



editorial It's October

It's October, it's raining, it's cold, our shoes will be wet until May, everyone's miserable and the exam schedule is about to be published. People have a lot of headaches, and they're cranky. Tim Horton's seems to be making its apple fritters smaller every day.

There is only one remaining holiday until Christmas and it's Halloween. Big deal. You don't even get a day off and it's all about being dead or possessed, and who wants to trick or treat anymore anyway?

The hallways are crowded, the bathrooms, always clean in the morning, end up filthy by midafternoon, and research material for essays always seems to be checked out of the library by someone else for the next two weeks.

Also depressing is the state of the world as reflected in this issue of *Excal*. Taxes are going up, Innu and women are still fighting for their rights, the first half of AIDS Awareness Week was poorly attended in spite of the crucial need for people to educate themselves about this fatal disease, and alcohol overuse remains a problem.

It's a season for "psychic psychness."

While making our way through the self-absorbed people in Central Square on Tuesday, we stopped to listen to a man who was playing the guitar and singing Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Sweet Home Alabama." He was singing with confidence while the crowds ignored him. But he lifted our spirits. The mid-October blues had not affected him and we decided to not let them get to us.

We decided to think about the nice things at York — like Joe the maintenance engineer who greets us every morning with a cheery "Hello. How are you today?" He brings us paper towels and he has a vacuum cleaner with a cute smile painted on it.

We also like the people at the Ainger at Calumet College who ran a food drive on Monday. They gave out 42 free bagels in exchange for cans and boxes of food.

Caroline Winship, the CYSF's vice-president (internal) has also made us happy for spending the whole day Monday painting the wall around the Student Centre with "Health care-vote!" in her effort to get York students to vote for the much needed health plan.

We'd also like to thank founder of the York Council on the Prevention of AIDS Ron Kelly for handing out condoms at *Excal* to promote safer sex.

So, if October is wearing you down, instead of walking around in a daze, go drink some cocoa and kick a pile of dead leaves.

And remember, February is always more depressing than October.



letters

York NDP against proposed tuition hikes

Dear Editor:

Over the past summer a proposal came out of Queen's University suggesting that tuition fees be raised by \$125 (over and above increases to cover inflation) for each of the next five years. This means that, including inflation (based at 5 per cent), first year students five years from now will pay over \$3,000 for a full course load. CYSF recently circulated a summary of this proposal to York University clubs.

We oppose this increase because it will make it more difficult for students to attend university. Most university students have low incomes and are struggling to meet tuition requirements. In general, there is a strong correlation between university degrees and high incomes, and it is clear that through higher income taxes the government regains the cost

of education. Tuition fees should be as low as possible to ensure that all qualified and interested students are able to obtain an education without enduring great economic hardship. Government loan and grant programmes are necessary but are not a substitute for making the direct costs of education inexpensive. Rules on parental wealth and the difficulty of judging costs in individual cases make government monetary assistance a blunt and, inevitably at times, unfair instrument for providing full accessibility to education. This was not to suggest that student assistance be abolished, but only that it be recognized as not the sole means of creating an education system which is accessible to all.

The Queen's report has constructive suggestions which we urge the government to imple-

ment. The report points out that real government funding per student is actually 30 per cent lower than it was in the early '70s and we feel it is important that government grants to universities be increased. There is no need, however, if the government is truly committed to accessibility, to increase tuition fees. This is a regressive step. The report suggests a one to three ratio between student and government spending increases; however, there is no iron law that Canadian students must pay for a fixed fraction of their education. Many nations have no or very low tuition fees. Low tuition fees increase accessibility and, coupled with government commitment, are an efficient way to achieve this goal.

Steering Committee
York New Democrats

Bethune President defends *Lexicon*

Dear Editor:

Although I applaud *Excalibur's* decision to cover student government issues and events, the 'Lexicon Controversy in Budget' by Mr. Wolgelerenter in his 'CYSF Scrutinized' column in the Oct. 5 issue leaves much to be desired.

I will be the first to admit that I am no expert in the field of journalism but this much I do know, good reportage does not include taking cheap shots like "we certainly wouldn't mind that kind of competition." Many have regarded the *Excalibur* and *The Lexicon* as rival newspapers. I personally do not see that because the two have vastly different journalistic slants and cater to different needs, for different groups of readers. However, even if there are serious competitors, I am sure that the marketplace of ideas and news at York is big enough to accommodate two or more newspapers.

Just so that readers are not confused by paragraphs two and four of the article, *The Lexicon* was not funded by CYSF last year; nor is it this year! Norman Bethune College Council has traditionally funded the paper and as far as I am concerned, this financial arrangement is most appropriate. Last year, over one-seventh of our

grant went towards *The Lexicon's* operations. Which is why I get perturbed when I read that "*The Lexicon* really fails in its mandate as Bethune College's paper when trying to be a central student service." What gall and chutzpah on the part of Mr. Wolgelerenter to suggest that, when Bethune Council or Board of Publications member has reckoned so.

Allow me please to suggest why *The Lexicon* has and always will be an integral part of our College. The obvious reasons are its source of funding, its location, that the editor is a member of college council and the fact that the editorial echelon of the paper will almost always be made up of Bethune students. If, in serving the Bethune community, *The Lexicon* succeeds in carving out substantial readership in the York community, I think that is a good sign and should be strongly encouraged. To be faulted and accused of "trying to be a central student service" is not only ironically ludicrous but also deeply insulting, especially when one realizes how ill-served York students have been.

I was, unfortunately, unable to be at that particular CYSF meeting but I would have responded to the McLaughlin rep's concern that "a

bad precedent" would be set by favouring "*The Lexicon* over other college papers." Denninger should be proud to be a part of an outfit (CYSF) that realizes where and how to get exposure and is not afraid to tangibly commit itself to it. This year's Executive has been politically smart, trying to garner as much support from the colleges as possible, taking up advertising space in a college newspaper is but one of the reasons why CYSF has been relatively successful this year. Also, as a result of *The Lexicon's* journalistic and advertising efforts and its remarkable ability to stretch every last dollar, other college newspapers have been heartened by it and have adopted a positive "if-they-can-do-it, we-can-do-it-too" attitude. This certainly augurs well for everybody.

Hence, the question is not how many central papers the student body can afford; but rather, how parochial and inward-looking newspapers ought to be. The single criterion, in essence, would segregate the very fine newspapers from the other mediocre ones.

Chia-Yi Chua
President
Norman Bethune
College Council

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