

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.

editor-in-chief, Marilyn Smith; news editor, Jim Daw; managing editor, Lerrick Starr; cultural editor, Lynn Slotkin; photography editor, Harry Kitz; sports editors, Alan Risen, Judy Campbell; cartoon editor, John Rose; CUP editor, Jane King; staff-at-large, Paul Thomson, Dave Phillips, Valerie Sullivan, Mike Barris, Peter Hsu, Harold Stein, Peter Malilainen, Nancy Hobbs, Robin Rowland, Danny Zanbilowicz, Jerry Silverman, Carla Sullivan, Marg Poste, Bernie Stein, Ken Myron, Lionel Llewellyn, Harry Stinson, Carl Stieren, Ron Rosenthal, Ray van Eenoaghe, Rob Barlow, Mike Woolgar, Art Irvine (pasties), Business and advertising, Rolly Stroeter; advertising, Jackie Stroeter. Editorial — phone 667-3201, 3202; advertising — phone 667-3800.

Who's to choose president Slater's successor?

The passing of an administrator, even an honest approachable one, does not have an immediate effect on the student body. So it isn't surprising that most students showed little response to the news this week that York president David Slater had resigned, and was leaving immediately. For the interim, there is a pinch-hit team of Richard Storr, ex-head of graduate studies, as acting president, and Bill Farr, former secretary of the university as vice-president.

But the real crunch, the making of the new president, is yet to come. Who's to choose a new president? According to the York Act, it's the board of governors — after "due consultation". The problem of what "consultation" actually means came up in 1969 when the search committee was looking for a man to fill Murray Ross's shoes.

The board shouldn't have that responsibility — and the community can push for enough consultation so that they don't have that power. The 25-member board is not a part of the York community. They rarely come on campus, and when they do, their York experiences are completely alien to that of the 10,000 full-time students on York — gourmet Versafood meals, drinks, and carpeted board rooms. Moreover, the board is responsible for a good part of York's recent panic situation. Its recommendation of mass faculty cuts was a heavy-handed, insensitive response to the budget crisis. It was left, finally, to the senate and marathon committee meetings to pull the university back to the real facts of the situation.

Broad-based community representation has to be the keynote in this presidential selection process. A president elected by the community at the ballot box could achieve this — as well as dissipating the power struggles that inevitably develop during the search to fill a high-level office.



Right to Life group befriends the fetus

For people at York committed to abortion reform, it was a good news and a bad news week. The most encouraging development was a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to liberalize abortion in 45 states to allow abortion in the first three months of a woman's pregnancy on the strength of a decision between the woman and her doctor.

The bad news was a campus visit by the Friends of the Fetus — the Right to Life dogmatists. Dr. Heather Morris, a gynecologist, spoke out Tuesday about the sanctity of human life. Neither rape, nor incest, mental, physical, economic

or social duress shall keep the fetus from making its appointed nine-month round, says Morris. She builds her case with platitudes, glossy fetus photos, and a deluge of "facts" that are never foot-noted.

No child should be aborted because it's unwanted, Morris says. But she never mentions studies of neglected and unwanted children — such as one made in Denmark during the 1950's which compared two groups of children from birth to age 20-25. 120 children born to mothers who had been denied

therapeutic abortion were compared with 120 "normal" or wanted children. The children unwanted during pregnancy were more unstable, suicidal, and law-breaking than the children in the other group. They also had less stable inter-personal relationships.

The Right to Life has a black and white stand on abortion and exalts the fetus above and beyond all other considerations. The life and health of the mother, both mental and physical; her responsibilities to her other children; the quality of life she can create for her child are mandatory considerations for

any pregnant woman.

A fetus at conception is not a human; it has no chance for survival outside the womb. For if the fetus at conception is life, as the Right to Lifers claim, why not then the egg, the sperm. Is masturbation not then murder?

