

Editorial

This year's Student Centre initiative worthy of support in next week's referendum

On March 10 and 11 the student body at York will be presented a tremendous opportunity. For the first time a viable Student Centre plan has been drawn up for our approval. Never before has this initiative enjoyed the absolute confidence of the Administration. With a YES vote next week York will finally redress the appalling lack of student space on campus.

Perhaps statistics will demonstrate the magnitude of the existing problem and the worthiness of the solution. The space originally designed for one York student is now occupied by three. The current proposal will eliminate approximately 5,000 square feet of student space to gain 55,000 square feet in the new building. Presently, to cater to the recreational needs of 45,000 students, York pubs seat approximately 1500 people. The bar and restaurant complex, designed for the new building, will add around 600 seats to the above total. Club space, now confined to a paltry 1600 square feet, will be expanded to a healthy 10000 square feet.

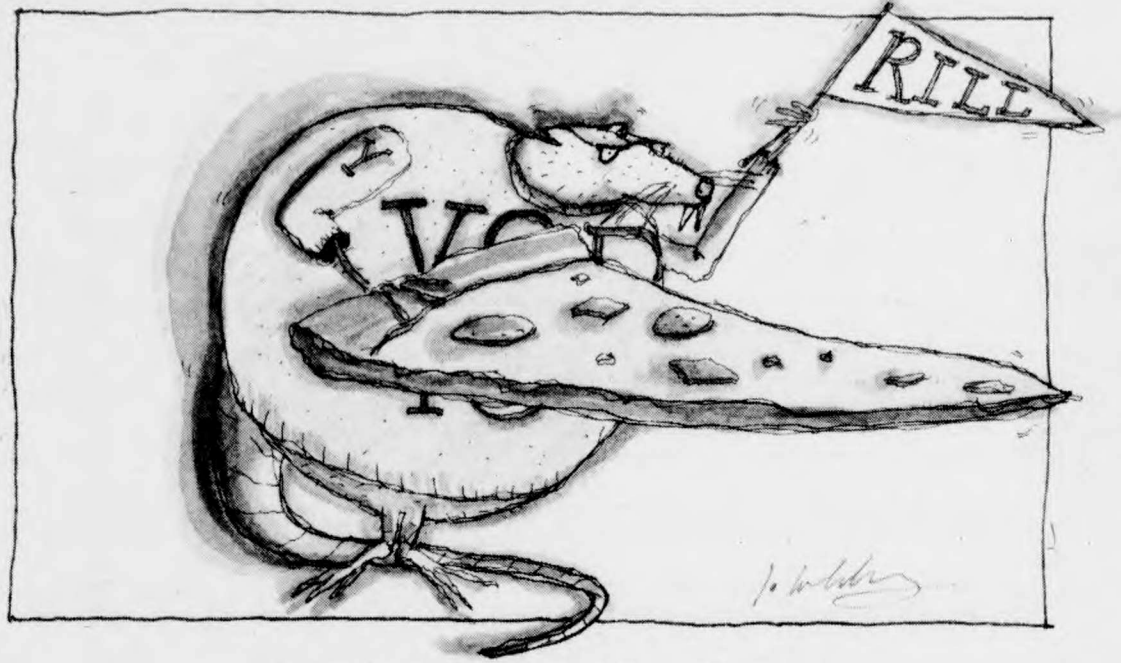
However before accepting the proposed student centre, York students should examine the fine print behind the proposal. Issues such as who will manage the new building? How much will it cost the students? Will the building be financially self sustaining?

To the merit of the current Student Centre initiators each of these issues has been satisfactorily addressed. The students have been guaranteed majority control over the centre's management board. Exhaustive studies from a variety of sources have demonstrated the financial viability of the initiative. As for the levy, when you consider the \$52.50 University of Toronto students are required to pay for the maintenance of Hart house, our payments seem modest at best. To complete the package the students have received a written promise from President Arthurs that the University will contribute three million dollars plus the land (worth about one million) towards the Student Centre.

Strengthening the credibility of the pro Centre forces is the ridiculous NO campaign being waged against the project. The NO forces are insisting that the Centre's management board be exclusively student run. Administrative input, however, will provide the Centre's board with valuable technical expertise to manage the complex. But more importantly, a completely student run board means no Administration money, no donation of land, and no co-signing of the mortgage. In other words—no Student Centre.

To expect millions of dollars from the Administration without giving it a say over its investment is ludicrous. The acronym the NO forces have chosen—PISS OFF CYSF—is perfectly representative of the shrill unsubstantiated campaign platform they have adopted.

With the large number of commuter students York has, it is time the campus provide for their needs. The Administration is behind the Centre. The majority of college councils support the idea. It is now time for the student body to demonstrate their unqualified support of the plan.



YORK'S SOLE PRO-RILL FACTION.

Letters

Student input request just PR

Editor:

I think that the YUDC should be renamed the DCYU, the 'Development Corporation in York University' as that name more accurately reflects the loyalty of the Development Corporation. The discussions that Greg Spearn had with me through the pages of *Excalibur* was an act of public relations as obviously that plan had been developed months ago. To go through the motions of a discussion in *Excalibur*, as if student input was valuable, is misleading as that plan would take months of discussion by architects, urban planners, etc. so that whatever input a student may have or may have had is not reflected in that plan.

