

# 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.

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## Education must stretch beyond the campus

Education to some people means life in the classroom with all that entails: books, teachers and students with some sort of interchange of knowledge involving all three elements.

Life outside the classroom is interesting, but isn't really part of the "education" process. Whatever is to be learned can be transmitted via the classroom. Students who get involved in other activities are clearly neglecting their education.

In its basic form, this is the intellectual argument used by advocates of the "avoid outside ac-

tivities, especially politics" creed on this campus. And York is not alone. Student politicians around the country are rallying around the cry of 'Back to the books; leave social change for somebody else!'

Encouraging students to go back to books is certainly not a bad development in itself. Throughout the sixties, students abandoned the written word in wholesale quantities. The results have been reflected in the numbers of nearly-illiterate, yet supposedly well-educated, persons one meets today.

But telling students to place their educational requirements solely in the hands of a system already proven something less than perfect is tantamount to asking them to give up a basic civil right—the right to know.

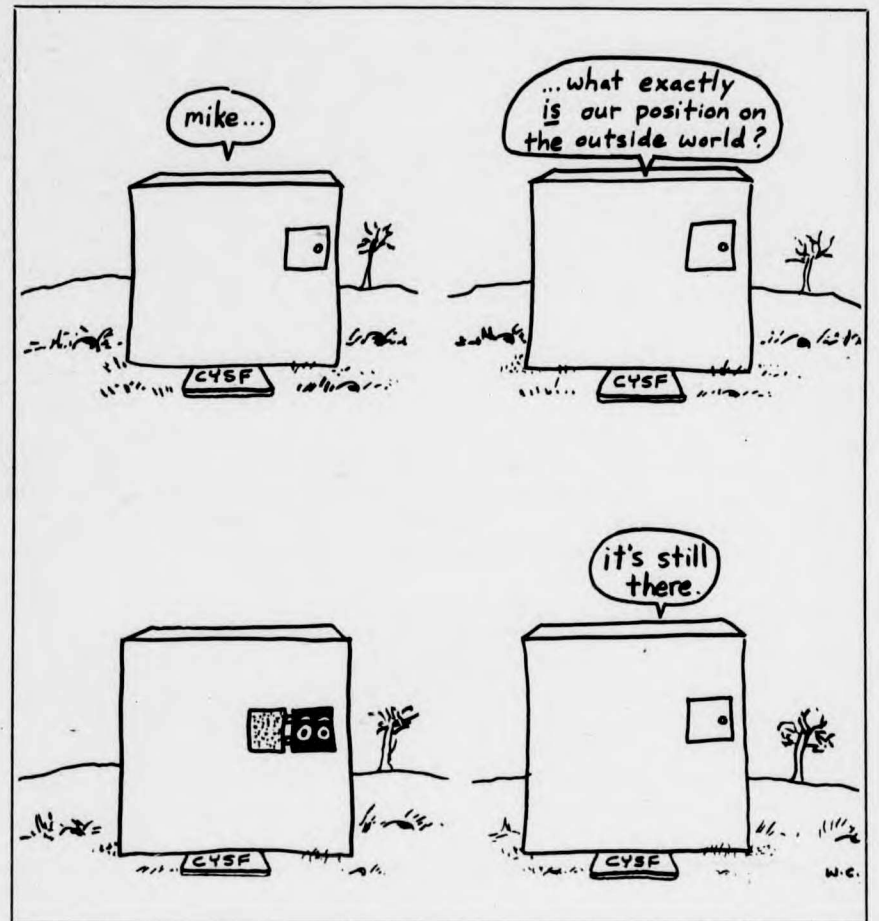
Student leaders like Michael Mouritsen argue that students can always participate as individuals in the burning issues of the day. Nonsense! Students need leadership like anybody else. If they can't get it from their elected representatives, where can they turn?

If their representatives choose to sit with their heads buried in the classroom sand, that's their prerogative. But they should stop pretending they act in the interests of all of us, especially since the students are rarely consulted.

Their view of education is dangerously naive, but no more so than the theory that all traditional forms of education are useless. Somewhere, there has to be a balance, and it won't be found by locking the tower gates.



"If the Lord had meant us to listen to a million offensive theories, he wouldn't have given us freedom of speech."



