thus it is in the interest of every underdeveloped country (and of all who suffer from capitalism at home in the West) to demand that all U.S., Canadian, and allied troops be withdrawn from the Persian Gulf now.

David Camfield
York International Socialists.

"strippers" should be given away

To the Editor

Like many people, I'm beginning to get more concerned about the environment. Two years ago I worked at the York University Bookstore. In the year I worked there hundreds of books a term were destroyed and then recycled. The reason given for this was that the bookstore received a discount for overstocking certain titles. Also the publishers gave rebates if the covers were ripped and returned.

The coverless books, "strip-pers," were then ripped up. If this is still the case, must the bookstore overstock as much as they do? Why can't these books be given away to poor people (ie. students) or retirement homes or libraries etc.?

Yours Sincerely
Bill Wand