

# editorial

All I know is what  
I read in the papers.  
—Will Rogers

## CRO a busybody

Radio York has been shafted. The struggling CYSF-owned campus station needs money, and had planned to hold a referendum in today's CYSF elections, to see if students would agree to contributing \$2 of their academic fees to the station.

Unfortunately, the Chief Returning Officer in today's election seems dead set against it.

CRO James Crossland seems to think that with his position comes the power to dictate general CYSF policy to council-owned organization. In fact, the by-laws give the CRO the right to administer all aspects of CYSF elections, but do not say he can oversee the entire operation of Council.

Several weeks ago, Crossland determined that CYSF hadn't notified him in time—personally—that Radio York was planning to hold the referendum, although the announcement was made publicly. A technicality, we think.

Now Crossland is trying to prevent the station from conducting its own independent referendum on the same day as CYSF elections.

He's overstepping his boundaries. Since CYSF owns the station, it's up to them, not Crossland, to tell Radio York not to hold a referendum. By his actions, Crossland is taking on a role that only elected student leaders have been given mandate to play.

We understand Crossland's concern that students might be a tad concerned when they see a Radio York polling booth set up on the same day as CYSF elections. But surely most students have the intelligence to figure out the reality.

The CRO has a responsibility to run a clean, quiet election. Certainly, after last year's fiasco, Council needs one. But when he tries to tell an organization that they can't ask students if they support their request for money—and that's all it is, a survey of support—then the scales tip in the opposite direction. The only way Radio York (or any other campus organization, whether or not affiliated with the CYSF) could be stopped from holding their referendum would be if either the University did not allow it, or an elected CYSF officer told them not to hold it.

We hope Radio York goes ahead with its referendum anyway.



WEHRLE '84  
EXCALIBUR

## letters

Excalibur attempts to print as many letters as space allows. Please be brief—letters over 250 words are subject to editing for length. All letters must include the author's name, address, and phone number for verification purposes. Pseudonyms may be used upon request.

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### Army's not so bad

Editor:

Re: Drew Burgess' letter "Army Recruitment Coerces Students," (Mar. 1 issue).

How does a secure education, income and future job undermine students studying in their own field? The ad says "a degree program," not "a certain degree program." Rather than blackmail students, the military offers a viable alternative to unemployment lines. Remember, this is a free country—no one is forced to join anything here.

Also, the free enterprise system operates here. It is logical for people to make what they're selling seem as attractive as possible. But in the end we make the choice. What's so terrible about Canada's armed forces anyway?

—Neil Gunner

### Vows to join Rhinos

Editor:

I really think that the OPCCA has hit on something. I mean, their *Blue Wave* newsletter is good. I've had more laughs over its past two issues than I've had since the last *Blue Wave* tossed Joe Clark off his board at the Tory leadership in beautiful balmy Winnipeg.

Yes, indeed *Blue Wave* gives us every indication of what youthful Campus Conservatives can do when they put their alleged minds to work. Consider this little gem:

"I am glad I am a Canadian  
I am glad I am free  
But I wish I was a dog  
And Pierre Trudeau was a tree"

This is really funny stuff. But what's funnier though is that one Mike Orr, Mr. Funding on Merit himself, is willing to saddle his fellow young Conservatives with the unlikely burden of footing the bill for my education. Sounds good to

me, Mike; where do I sign?

But seriously though, you guys make me sick. Randall B., instead of closing his President's Message with "Truly, I Remain, Randy," should have written, "Truly, I Remain, Narrowminded, Reactionary, Immature, and Misguided."

Next election I'll pass on *The Blue Wave* and hang-ten with The Rhinos.

—Dave Moore

### Candidate no Nazi

Editor:

On Thursday 9 March 1984, during the CYSF candidates' open forum, it was reported that an individual presumably linked to a Nazi organization, was distributing presidential candidate Alex Riha's pamphlets. I am outraged to learn that subsequent allegations have been made associating the above candidate with a Nazi sympathizer. We are totally unaware that such an individual or group existed on campus.

Furthermore, the accusation is ludicrous considering the fact that Mr. Riha's grandfather was murdered by Nazi soldiers in Poland, 1944 (documents can be provided to substantiate the above statement).

Please note that we are considering a law suit against any individual, group, association, or newspaper found making such slanderous accusations. We are presently carrying out an investigation to clarify the matter.

For further information please contact Mr. Riha at 622-5595.

—Sandro Cirone

(Campaign Secretary)

Alex Riha  
(Presidential Candidate)

### Avoid gas explosions

Editor:

Nutrition in Excal—EXCALORIC!  
Your March 8 coverage of the cooking/eating habits of York Administra-

tion and faculty members was a real winner! If York students cut out the recipes, memorize the instructions and eat them, they will probably get better nutritious value than if they took the time to prepare any of these "faculty dishes."

Indeed, after eating all those beans and 4 lbs of sugar in the marmalade we'd probably find an epidemic of gas explosions in Toronto's dental offices!

Best bet for York students: Stick to Ian Macdonald's diet: MACEGGS—slightly runny with a touch of salt and pepper to taste!

—Name withheld by request

### Reviewer 'immature'

Editor:

Michael Ondaatje, reviewing Daphne Marlatt's recent poetry, offered this critical praise: "Mint . . . to be held between the teeth." Marlatt's work is both imagistically and conceptually multi-layered, work which a lesser critic may have dismissed as "inexplicable" or "confusing," or worse, "pandering to an elite sensibility." Simply put, poetry is not journalism. It stems from the richness of language and is not a distillate of fact. Reviewer Kevin Connolly belies these weaknesses of the immature critic: his impulse to rank the contents of *Existere* in order of accessibility is superficially qualified by his mistaken belief that accessibility is the recognizable difference between "pretense and poetry." The degree to which a given work may be self-conscious or allusive is not grounds for its dismissal as "flawed" or "failed" writing—it is a descriptive taxonomy of style, on which the critic can base judgements of consistency or integrity within a given piece. Although it was encouraging to see your newspaper allot time and space to *Existere*, the quality and mode of Connolly's criticism discredits its validity.

—margaret christakos (sic)

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