The survey of students also presented last week, if read carefully, will show that what students felt might be an acceptable use of York lands is not actually reflected in the plan. Students should have seen the plan first and then be allowed to comment on the survey's questionnaire. For example, students requested that the lands be used to house art galleries and museums. There was no allotment for this in the final plan as the YUDC well knows that these land uses do not produce a large revenue. Nor would students have been please to know a large road artery will bisect the campus. Instead of bringing us together, it will divide us.

I wonder how the Environmental Science students and faculty feel about the development so close to their unspoiled green spaces. Personally I wonder why Greg Spearn bothered with the pretense of a 'fair' argument in the *Excalibur*, discussing the "enhancement" or "cleaning up" of the ravine area I have been concerned about. For he knew very well that the plan had called for the extension of the Murray Ross Parkway directly through the area I was concerned about. Nor has Mr. Spearn ever addressed how the atmosphere and safety of York will change because of the massive development all over York property. How many students realized that the development was not just confined to the 20-25 acres in the south-west corner of campus.

Actually I think the students of York University should feel lucky that the YUDC/DCYU has left some land and buildings on campus for students. My goodness, what a radical thought that university lands and buildings should go to academic uses! I'm sure that won't bother the YUDC, nor the Board of Governors as they don't live on campus and

York does not represent anything more to them than a job. They will not personally be exposed to the problems the development on campus will cause.

Judith Fraser

Safer Sex group clarifies mandate

Editor:

I am writing in response to Kevin Marshall's letter "Condom Day attitudes attacked" (*Excalibur*, February 26). I feel that it is important to clarify possible misperceptions concerning the mandate of our committee.

The committee is certainly very aware of the seriousness of the health crisis posed by AIDS. As a matter of fact, it was this awareness which led us to form the committee. Our mandate is, in brief, to raise awareness of safer sex practices and to encourage people who are engaging, or will engage in sexual activities, to lower their personal risk of encountering the viruses associated with AIDS as well as other Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

We felt that fear is used in too many campaigns as a lever to promote safer sex, the Do-It-Right-Or-Else-You'll-Die campaigns, as an example. We feel that safer sex practices can be better and more effectively promoted by making people aware that the safety factor doesn't have to be a serious and heavy issue which can ruin the moment, but that sex can be safer and fun, simply by taking a few precautions and by avoiding certain acts.

At a time when the media is spreading hysteria by turning the facts and figures concerning AIDS into 'media-hype', we feel that dressing up as Captain Condom may have helped to ease some stress over confronting the issue personally, as well as giving people a laugh during an otherwise mundane Friday afternoon.

I applaud and thank *Excalibur* for its contribution to making Condom Day the overwhelming success that it was. Our goals and expectations were far exceeded as all one thousand condoms were distributed within two and a half hours, and over a thousand pieces of safer sex literature were collected by passers-by over the course of the day.

I feel that Mr. Marshall's letter is yet another indication of our success in raising the issue to the point where people are actively thinking about it. As we continue planning our upcoming poster campaign, I would like to invite Mr. Marshall and anyone else who has constructive criticism or suggestions to contact us through CYSF (105 Central Square).

In the meantime, please be aware that this "... tiny segment of the York student body" is profoundly concerned about the health and well-being of the rest of the student body.

William Pritchard

Committee for Safer Sex Awareness
Lesbian and Gay Alliance at York

New chapter added to Keobke outrage

Editor:

Concerning Ken Keobke's response to my letter in the February 26th issue of *Excalibur*. For starters: I did not appreciate your twisted versions of the wording in my first letter. It seems to me that my assertion that you, in the role of critic, made some "ignorant statements" is very different from "claiming that the public is ignorant" as you imply I had written. Furthermore I don't recall mentioning a "budding Picasso" whom your criticism would discourage.

However, I did write that your review would probably serve to discourage students from taking part in such an activity in the future. Perhaps I am not cynical enough but it would seem to me that the main role of this festival was an attempt to stimulate student involvement within can only strengthen both the individual and his work as well as the department. It is as though you look at the artworks as pre-existent objects, without considering the activity of producing the works as a valuable and enriching activity in itself, regardless of whether or not the student stands any chance of budding into an artist of Picasso's stature.

Furthermore, is it to be assumed that there is no mediocre work produced in other departments? Or is it only because the students of the Visual Arts Department have been willing to display their work in an open and non-biased manner that you have been able to find works which you regard as sub-standard? Your idea that a student be present in the gallery is worth considering and was indeed constructive. However I shall stand by my statement that you were unperceptive in not noticing that this was an un-injured show, as this was on the same banner from which you pulled "The Dean Sends Her Best." "Insensitive" . . . you missed at least one aspect of your review to which this term was addressed. You overlooked and continue to overlook the efforts put forth by organizers and those who put up the show. If you would like a new term to scrutinize, try "superficial."

Now to return to my own work. Because of inadequate labelling I

cont'd on p. 9

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	(... and Bobby Flagal as The Beaver)
	(We hope you've enjoyed Blonde Bombshells of the '50s and Product Mascots; Next Week: Danny Kaye Characters & Super Hero Alter Egos)

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