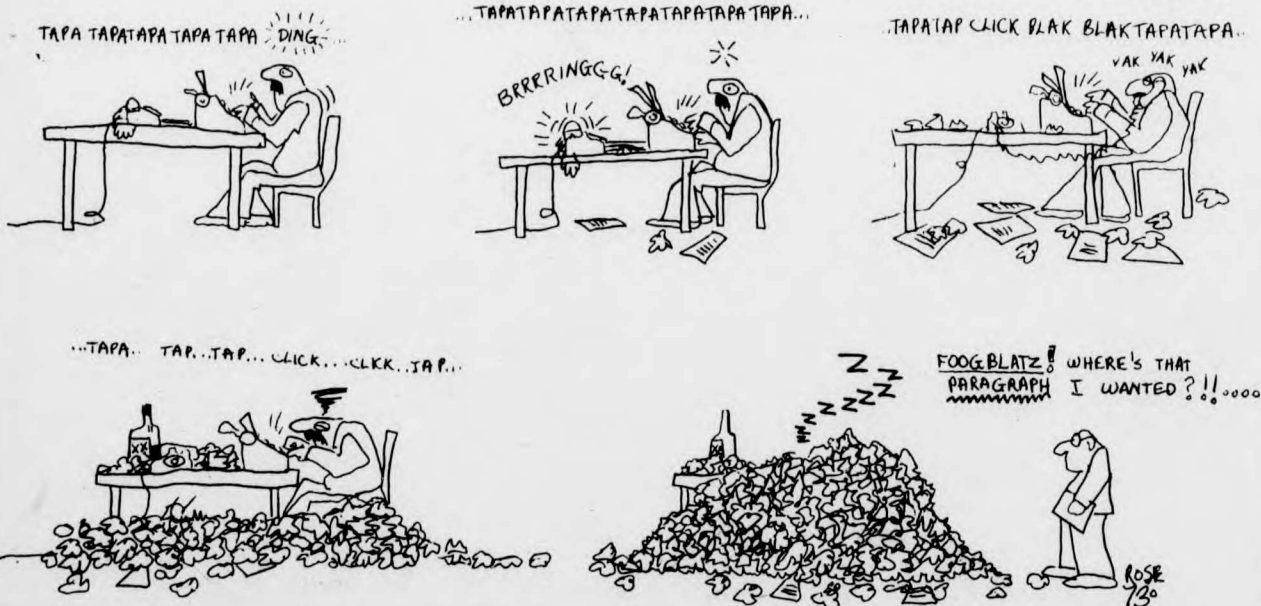
The stand of the anti-abortionists is their right. But they do not have the right to dictate that no woman shall have an abortion. A woman should be able to choose if she will or will not have a child. Such a choice is not criminal, as Canadian law now suggests; it is every woman's right.

The pen is tidier than the sword

It was dark. Only a few twinkling lights in the Scott library pierced the gloom. It was George Dunn's night on security patrol. The ace York cop didn't mind. The wind was cold, but he had his trench coat to keep him warm.

Suddenly, a shot rang out. A scream ripped across the quiet calm of the campus . . .

Want to write your own ending? Or nurture a scoop from a hunch to a big-time story? Excalibur needs people with ideas, energy and an interest in helping to make the paper happen. Sports, culture, news, features, photography — you name it, the paper needs more. No experience necessary — just a sharp nose for news and a blunt pencil. We meet today at 1 p.m. in room 111 Central Square.



Letters to the editor

Would a lobotomy help

Would a lobotomised Michelangelo still have produced the David, or a "straightened-up" Leonardo the 'Mona Lisa'? This is a question that even professor Daniel Cappon might hesitate to answer. The absence of Proust's masterpiece would probably entail no deprivation for the professor who forty years ago might have joined with the Nazis — if he had managed to escape their sterilisation laws — in celebrating the seizure of Hirschfeld's Institute in Berlin and capering with them around the bonfire of that great humanitarian's library.

M. GREENWOOD
Curator of Art

York speeders endanger kids

The Edgeley Tenants' Association requests that all drivers using the Shoreham Drive route into the university exercise extreme caution and obey the posted speed limit. While we have urged the children to use the footbridge many still prefer to shortcut by Shoreham bridge and in the winter when the bridge is very hazardous it would be impossible for a driver to stop quickly.

If drivers do not obey the speed limit we will have no hesitation in pressing for resumed police observation of Shoreham Drive for the protection of our children and the senior citizens who use the crossing.

PAT O'NEILL
Secretary, Edgeley Tenants' Association

Letters to the editor should be sent c/o Excalibur, Central Square, Ross Building. For reasons of space, letters should be no more than 250 words and Excalibur reserves the right to abridge letters for length. Any letter, which in the opinion of Excalibur's advisors, is libelous or slanderous, will not be printed. No unsigned letters will be printed, but the writer may ask to remain anonymous. All letters will be run — but due to limited space, they may not run the same week they are received.