

# 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. Typography by Foto Set, printed at Newsweb, Excalibur is published by Excalibur Publications.

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## Student control needed over housing policy

The proposed changes in graduate residence admission policies announced last week by a committee top-heavy with representatives from the administration, are to say the least, a disappointment.

Not that changes in the admission policy were not called for. The red-tape headaches that anyone who has applied for grad residence knows about, are long overdue for review. The housing regulations' discrimination against gay couples demanded immediate action.

Unfortunately the committee concerned itself with neither of these problems.

They concerned themselves with things like a proposal that anyone who owed a penny to any sector of the university be disqualified from residency.

Come off it gang. A landlord is a landlord is a landlord. Will I get evicted from my apartment in High Park because I haven't paid a parking ticket? Eligibility for graduate residence and outstanding parking, library or other fines are separate matters.

The committee decided that formally married students would be given priority over two students cohabitating. We wish they'd explain themselves, explain why a couple with a marriage license is somehow more in need of graduate residence accommodation than one without?

And in what seems to be an attempt to counter criticism levelled against grad residence housing regulations regarding gay couples, they decided that tenants of the same sex would be able to share any type of graduate accommodation (they were previously banned from furnished one-bedroom apartments).

Well, that's a step in the right direction, but it still means that gay couples — who find it difficult to get married in our society — have to wait in line behind married heterosexual ones.

Adding insult to injury, under their proposed changes even if you make it into grad residence, you will be faced with an eviction notice in four years. No matter that your Phd has another two years to run, no matter that you've been a model tenant for those four years, you've got to look for a new place.

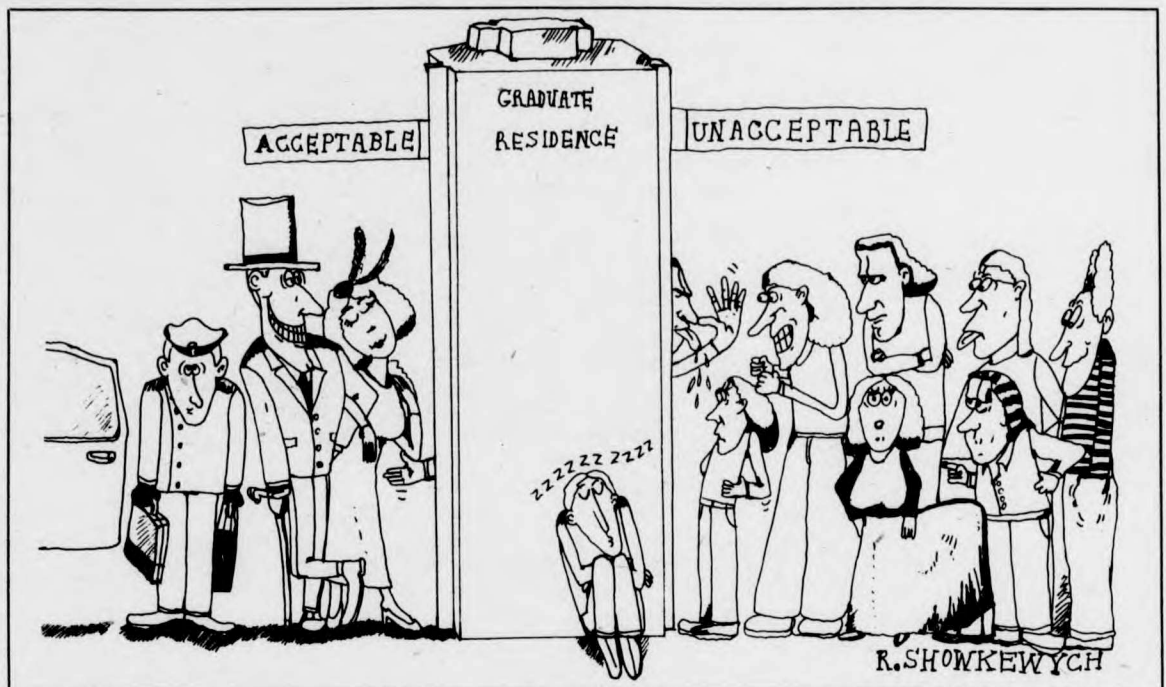
But then it's not surprising that the committee's proposals are so poor. On the seven member committee, there were only two grad residence tenants, Dave Fleet and Bill McMaster from the York University Tenants' Association. These two attempted to instill some sanity into the committee's proposals, but met with little success, facing rather heavy odds.

