

EXCALIBUR

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity — Lord Acton

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The United Left Slate can do the job

The past record of Council of the York Student Federation has hardly been inspiring. From its fights with the college councils to its incredible deficit of \$20,000, the administration under Michael Fletcher will go down in the same putrid manner it came up.

The fragmented non-politics of his regime has only added greater confusion to an already chaotic situation. A business manager was hired; a winter carnival was begun but uncontrollable debts have mounted. They were compiled, not through any drive to accomplish certain political goals but rather in a haphazard manner like a leaky steamer rusting its way to the ocean floor.

If it's anything York students don't need at this point, it's another year of a similar CYSF. Confrontation politics with the college councils hardly helped. If anything, it brought the council only closer to political bankruptcy.

To avoid another regime as we have seen it, the question is which candidates offer the best solutions to the problems that beset CYSF in coping with York students' needs.

Political action requires a cohesive coalition of individuals ready to tackle those demands. Political consciousness, no matter how loose, is the key to jar loose the reforms that every society aches to receive.

CYSF has offered few cures to the sense of powerlessness that can reign supreme so easily. If anything, it has shown that no matter how many social promises you may try to fulfill, it still doesn't remove the basic problems of York student government.

This year, we have a choice. We can choose between the fragmented politics of power-hungry individuals and the combined efforts of group action. It is a basic choice that was not offered last year.

The politics of Phil Petrelli are hard to define. He's for a Student Union Building but against the York University Newspaper Act. He feels there's too little military research going on to worry about and that the United Left Slate's demands are vague. He professes to disentangle the confusion of past

councils through using a "direct approach".

Basically, he represents the individualistic politics that leads to a repeat of another CYSF like last year.

John Theobald's politics — although they are substantially more progressive than Petrelli's are basically of the same variety. He's against a Student Union Building but for the York University Newspaper Act. He feels sympathetic towards the demands for a 24-hour day-care centre, women's program and Canadian studies, but puts them low on his list. He backs course evaluations, some change in the general education requirements and the production of a counter-calendar as priorities.

His short-term goals have no systematic approach to York's student needs. And whether he likes it or not, he was part of an ill-fated CYSF executive that never failed to relieve itself of a bumbling image as York's dog-pen of incompetency. His experience may be an asset in the parliamentary sense but it is hardly a credit with which to begin a political career.

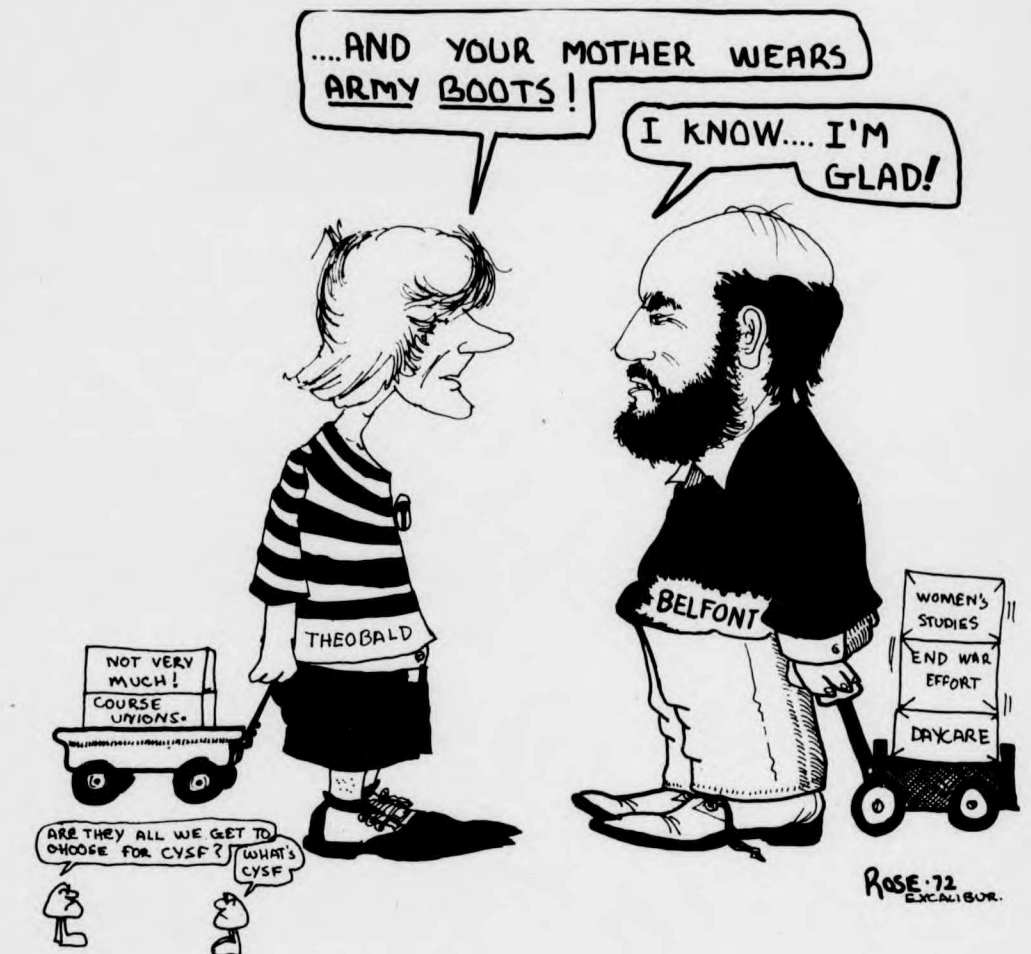
We are then faced with the United Left Slate headed by Bryan Belfont. It is a rough coalition of concerned political groups trying to grasp the roots of the issues that confront us today: women's studies, day-care for children, military research and Canadian studies.

