

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.

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Budget is mismanaged

The finance committee was a body established by the central student council to review the council's proposed budget, and to suggest changes therein.

While in practice little more than a rubber stamp (all its actions were subject to subsequent council approval) the finance committee did have the responsibility for drawing up criteria for the allotment of \$2,500 out of a total budget close to \$100,000, for York clubs.

The criteria were basically valid: no religious or political groups, membership open to all York students, no purchase or maintenance of equipment, no money to go off-campus, and so on.

The trouble, as Stong representative Bill Osmars pointed out, was that the finance committee disregarded its own criteria in distributing the funds.

The most flagrant breach occurred in the funding of the York Pro-Life group, an anti-abortion lobby which most certainly falls under the heading of "political organization."

While the allocation was a minimal \$15, the point was made that groups favouring abortion such as the Young Socialists were denied funds on political grounds.

The criteria were justified in expelling all political groups from funding. If membership in the clubs is to be campus-wide, the clubs must not force members to subscribe to a pre-set political creed.

But to make the criteria at all meaningful, the ban on funding must apply to all political persuasions. Students opposed to a group opposed to abortion should not be forced to see Pro-Life posters paid for with the students' own money.

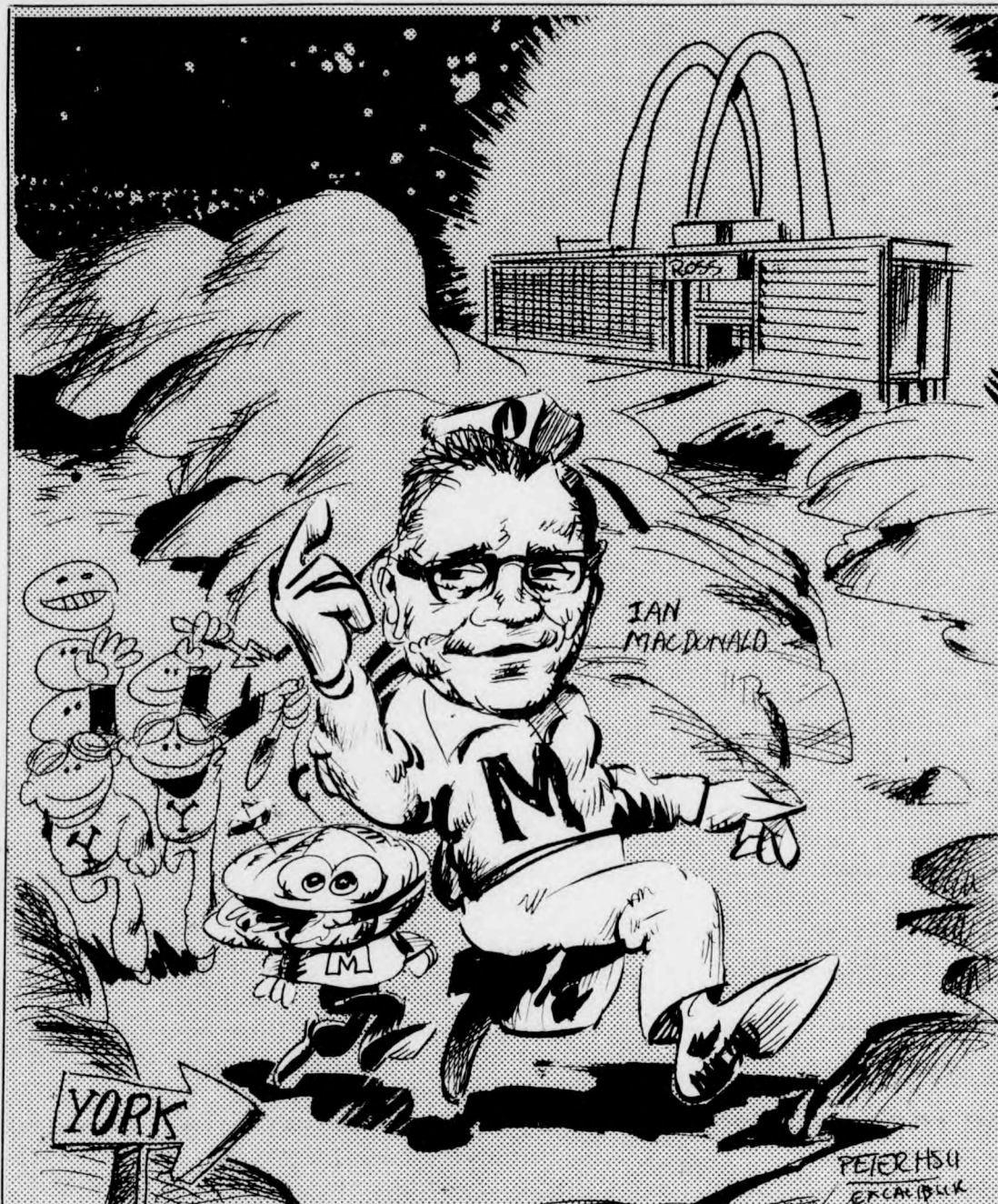
The same point was raised in connection with the Black People's Movement; the word "movement" is automatically identified with a political goal, since most movements are moving towards an end. Should students unsympathetic toward the political biases of such a movement be required to contribute? (This particular group received \$500).