That there must be some guidelines governing residency in our graduate residences is of course beyond question. The question is, who should decide?

The decision must be made by a body that is representative of the York community and is chosen democratically. It only makes sense.

Who better knows the problems and requirements of on-campus residency than on-campus residents?

The concept we're talking about is as old as it is simple: representative democracy. And history has proven that this form of decision-making is always superior to arbitrary non-debatable dictat's handed down from on high.



## Federation acts arbitrarily in breaking newspaper pact

It's generally not a good idea for a newspaper to talk about itself but, it is important for papers to comment when something is done wrong. And something was done wrong directly concerning this paper.

The Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF) voted to break a three year agreement with this paper and cut back Excalibur's grant for this year by \$7,000. In 1974 following an attempt by a nasty student council president to veto the Excalibur staff's choice for editor it was decided something must be done to preserve the autonomy of the paper, to guarantee that the CYSF could not blackmail the paper with reduced grants everytime it took a stand in opposition to the federation.

This was a good idea and one which two student councils have respected despite huge disagreements with the newspaper in the past.

So it would seem that for student council administration to tear up this agreement before it had ended there would be some serious consideration given to the move as well as extensive consultation with the newspaper to determine the implications of the move.

This was not done.

The finance head of Excalibur's board of publications was expecting to meet this week with CYSF's finance vice-president to discuss the paper's financial needs. That meeting never took place because CYSF voted to cutback Excalibur's grant last week.

The board of publications, the body setup back in 1974 to oversee the financial operations of the newspaper has not even been able to meet since its members got wind of CYSF's plans to cutback the grant.

And what about the newspaper's staff? They were never approached by the student federation, even for informal discussions of their financial needs for this year. The staff of Excalibur was never asked how they thought they would be effected if CYSF decided to renege on its three year agreement with the paper half way through the middle of the third year and reduce the expected grant by thousands of dollars.

The editors of the paper were not asked to attend the meeting where this decision was made. Editor Michael Hollett did attend and what he encountered was a lot of people throwing around confused figures and making uninformed comments.

But these people didn't want information. If they did they

would have postponed this major decision until they could get the information necessary to act wisely.

We have to wonder how many other campus groups have run up against this same kind of ignorant and arbitrary treatment at the hands of the CYSF.

We wonder how many campus groups have had to struggle through the year because CYSF was just too lazy to seriously look at their budget proposals and properly finance them.

CYSF can correct this mistake by reevaluating its decision regarding Excalibur's financing. It can save face and even make a few friends on this campus if it learns how to deal with the very real concerns of all campus groups seriously and intelligently.

Staff meeting  
today  
at 2 p.m.  
in room 111,  
Central  
Square.  
All welcome.

Editor-in-chief	Michael Hollett
Managing editor	Anna Vaitiekunas
News editor	Paul Kellogg
Entertainment editor	Evan Leibovitch
Sports editor	Dave Fuller
Photo editor	Bryon Johnson
CUP editor	Debbie Pekilis
Business and advertising manager	Olga Graham
Staff at large	Ian Mulgrew, David Saltmarsh, Alice Klein, Gord Graham, Donna Mobbs, Maxine Kopel, Ian Kellogg, James Brennan, Chris Legree, Mary Marrone, Doug Tindal, Pat Takeda, Bonnie Bowerman, Brackinreed, Belinda Silberman, Keith Nickson, Walter Rigobon, Ed Fox, Warren Clements, Brenda Weeks, Susan Grant, Ross Freake, Jim Omura, Denise Beattie, Dave McLeod, Gary Kinsman, Ken Stewart, Bryon Johnson, Rich Spiegelman, Sue Kaiser, Tim Uksulainen, Andrew Guido, Steve Monnot, Rick Wolf, Paul Luke, Kim Llyewellyn, Libby St. Jean, Jane Chisholm, Robert Easto, Gary Empey, Ian Wasserman, Don Belanger, Mary Lochhead, David Goodman, Ted Mumford, Ara Rose Parker, Ronen Grunberg, Dudley Carrothers, Eric Starkman, Amelia Amaro, Graham Beattie, Agnes Kruchio, Bob Pomerantz, Jenny Johnson, Marian Kerr, Marie Dorey, David Chodikoff, Shelly Rabinovitch, David Lang, Holly Nightingale, Ilan Salamon, Roman Showkewych.