

More letters

"Delegates were delighted" with scholarly exhibition

May I correct the misleading impression given by your reporter (Excalibur, Feb. 26) to the effect that delegates to the 1975 conference of The Canadian Association of African

Studies were generally uninterested in the exhibition Dialogues: African Sculpture from Toronto Collections, currently on view in the Art Gallery of York University.

The contrary, in fact, was demonstrably the case. From the comments I received and from those recorded in the visitors' book for all to see, the delegates, including many

distinguished African art experts, were unanimous in their praise of the high quality of the exhibition.

In particular they paid tribute to the fine scholarship and discrimination devoted to its selection and documentation by Dr. Zdenka Volavka of York University, recognised internationally for many years as a leader in the field of African art studies.

Your reporter unhappily misrepresented a remark of mine

regretting the fact that a certain number of delegates appeared to have been unaware that the gallery would be opened specially for the final day of the conference on Saturday the 22nd.

However, those who did find us open were delighted with the exhibition, and were able to see objects of rare quality and of great interest normally inaccessible to the public.

Michael Greenwood
Curator of Art

Hits from the past

1967: Due to lack of interest, this week is cancelled. (The 1966-67 volume of Excalibur ceased publication at the end of February.)

1968: "Excalibur", a special self-parody issue of Excalibur (and also the final issue of the year) announced that Robert Stanfield will run for prime minister on a "nationalize Versafood" platform.

1969: A "democratic" search committee is established to find a successor to retiring York president Murray G. Ross. The committee consists of three board members and three faculty members.

1970: The York University staff association is formed, "to define and further the interests of the staff in York University". The main point of contention — and the primary reason for the association — is the low pay of secretaries and office staff.

"We're getting a lot less than (they are) in other institutions," says one spokesman. (YUSA received full union status last week.)

1971: Students of social science 177 threaten to boycott a final exam, since they were informed that there would not be examinations in the course when they enrolled. One faculty of arts regulation states that all first year courses must have final exams; another states that students must be informed of course requirements by November 14.

The course director sides with the students, but is over-ruled by division chairman David Hoffman.

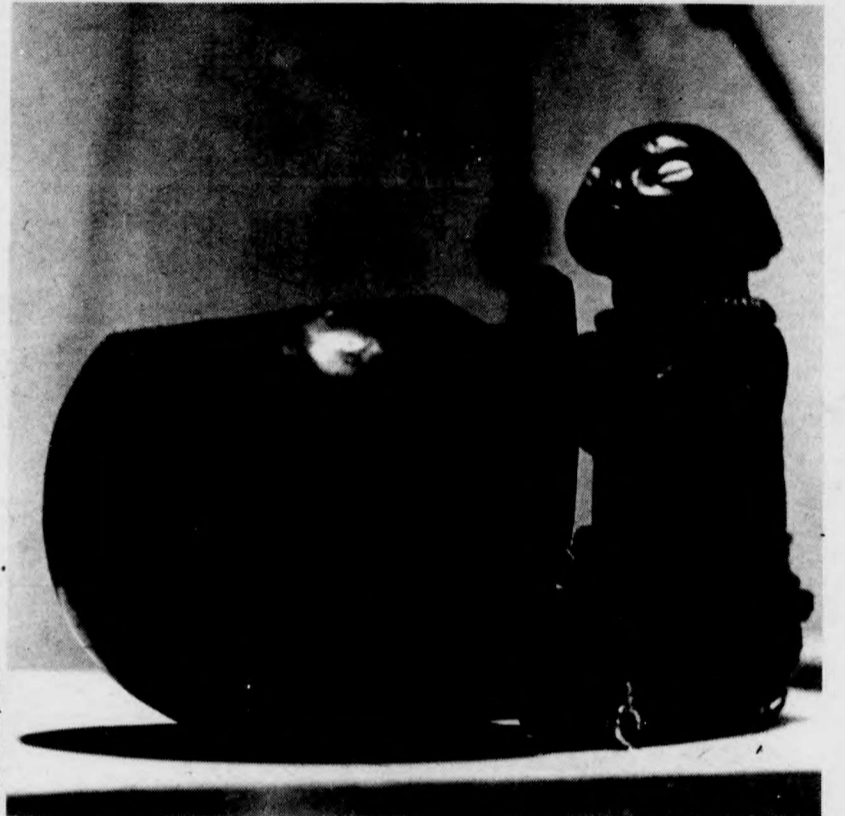
1972: CYSF president Mike Fletcher refuses to pay for winter carnival advertising in Excalibur because he feels the newspaper's news coverage of the event was inadequate. In a letter to Excalibur, he offers to pay \$198 of a \$951 advertising bill, "but I refuse to pay an advertising bill to cover events the student newspaper should be covering".

(Coverage was in fact somewhat sparse — since Fletcher had refused to issue a press pass to the Excalibur reporter assigned to cover the story.)

1973: Excalibur publishes Teufelsdröckh Concerning Women, a poem by Irving Layton, on its front page. The poem contains such lines as "Women are stupid", "Vision is strictly a man's prerogative", and "Life . . . contrived matters wisely and for the best, giving men souls and women holes".

Denunciation of the poem from all sides is immediate. Layton explains that the translation of the word "teufelsdröckh", omitted from the version published in Excalibur, is "bullshit".

1974: The largest ever CYSF presidential election consists of eight nominees competing for the title, including one who promises to give unemployed students jobs in his father's six factories. (He didn't win.)



Steve Hain photo

Kneeling female figure holding a bowl is one of the exhibits on display in the York Art Gallery until March 16, open daily except Saturday. The show of African art is drawn from private Toronto collections.

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FOR THE OFFICES OF:

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