

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 Daison's, Excalibur is published by Excalibur Publications.

News 667-3201

Advertising 667-3800

Let's aim our cannons in the same direction

They pulled back.

The members of York's faculty held a sizable assembly this week and decided to forget — for the moment, at least — the executive's earlier proposal that the teachers and librarians hold a study session during the week of March 24.

The term "study session" is a polite term for a walkout, and a walkout is a couched term for "strike", and since the York University Faculty Association is not a certified union, it has no legal right to strike.

So the study session has gone temporarily by the boards.

But only temporarily. The membership has given its negotiating committee the mandate to demand that the university sit down at the bargaining table with an arbitrator, and that the result of such bargaining be binding on both sides.

The faculty association is gambling that it has the stronger case. And it's right.

The Canadian consumer price index has risen by 12.5 per cent over the last year. Logically, that should be the cost-of-living component in the faculty's wage increase.

And there are other ingredients. There is a 3.25 per cent factor called "progress through the ranks", which is the amount of salary increase required to take a person from the junior faculty level to the professorial level upon retirement.

And there is a 2.25 "catch-up" component to make their earnings comparable to those of faculty members at other universities. That would bring their desired increase to 18 per cent.

The university has offered 13 per cent. To date, that stands as their final offer.

It would seem that binding arbitration would resolve the stand-off, although to the satisfaction of which party is unclear.

But as an uncertified body, the association can not demand that Macdonald agree to binding arbitration. If he refuses, YUFA is back to base one.

Almost. The crucial factor is the fighting spirit hinted at during Tuesday's meeting. If rebuked, the

association will probably meet again to reconsider the study session.

Macdonald could always impose a settlement. But that, to put it delicately, would be a foolish political move.

The president is nearing his first full year in office. He has many plans to shape the university. The faculty will play a large role in that shape, and he will need their support (particularly on the senate) to see the plans through.

What sort of future the relationship between the president and the faculty will have depends largely on what happens during the current negotiations.

With other large university faculties settling for increases in the area of 16 per cent, and other small faculties holding their breath while York negotiates, Ian Macdonald is sitting in an unenviable position. Where, he asks justifiably, is the money to come from to give a decent increase to the faculty — not to mention the support staff and unionized cleaners?

It all goes back to the balanced budget, the one York is trying to preserve for next year. U of T plans to run up a deficit, but York, as a less wealthy institution, is unwilling to do the same, since the prospects of paying off such a deficit in the future are gloomy.

But the face-off between the universities and the government is already a confrontation, with the Ontario government as the aggressor.

If York backs down, it runs the risk of sacrificing morale among its employees, both in the classrooms and across the campus. A penurious campus is not an entertaining prospect.

If York stands up, and defiantly runs a deficit, it runs the risk of having the government move in, foreclose and turn the campus into a bowling alley.

But what if all the universities in the province decide to pay a living wage to their employees? What if they all run up deficits?

President Macdonald meets other university presidents regularly at meetings of the Council of Ontario Universities. Surely they have grasped the fact that strong

measures are urgently required to save Ontario's schools of higher learning from the bowling-alley fate.

The tactic of running up deficits in all the universities is the only way to channel the energies of the schools to face the real opponent — the government of Ontario.

Nobody could use 20 bowling alleys, and the provincial govern-

ment knows it. Springtime, when the budgets are drawn up — and this springtime in particular, when a new government may soon be drawn up — is the logical time to consolidate our forces.

York's CUPE local has made plans for a possible strike. The relatively conservative YUFA is considering its version of such a move.

They need a sympathetic administration on their side. President Macdonald is straddling an uneasy fence, and his actions in the next couple of weeks — whether it be giving YUFA 16 or 18 per cent, refusing arbitration point blank, or imposing a settlement unsatisfactory to all — will indicate which side of the fence he is leaning toward.



"This could never happen in real life."

Elections are so much fun, betcha can't have just one

Election night on Radio York, March 13. Presidential candidate Bill Eggertson is on the air as election central host.

"Bill," jokes one correspondent phoning in, "you've just been elected president."

"Heh, heh," chuckles Bill. "Thank you. My first official act as CYSF president will be to ban certain slates from the campus."

It's been that kind of election. And now, as we near exams and summer holidays and a new school year which looks as though it might finally be guided by more than a somnambulist council, we have to sit through another election.

The figures read the way you want them to. Koornstra won by a landslide as president, eclipsing his nearest opponent by 390 votes. Clearly, he — or the man for whom he played surrogate, Dale Ritch — was the students' choice.

But 22 more students than those who wanted Koornstra, wanted a new election. So, maintains CYSF,

the students' choice was a new election.

Maybe so. But what the students voted for was not another election two weeks away, with an escape clause to allow anti-ULS presidential candidates to throw their support behind one front-running candidate.

The voters had no indication that the slip they were signing was binding. It was labelled as an opinion poll, and contained a question which, barring a small mention in Excalibur, had not been broadcast for the requisite 14 days prior to voting, as demanded by CYSF's own elections act.

The poll wasn't even official until the night of the first day of balloting, when it was rammed through the council by the dubious procedure of holding two successive meetings.

And what was the outcome of that meeting? The council — or at least what was left of it, since no quorum was counted and none was present — voted into existence a bylaw, designed to expire May 1, which

would supersede all other bylaws, laws, resolutions, acts...

Isn't this getting a bit beyond farce? Into the realm of a dictatorship?

A council president has decided just before an election to put a question on the ballot which will appeal to those voters who recognize the electoral procedures as a farce.

She has pretended to stand up for their rights by using even more farcical methods to validate the existence of the poll. She has gone a step further by making it retroactively binding. And then she has trumpeted the result as an expression of the students' will.

Almost all sides are trying to invalidate one election or the other. Thank God the majority of those councillors who made it into office — both ULS and non-ULS — appear sane, honest and imaginative enough to build the new CYSF into a constructive body while the old one slips slowly into a deep mire of incompetence and sloth.

Staff meeting today at 2 p.m.
in Room 111 Central Square

Applications are also open for a
full-time managing editor for 1975-76.

Editor-in-chief
Managing editor
News editor
Photo editor
Entertainment editor
Sports editor
Graphics
CUP editor
Opinion editor

Warren Clements
Doug Tindal
Oakland Ross
C.T. Sguassero
Agnes Kruchio
Paul Kellogg
Peter Hsu
Gord Graham
Bonnie Sandison

Staff at large — Alan Risen, Ted Mumford, Steve Hain, Bob Livingston, Ian Balfour, Shelley Rabinovitch, Julian Beltrame, Frank Giorno, Bob McBryde, Steven Brinder, Jim McCall, Anna Vaitiekunas, Dale Ritch, Paul Stuart, Marg Poste, Alan Shalon, Thomas McKerr, Greg Martin, Michael Hollett, Anne Camozzi, Ralph Ashford, Anthony Gizzie, Debbie Pekilis, Keith Nickson, Cathy Honsl, Mira Friedlander, Jeffrey Morgan, Paul Wassman, Neal Humby, Dara Levinter, Dorothy Margeson, John Mansfield, Brenda Weeks, Lorne Wasser, Tony Magistrale, David Spiro, Jim Wilson.

Business and Advertising

Jurgen Lindhorst