## Why not ban Winnie-the-Pooh?

Following the courageous actions of the Students for a Democratic Society, Canada Ltd., in circulating petitions urging students to ban the books of Edward Banfield, a controversial social theorist, Excalibur has compiled examples of other racist books the SDS might care to vilify:

1. Winnie-the-Pooh. This seemingly innocent children's tale perpetuates the stereotyped image of bears as fat teddies who must rely on human beings for transportation and protection. Portraying kangaroos as domineering mothers and rabbits as inbred academicians, author Milne pigeon-holes members of the animal kingdom into neat categories. His defamation of the donkey is particularly distasteful.

2. Wizard of Oz. Are we to put up with such autocratic tripe? Filled with factual inaccuracies, this elitist tract assumes that lions are by nature cowardly, that scarecrows have natural rhythm, and

that tin men need a good pint of "oil" to maintain them. By disguising his dangerous politics as harmless fantasy, Frank Baum has led a generation of impressionable readers up the yellow brick road to bigotry and racism.

3. Dracula. Bram Stoker is generally credited with propagating the elitist theory that bats are sinister and should be avoided like the plague. Inspiring decades of fear in his readers, this gothic master of the malicious has done more to discredit the horror field than any competitor.

4. The Cat in the Hat. Cruelty to animals. Need we say more?

We are sure the SDS will back us up on these points. And on their behalf, we would point out that Ed Banfield's books, and any others you consider offensive or opinionated enough to bring along, will be burned in a rosy fire outside the bookstore at high noon today.

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## Letters to the Editor

### Ideal president would be a patriarch

I, for one, find it highly noble of "President" Mouritsen to cleanse his hands of the Artistic affair, and to take the definite position of no position regarding Artistic.

Mind you, I am sure he is neither trying to evade responsibility nor avoid a situation both explosive and political. Rather in fact, it is quite probable he sees the situation with an amazing clarity that I could never even hope to understand fully.

What I would have done, if I were President, would have been to condone both sides, and urge a quick settlement. Maybe even take the Father image, and say enough of this childish fighting and stubbornness, and solve the problem.

Or I could take the philosophers' view and say, you are not accomplishing nothing; in fact, you are wasting time, money and getting a bad name for yourself. This problem has to be solved, so solve it. But I would never say nothing. But maybe that's why I'm not president.

Ignoring the issue and saying "you decide" is a clear enough indication that someone isn't concerned, or doesn't know what to say. Council should take a strong position, and show that it has a voice. Maybe raise a bit of controversy, stimulate interest, get involved and do something.

I sometimes wonder if the widely acclaimed apathy of students is the result of a lacklustre and apathetic council.

Maxwell Harvey

### Students and council must change society

We would like to make a few comments on Mr. Mouritsen's column of last week, regarding his attitude on the Artistic strike.

First of all, there were some factual errors in the column. The vote to support the strike was not narrowly approved, but carried by a considerable margin. A motion was adopted that supported in principle the position that CYSF should give financial assistance to students arrested on the picket line.

A motion to set aside a specific amount of money for this purpose was ruled out of order on a technicality.

The majority of the council felt that the students arrested at Artistic should not be impeded from finishing their studies at York this year on account of excessive fines or legal expenses. Their arrests were political in nature, incurred in the legitimate defence of the bargaining rights of the Artistic workers. It followed logically that council should adopt a position in support of the demands of the union.

Mouritsen claims that "the Artistic strike does

not fall within the terms of reference of the federation." He states that the council should deal only with specific university matters, and that only individuals have a right to take a stand on such issues.

Mouritsen cloaks his own reactionary view of the strike in phony arguments. York University is not an ivory tower of intellectualism, but is an institution which reflects and engenders all of the oppressive aspects of society.

Students and their council have a responsibility to use all of the resources on campus to change this oppressive society that we all live in.

Mouritsen's position of abstention on non-university affairs amounts to backhanded support for the injustices created in a society ruled by the corporate elite (and their representatives at York, the Board of Governors).

It is true that a motion of solidarity expresses only the wishes of a majority of the council and not the opinions of the student body. However, now that the council has taken a positive stand, the door is opened to winning broad support from York students.

If, as Mouritsen says, council support for this strike is meaningless, then why did he fight so diligently to defeat the pertinent motions?

We would like to invite any students who are interested in puruing this matter to come to the next council meeting Monday night Dec. 10 at 7 p.m.

Dale Ritch  
Colan Inglis