

# EDITORIALS

## PROVINCIAL POLITICS ARE YOUR CONCERN

Students at York campus have never shown great enthusiasm for politics in Canada.

The forthcoming provincial election presents an opportunity for us to demonstrate our concern for public matters. Whether we live in this particular riding of Yorkview or whether we are eligible to vote should not deter us from becoming aware of the issues. There is a group on campus actively planning to promote interest with promises of rallies and sessions with the candidates.

EXCALIBUR, in this issue, gives a brief outline of some of the issues.

We, as so-called intellectuals, are in a position to uncover the issues and be particularly aware of not only the rights of our system but also the duties.

Students are urged to start doing some serious thinking, right now. The issues are there; the questions are there. It's up to you to demand the answers.

## Stay Home Sunday Nights

The 'publish or perish' plight of university professors seems to have been replaced by the necessity to be a turned-on TV star.

Laurier LaPierre started it all, and now our own Dean of Arts and Science, John T. Saywell, has jumped on the bandwagon.

Dr. Saywell made a creditable debut last Sunday night as host of Ross McLean's latest CBC-TV public affairs gambit, 'The Way It Is'.

After the slaughter of Seven Days and Sunday, we wonder why anyone would want to take a chance on the Sunday night suicide slot.

Obviously York isn't paying the good professor enough to look after all us artsies or he wouldn't have to be out moonlighting.

Or maybe that's just the way it is in the old rat-race of the Groves of Academe.

## Who Speaks?

In the past two weeks that other university in Toronto has received very extensive coverage by the Toronto news media, on such issues as birth control information, students voting in the provincial election, and increased student power in the campus affairs.

Much of, news contained, or even centred around statements and comments by the U. of T. student president Tom Faulkner.

His comments are clear, and reflect at least the official student policy on the matters mentioned above.

The University of Toronto is making news, as any large, active body of students should, because the university has a voice--a student, representing students, to the world outside the community.

What has York got?

Who speaks for us, when we haven't got a vote for our resident students?

Who speaks for us when the public asks what we as students want?

Who is the official voice of all the students of York?

Who speaks for York?

## letter to the editor

Dear Sir:

In your article on CUS, (editorial, Sept. 22), you stated that "a more complete evaluation of CUS's worth is needed..." Yet the title of the editorial indicated that you support York's membership in this organization.

Could you please give us, the students, who are paying for our

membership, an 'evaluation of CUS's worth'? Tell us, in simple terms, just what CUS can do for us?

At the same time, can you explain why, if CUS deserves our support, so many other major universities are dropping out of the organization? If this trend continues, will CUS be able to effectively be anything but a service organization?

Yours sincerely,  
D.P. Founders III

## Excalibur

student weekly of york university  
downsview, ont.

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FLASHBACK...  
TO THE WAY IT REALLY HAPPENED:



"SURE... I KNOW WE WERE OBLIGED TO BE GOOD HOSTS... BUT \$7000 WORTH OF VODKA??"

## LATEST DEBATE LOW-DOWN

Dear Sir,

Last week's news article "Debate Debt Sparks Inquiry" was as fair and factual as could be expected, as was your editorial on the same subject.

I would like to emphasize from the beginning that I am speaking as an individual and am not mouthing Debating Society policy. As one of the founding members of the Debating Society, a past president and member of its present executive, I do, however, know more about the Great Debate than anyone other than Harry Lipskar himself.

There are two major points in your article which I feel require elaboration. The first is concerning Harry Lipskar's impeachment. In no way should the impeachment proceedings be regarded as a lynching party.

Last June several disturbing facts became apparent. There was an enormous amount of unfinished business from the Great Debate on the one hand, and on the other a public announcement from Harry that he was leaving immediately for Israel. The auditor's report, Harry's various court cases and his subsequent departure certainly added fuel to the flames, but at the same time we knew very little about anything.

The club met and decided that our affairs were in need of immediate attention which Harry obviously was no longer able to provide. In effect, the club took on the immediate and full blame collectively, and acted in several directions to ensure that the Debating Society would remain a vital and active force at the university.

We completed the affairs of the debate as best we could in the absence of adequate records, launched investigations to either dispel or substantiate the many rumors going around, and conceived an ambitious programme for the coming year. Our own investigations resulted in a number of questions, some of which remain to be answered, but no proof whatsoever that Harry Lipskar was involved in any kind of swindle.

The second point concerns the debt. If you look at this debt out of context, all you see is a big fat loss. This would imply that we got nothing for our money. However, when you consider the scale of the event, the importance of the subject, and the tremendous amount of publicity generated for York University on two continents, the size of the debt comes back into perspective.

In consideration of what was gained, the debt is not great. Furthermore, if we keep cool heads and cooperate together, we have the chance of making it all back and more. The CBC is interested in another show because of excellent critical reviews and strong audience response, and hopefully will pay more money next time. There are also very good possibilities of obtaining a sponsor for the next show. We know now where not to spend money in certain areas, and where to get more money in other areas, which adds

up to a considerable profit on the next Great Debate.

Viewed in this light, the debt is not a debt at all, but rather a deficit. We would be fools not to follow up on ground work already accomplished.

Although the university is picking up the tab for the time being, it should be remembered that this money is in the form of a loan only, and that every penny must be paid back. The Debating Society has assured the administration that this will be done, and as a token gesture has turned over the proceeds of a successful dance held on September 15. The club has approved in principle a number of profit-making schemes for the current year, and at the same time will ask students councils for increased grants. Grants will normally be used for regular club operations while earned money is used to reduce the debt.

Getting the Debating Society moving last year from its first three members up to its present influence was an enormous task. Perhaps the club's greatest trials are yet to come. However, I doubt if one member could be found who did not believe that York University is destined to become one of the top debating schools in the world within a very short time. I might add that it is also generally felt that Harry Lipskar's contribution towards this vision was monumental.

Richard Banigan  
(FIII)

## UNDEMOCRATIC TREATMENT

Dear Sir,

The way that students are shoved and herded arbitrarily into courses which they do not desire to take is appalling.

If when a student reaches the university level, he is not able to take the course he has applied for, then there is something wrong. Especially since closed-circuit television has made very large classes possible.

May I cite specifically the French Department. I personally know of students who had honors marks in high school, who were granted advance acceptance by the University of York; who wished to major in French and who were then refused admittance to the course on the basis of a five minute oral examination. This is grossly unfair criteria of judgement.

At this stage in her history Canada's universities cannot afford to turn away students who express an interest in French.

The other complaint I have concerns health insurance. At registration many freshmen were told they must take the insurance offered there. A university has no right to dictate what insurance anyone should have. Although I realize that this was not the intent it came across in this manner to many freshmen who in the excitement of registration paid for this insurance without question.

For a democratic institution York has failed miserably in these areas.

Yours sincerely,  
Dirk Verhulst  
(Glendon III)