

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 Newsweb, Excalibur is published by Excalibur Publications under the auspices of the Council of the York Student Federation.

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United Left Slate is best of the bunch

Candidates running in next week's CYSF election have submitted their replies to Excalibur to the questions posed in last week's editorial. All students running for office were asked to explain what they felt student government should do; what their program to represent students at York would be; and what they intended to do to democratize York. Using their written answers as a base, the Excalibur staff has selected the candidates we feel would do the best job of running CYSF.

(The 500-word maximum statements written by candidates will be published in a special election issue next Tuesday.)

In general the staff felt candidates avoided answering the questions and were reluctant to propose any concrete ideas to deal with problems of education and the university in its relation to the outside community. However, since these are the candidates and there must be another student government, we now explain our choice.

We do not support Michael Mouritsen as staff members found him too conservative and unquestioning to head the student government. It is his belief that universal

accessibility is not a prime issue and he makes no bones about condemning the fee strike occupation.

Although Mouritsen's program is well thought out it is only concerned with those who have made it into university. His total concern with student "respectability" and gaining credibility with the faculty and administration blinds him to possible policies outside the status quo. And it is very possible that he would not push for measures benefiting students for fear of jeopardizing administrative relations.

Nor did the staff wish to support Robert Ashton for president. His brief was superficial bullshit hiding the fact he has no real policies.

Although Ashton is Founders college president and chairman of CYSF he has failed to demonstrate initiative or leadership capabilities in the past year.

As a final decision, Excalibur gives its reserved support to Dale Ritch. We feel we can only offer reserved support as some staff members question Ritch's ability and his approach to politics, but were swayed by his co-operation with other members of the

United Left Slate to collectively hammer out a program of action.

The ULS is made up of 14 independents, New Democrats, Wafflers and Young Socialists.

Ritch's work on campus is well known to many students. He is a hard worker who does not back down, and suggests progressive policies in CYSF meetings. He is opposed to the fee increase but has the insight to understand and broaden the base of the protest beyond the simplistic issue of a \$100 fee hike.

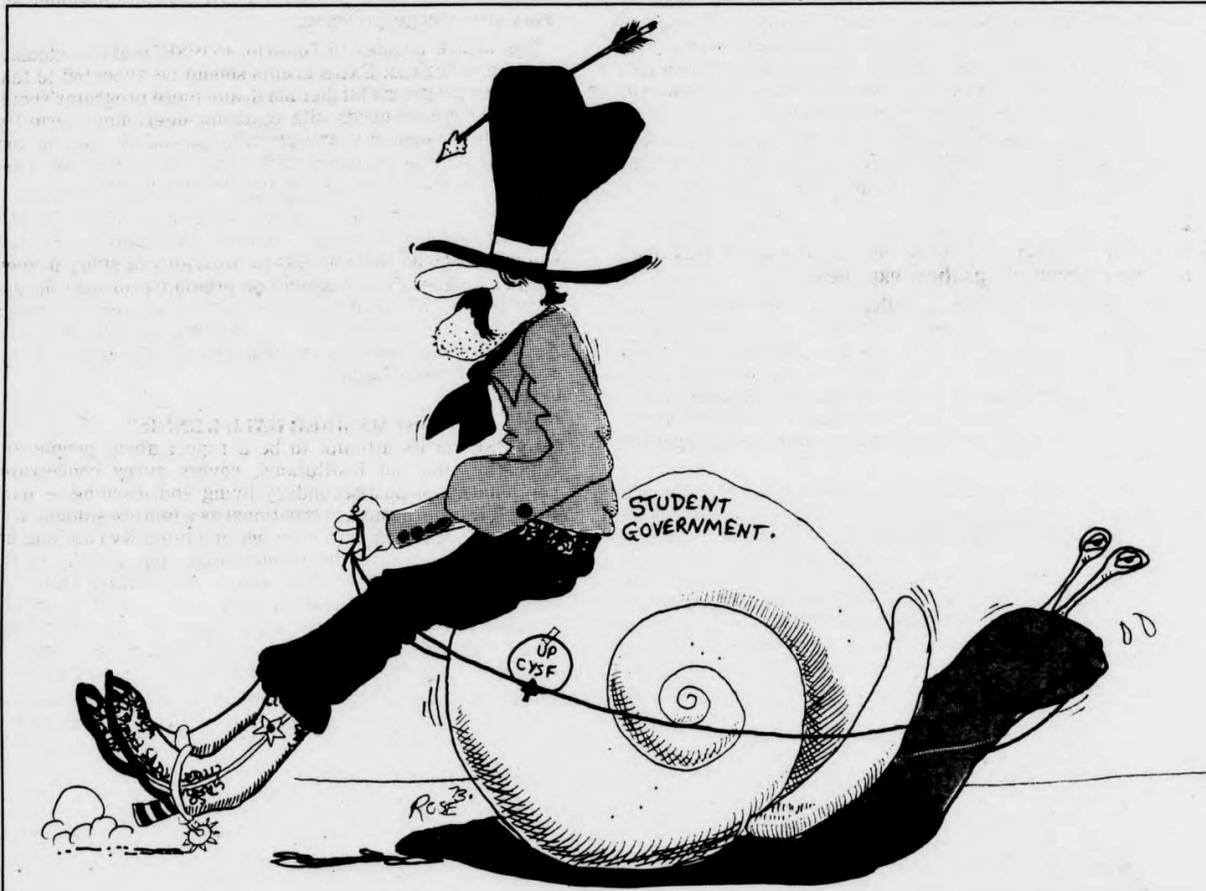
As a whole the program and issues presented by the ULS indicate a deeper awareness of the York community and the world beyond Keele and Steele than those proposed by the other candidates.

