

Editorial

Time for OFS, CYSF to work together

In a typically abysmal showing, only 11 percent of York's eligible student body turned out for last week's OFS vote. The No campaign emerged victorious with 57 percent of the vote (a paltry 6.5 percent of the total student population), thereby maintaining York's membership in OFS. The question that now arises as this referendum fades into the historical sunset is where do we go from here?

The referendum was beneficial in that some York students now have an idea about what OFS is, does, and is supposed to do. They will be expecting to see results for their money, both from OFS and CYSF.

In the past, OFS has been nearly invisible on campus, except during referenda, although both sides can be blamed for this. In addition, the fact that OFS spends a lot of time defending its credibility by having to fight these campaigns clearly shows that there is a lack of satisfaction with OFS. Valuable time and money that should be used to present student needs to the government is wasted. In this time of budget cuts and restraint the need for a strong, united lobbying force is even more urgent.

The next few years are crucial to OFS's survival, and the question remains whether its diverse membership can effectively represent the chronic needs of Ontario's universities.

If OFS does not want another referendum next year, progress on York's specific concerns must be made. What York does not need is to have its problems confined to committees for the remainder of the decade; we need results, and quickly.

The impetus must come from within CYSF as well. CYSF has a dismal record of cooperation with OFS, but if York students are to continue paying their membership fees they deserve a return on their investment. The students of York do not need the CYSF executive sloughing off their responsibility by claiming it's too late in the year to accomplish anything through OFS.

What York needs at this point is strong leadership in OFS, a full-time researcher to delve into York's specific needs, and a strong, centralized student government. If the New Model for student government is adopted and most of the colleges are incorporated into CYSF, it will be financially possible to accommodate both OFS membership and a full-time researcher.

The voters of York have spoken, and they favor continued membership in OFS. Let's make the best of it.



Letters

Apartheid defender misinforms York

Editor:

A letter in last week's *Excalibur* refers to the demonstrators at U of T against Apartheid's ambassador as 'leftist goons.' It further suggests that "we should all be thankful that Mr. Botha's government is still in power," for the anti-apartheid movement is not intelligent!

If the author is for apartheid, I can only respond to this by paraphrasing Bishop Tutu who has stated that time and logic is on the side of the oppressed, and when the liberation process unfolds—and it will—we will remember who our friends are.

Now, the other point raised in last week's letter, i.e. the characterization of the more than 400 demonstrators at U of T as 'leftist goons.' The word 'goon' refers to a "thug or hoodlum especially one hired to break strikes, or a stupid person." The usage of this term in this context is not only in bad taste, it is inaccurate.

Present at the demonstration were members of *United Church of Canada*. A large contingent came from Toronto's *Black Community*, including two former publishers of *Contrast*, the Black community's newspaper, Mr. Jolly and Mr. Hamilton. The rest of the people came from U of T, York and other people concerned about the present situation in South Africa. Are we now to believe that all these people are 'thugs'?

Let me also remind the author of the letter that in Canada, demonstrations are legitimate forms of protest (unlike in South Africa, where people are often shot down even for going to bury their dead). The demonstration at U of T was no exception. In fact, it was organized by the Law Union of Ontario. These people are leftist goons, too?

To conclude, if the author wants to defend apartheid, as he does, at least he should have the decency not to misin-

form the York University community. The demonstrators were not 'leftist goons' as he would have us believe. These were people from diverse communities of Toronto who see apartheid for what it really is—a criminal system.

—David Himbara

Rambo Van Belkom shoots from the hip

Mr. Van Belkom:

Your recent editorial entitled, "Inter-murals Can't Compare To Varsity Athletics" presents such an insidious comparison and contrast of two integral York activities, that to ignore your diatribe would do a great injustice to York University.

Whether *Excalibur* covers "high profile" or "low profile" or for that matter "high brow" or "low brow" activities is none of my business. I am most disturbed at the liberty that you have taken to "throw the baby out with the bathwater." One bad experience by Edo Van Belkom should not be used to dismiss out of hand all the Recreation York programs. As a case in point, alcohol consumption is a major problem at York University at all levels of non-academic life. It would be extremely irresponsible to castigate a host of non-academic activities because alcohol is indirectly related to them.

Had you taken the time to watch the outstanding Men's Torch Basketball Semi-Finals between Osgoode and Bethune and the Finals between Bethune and Founders, your flippant comments regarding "talent, determination... will to win" would have been retracted with an apology.

In short, Mr. Edo Van Belkom, I think at best your comments were biased; at worst they smack of outrageously poor quality journalism. May I suggest that if you're going to write for a York University paper, you take the time to research your topic more thoroughly and not shoot from the hip in your derogatory Rambo style.

Dr. Joseph Levy
Professor and Coordinator
Recreation York

Reader agrees with Einstein

Editor:

Re: Refutation of Ridpath, Letters Column, *Excalibur* (Jan. 30, 1986).

While I agree with the thrust of Prof. Golby's objections to the pseudo-

philosophy of Objectivism (*Excalibur*, Jan. 30, 1986), I must take issue with his comments to the effect that modern physics has shown that "there is no such thing as a neutral observer or so-called 'objective reality'." I believe that there are currently of the order of 17 different interpretations of quantum mechanics not all, by any means, of the type characterised by Prof. Golby. There is certainly no consensus amongst physicists as to an interpretation of quantum mechanics. It is misleading to state, as Prof. Golby does in his letter, that "20th century physicists have proven mathematically that all observation influences what is observed." By its very nature, no amount of purely mathematical analysis could prove such an assertion.

Some Western physicists, eg. Profs. J. Wheeler and E. Wigner, do subscribe to a highly metaphysical interpretation of quantum mechanics but at least two of the most eminent of this century's physicists, among them the greatest theoretical physicist who has ever lived would disagree. Prof. M. Dirac, in his later years, commented that he could foresee the time when physicists would revert to a more deterministic type of physics in the classical tradition and Einstein wrote:

"The belief in an external world independent of the perceiving subject is the basis of all natural science. Since, however, sense perception only gives information of this external world or of 'physical reality' indirectly, we can only grasp the latter by speculative means. It follows from this that our notions of physical reality can never be final. We must always be ready to change these notions—that is to say, the axiomatic structure of physics—in order to do justice to perceived facts in the most logically perfect way." (Einstein, A., *The World As I See It*, p. 60)

Personally, I would have to agree with Einstein.

—S. Jeffers
Dept. of Physics

CYSF newsletter denigrates CCOY, belittles efforts

Editor:

It is unfortunate that Reya Ali has decided to use the "CYSF NEWS-Annual Report" as a forum for denigrating the efforts of the Constituent Councils of York (CCOY). For over 2½ years, the two BOG reps., the Chair of the Student Senator Caucus and the 14 student council leaders,

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