Along the same line, the Red and White Society received \$135 for maintenance and repairs, despite a criterion dismissing such costs. And the York Tenants' Association received \$50 for "seeds and expenses for a garden."

One might ask whether these exceptions slipped by the finance committee, or whether the committee itself was slightly confused by its own criteria.

We ask this, since CYSF has budgeted \$2,800 for free duplicating for clubs, while the finance committee has given out \$330 for the same purpose. A slight case of muddled communications?

And when we get that straightened out, we might ask why only \$2,500 of a \$90,000-odd budget winds up in the hands of student clubs.



New president may be palatable

At last York has a new president. People must not poke fun at H. Ian Macdonald just because his name and that of a well-known fast-food chain are similar.

"Big Mac" will serve us well in his new roll. People who relish poking fun at him will eventually find themselves in a pickle. York has already had an ample turnover in the presidential office.

Macdonald, who does not mince words, will beef up the York administration. It's a rare

man who will see a job through to the end and make sure it's well-done. Ian Macdonald appears to be such a man.

He was clearly the favourite of the Board of Governors from the outset. The other candidates just could not ketchup.

York's middle-level administrators better be worried because, from his record, Macdonald can be expected to pull the university's rancid finances out of the deep-fry in short order.

UFW boycott is alive

Kraft Foods, Dare Cookies, Angolan coffee, South African wines—there are so many worthy boycotts supporting so many struggling people that at times we can't help but feel our efforts are scattered and virtually ineffective. But in at least one boycott we have the opportunity to participate directly and ensure success.

The United Farm Workers are in Toronto seeking support for their boycott of California grapes and lettuce. Under U.S. law, farm labourers are not allowed to vote for the union of their choice. Yet the organization of Cesar Chavez has gained so much support over the last several years that the growers began to fear for the continued existence of their excessive profits.

Thus to offset the UFW the Teamsters Union was brought in to represent the farm workers—without the consent of those workers. And so to protect the gains they made in the contract they managed to sign in 1970, the UFW has been forced to renew its boycott.

Cesar Chavez is not a wild-eyed radical screaming threats of senseless violence. He is rather a humble man, a man dedicated to obtaining justice for his people, a man with a vision—in short, a quiet radical.

We can work directly to help Chavez and the UFW, not simply by boycotting grapes and lettuce but also by manning the picket lines and convincing the chain stores to clear their shelves.

Anthony Gizzie

Impeach Mouritsen movement proves Vanier rep. irresponsible

When the editor offered me the opportunity to write for Excalibur, I pledged that I would never use any article to openly criticize anyone without also offering constructive advice. This, I believe, is the golden rule of responsible journalism. However, it seems that this rule does not extend into the office of every editor. The case in question being the November edition of the Vanier College paper, the Vandoo.

On page one, of an otherwise decent paper, was printed the most flagrant piece of editorial abuse I had seen since the last issue of the Vandoo. Titled 'Reply', this article demonstrated CYSF representative Theodor Kapusta's nerve, audacity and incapability to be a member of student government. His call for the impeachment of Michael Mouritsen, as we shall see, was an entirely irresponsible act.

I'm not going to waste my time relating all this article stated. But, I will repeat the essence of the piece which, I feel, stands out as the perfect example of a typical student politician's attitude towards his constituents and fellow colleagues.

Kapusta remarks: "Personally I maintain

that the chief problem with the council is with Mr. Mouritsen, who has continually ignored the opinions of certain members of council as well as that of the student body at large."

First, how can any member of CYSF say that the main problem lies with the president? Any cretin realizes that the power of student government lies with the council.

Rather than questioning the ability of the president Kapusta should first glance at CYSF inept record. Michael Mouritsen is only one member of many on this council.

Second, considering this is the most apathetic student body in Canada, I wonder where Kapusta derived the opinion from the student body at large? I'm sure all three of these people were listened to and looked after.

To continue Theodor's quip: "I feel that he has lost touch with the feelings on campus and is committed to a programme which can only be ended in one way, total and complete collapse of the York Student Federation."

Considering that the feeling on campus is

one of non-involvement and boredom, maybe losing touch with it would not be such a bad idea. Besides, the very structures of CYSF and the colleges will collapse without anyone's help. The student politicians at York have seen to that.

Kapusta closes by commenting, "I would like to state that the first step in improving the CYSF is to impeach the president and elect someone who deserves to be paid that \$5,000 salary."

Well, I'm sorry to say this Theodor, but only a fool would make such a statement and expect people to believe it. Personally, I think you've been watching too much Walter Cronkite lately.

Michael Mouritsen is only as good as CYSF. If they cannot legislate control over the president, then each and every member has an obligation to tender his or her resignation. Now that Kapusta's article has convinced me such a condition exists, I call for his resignation and all those who agree with him. Maybe then a responsible, working student government could develop. We at York do not need elected critics but constructive workers.

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