The directionless, myopic, divided student government that has hidden away in committee rooms and CYSF offices during the past year, should be the last. It is necessary to halt the petty in-fighting and get down to developing long range plans and programs.

If the ULS and its presidential candidate are able to realize their potential the result can only be a more progressive, active student government for students at York.

Excalibur supports the following left slate candidates:

Allan Radecki (Stong)
Bob Sharf (Stong)
Tom Simon (Stong)
Ray Van Eunooghe (Vanier)
Gwen Maloney (Vanier)
Theodore Kapusta (Vanier)
Greg Thomson (Winters)
Colan Inglis (Founders)
Lisa Ursa (Founders)
Abie Weisfeld (Founders)
Danny Di Felice (McLaughlin)
Antonio DiFelice (McLaughlin)
John Rocca (Calumet)
Dale Ritch (President)



Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor should be sent c/o Excalibur, Central Square, Ross Building. For reasons of space, letters should be no more than 250 words and Excalibur reserves the right to abridge letters for length. Any letter, which in the opinion of Excalibur's advisors, is libelous or slanderous, will not be printed. No unsigned letters will be printed, but the writer may ask to remain anonymous. All letters will be run — but due to limited space, they may not run the same week they are received.

Working class has contraceptives

Regarding your article, "Women's Conference A Dud," (Feb. 1, 1973), may I explain that the health education seminar was pre-determined as an abortion-focused discussion by the design of the organizers in inviting two pro-contraception workers and one anti-abortion spokes-women. I was one of the former.

The article complained that there was "no mention of how available

contraceptives were for working class women." The author must have been absent when I stated, "Other (than public school boards) community agencies have taken up the cause: family service centres give group sessions and individual counselling on family life; voluntary groups, some supported by LIP grants, have been trying to close the gap for non-students. Hospital and youth clinics give instruction in contraceptive methods The federal government has allocated some money specifically for family planning information, but it is not nearly enough. In April 1972 it was reported that there were 64 birth control clinics in Canada; Ontario had 12. Municipalities have been promised financial help — why have they lagged so badly? Here is an

area for action by citizens who believe that public funds should be used to solve a public problem."

As for abortion, I said, "Women seeking abortion have the greatest need for health education — call it counselling — for this decision. . . . Ideally such counselling should be part of a complete family planning, maternal-and-child-health-care program and should be widely available in every hospital, known to every doctor in this province, in this country. It should include all information on alternatives to pregnancy, describing medical procedures used in termination and stressing follow-up contraception.

"Here is another area for your concern as citizens. Province-wide

departments of health could establish clinics encompassing these services, offering terminations of unwanted pregnancies — a measure which would relieve the burden from city hospitals and ensure that women from distant or very poor areas would have the choice of the abortion alternative."

Our agency keeps careful records of who charges what for abortions. We are well aware of the inequities and the problems on both sides of the gynecologists' desks and are working to find better ways of meeting the needs common to most of these desperate situations.

VIRGINIA ATKINS
Councillor and Board member,
ACCRA

CYSF should not continue

The aimlessness and ineffectiveness of CYSF should not be allowed to continue.

The election of a handful of students to the Executive so that they can shuffle from committee to committee playing Robert's rules with themselves does not meet the needs of students.

The apathy and alienation felt by students is directly related to their exclusion from the decision making process. York could be a great place to invest a few years of your life if the basis of student government were changed.

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