It reportedly has the backing of York Women's Liberation, the York Committee to End the War in Asia, Committee for a Free Greece, the Young Socialists and independent members of the NDP. It is also approaching the Black People's Movement, the Democratic Association of Italians, the English Students Association and the York Homophile Association.

It is the first time that a political group has attempted to enlist the support of York's various groups to stand together on a common platform. It is a group that can offer a systematic and consistent approach to York student needs.

In short, they can get CYSF back into the political arena and out of the pseudo-social morass that it's bogged down in now.

It has come in favor of:



- Pressuring the administration for a women's program;
- Backing the abortion referendum;
- Establishing a 24-hour day-care centre;
- Banning military research on campus;
- Backing pro-Canadian studies;

- Supporting the York University Newspaper Act;
- Calling mass meetings of York students to discuss issues;
- Backing a Student Union Building.

With its support from community groups and for its systematic approach to York politics, we support the United Left Slate.

Join us College G

By coincidence, College G students will also face on March 8 and 9 a referendum on whether to join Council of the York Student Federation.

Because student service groups rely most heavily on CYSF for their funds — which they need most desperately — we strongly urge College G students to vote in.

We realize that the past administrative record has not been very good but the future looks far brighter for

more efficient and more cohesive action from that central body.

To allow the other York students to pay for the services — such as the student clinic, day-care, Radio York and Excalibur — which College G students enjoy, would not be morally right. Those services need that money.

If you disagree with CYSF, then run for office and change it. But don't opt out through defeatism.

CYSF referendum: support abortion law reform

If there's one thing pictures of fetuses in garbage bags will do, it's stave off any kind of rational discussion of the abortion issue. It's strange but it's only the anti-abortion groups like Right to Life and Alliance for Life who have resorted to these cheap emotional gimmicks.

The repeal abortion laws supporters could conceivably do the same thing. Wouldn't it be effective to show a mother of six going through the trauma of trying to make her limited means cover for the seventh or to show the neglected unwanted children no one planned for or now care about? Or better yet why not a garbage bag full of some of the 1,000 Canadian women who die or are disabled every year through post-abortive complications after some back-street abortionist has gotten through plying the profitable trade?

Why not do all this? Because it's an insult to the intelligence and sanity of

any adult woman. Let the Right to Life people make their platitudinous defence of the fetus ("although just one inch long, this tiny body is already functioning...").

When the fetus mystique clears, the fact remains that any woman bearing a child will carry the whole process right through the gestation period and into the whole motherhood bit.

The fact remains that our social setup dumps the responsibilities of child-raising predominantly on the woman. And if she is young or unmarried, then the burden is doubled and punitive.

The present society in no way faces realistically the responsibilities for the children it fosters. If there is such great concern over fetal life and motherhood, where are the day-care facilities and the social benefits of pay and leave of absence during pregnancy? None of these vital provisions are adequately made, yet the laws insist on telling women what

they can and cannot do with their bodies.

How is it the minority rule the majority? And why is it men create and enforce the laws that limit women's basic rights. The right of choice is all-hailed in any socio-democratic system. Yet archaic abortion laws deny this basic right. And the laws remain unchallenged in legislative bodies.

Recent developments in Ottawa and New York state where injunctions are preventing women from obtaining abortions after the "liberalizing" of the laws has stunned and panicked women.

Groups from every conceivable position have come out in favor of abortion — the medical association, the United Church, the New Democratic Party, the federal and provincial liberal parties, to name only a few.

No one is talking about abortion as a form of birth control. It's a lousy form of birth control. There is great and widespread demand from women for

their basic right to control their lives, to say when and if they will have children.

This issue of abortion is the key issue for women in their struggle to attain self-determination. It's a wonder they manage to restrain their emotion to the degree they do when confronted with the reactionary emotional ploys thrown about by the anti-abortionists.

On March 8 and 9, a referendum will be held on the repeal of present abortion laws in Canada. The vote is just one of many across Canadian campuses. That will be your chance to voice your opinion.

Staff meets
 Friday at
 1 pm