

# 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 Daison's, Excalibur is published by Excalibur Publications.

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## Laissez-faire airwaves beat slick campus muzak

It should come as little surprise to learn that Radio York is undergoing a power struggle.

Most organizations eventually find themselves faced with diverging policies; the business world solves the crisis with a proxy fight or a takeover; the political world uses an election or a coup.

Radio York staff members go to the polls tomorrow to elect a station manager, and their decision is between a policy of professionalism and one of laissez-faire. The slick or the slack.

At first glance, the professional approach might seem the wiser. One would, after all, be fairly confident that the airwaves wouldn't lapse into 10 minutes of dead air, or be privy to a nocturnal mystic's mindless ramblings.

But unfortunately, the professional gloss which current station manager Scott Marwood hopes to achieve would sacrifice most of the interest, excitement and sense of discovery which a campus radio network can offer.

The situation at the radio station now is one of almost authoritarian rule, with terms such as 'tribunal' being bandied about. A disc jockey who doesn't fit the management's concept of a professional announcer is taken off the air and, if he wishes, "re-trained".

The verb is frighteningly similar to "re-programmed", and one wonders how far this concept of robot radio can be carried. How professional can a student radio station expect to become without growing distant from the very students that work on it?

A student radio station, like a student newspaper or a student political body, is not only a training ground for future careers, but an end in itself. It is an outlet for experimentation, for creative dabbling in areas where the stakes are not as high as in truly professional circles.

A certain amount of professionalism is obviously necessary. Tapes have to roll, cues have to be picked up, and executive members have to stick around to make sure everything is running smoothly.

But that is a far cry from invigilators monitoring individual programmes, executives asking announcers to write down their spontaneous remarks ahead of time on a cue sheet, and the manager of the station assuming that he can disregard votes taken

at a general meeting on the ground that he knows that is best for the radio operation.

Laissez-faire radio also has its shortcomings. Boring and witless announcers may put Roxy Music on one turntable and Frank Sinatra on the other and run the two together. Programme ideas which seemed fine at their inception may turn out to be almost embarrassingly bad.

But if it works — and station manager candidate Homily along with others, thinks it can — then it can produce a vital and stimulating alternative to much of the other radio programming available in Toronto.

We urge the station members to consider the alternative when they vote tomorrow, and to elect Homily in an effort to nip the over-professional slickness in the

bud and restore some vestige of staff democracy to what is, in the end, a radio station for the students, run by the students.

Staff meeting  
2 p.m. today  
Room 111  
Central Square  
Everyone welcome.

★ ★ ★

Nominations and  
election of  
an opinion editor  
will be held

## Academic penalty wrong for non-academic offense

York giveth, and York taketh away.

For \$1,800 in tuition and three years of mental labour, you can earn yourself a bachelor's degree. But for failing to pay \$25 in library fines, the university can now refuse to give it to you.

That decision was made last Thursday by the university senate, and it met with very little opposition from any quarter. According to senate library committee chairman Anthony Hopkins, the move was necessary in order to ease the financial and administrative problems of the library.

No one would deny that the library has problems. But the imposition of penalties which in no way fit the crime and which affect one sector of the community while ignoring another, is a poor answer to those problems.

Not returning a book to the library on time is not an academic offense like plagiarism or cheating on an exam. Why, then, has the senate decided to control it by imposing an academic penalty?

The buildings of this university are filled with professors' offices filled in turn with bookshelves filled with library books which are not just overdue but long forgotten. Why are faculty members who steal from the library treated so gently?

The answer to both these

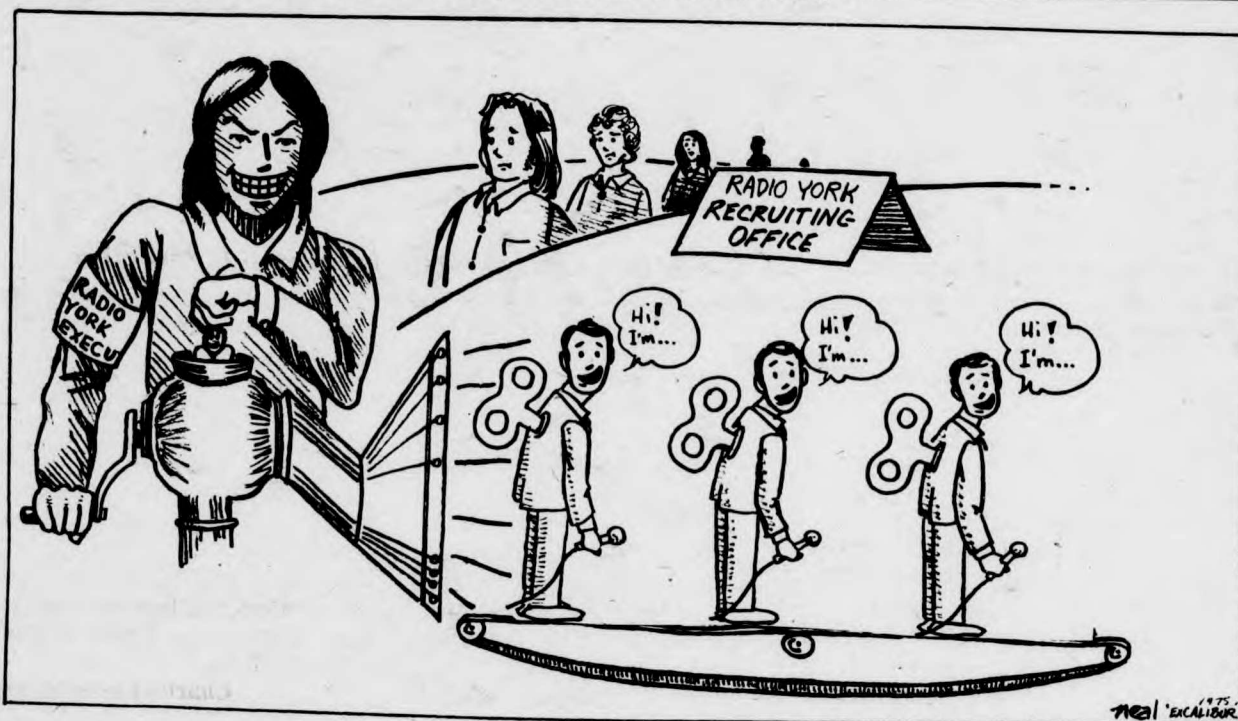
questions is painfully evident from the attitude of the senate student caucus toward last week's senate decision.

Of 14 student senators, only eight bothered to attend the meeting. Only two of these opposed the decision. The students who supported the decision did so, with the assurance that "any student who uses the library properly doesn't have to worry about it".

Maybe they've forgotten that a lot of faculty members who use the library improperly don't have to worry about it, either. And maybe they've forgotten that, under the new recommendation, a lost book will cost the borrower a flat \$35. Even the most diligent among us can lose a book.

Since senate meetings are rarely attended by more than 75 or 80 of the 150 members, the 15-man student caucus represents a potentially significant power block. With a little industry and a little concern, it should be able to guide senate through a reconsideration and revocation of its latest blunder.

And, in passing, perhaps it isn't asking too much of those student senators who habitually miss senate meetings to summon the minimal energy required to submit their resignations.



## Harbinger's column

### Self-help in women's health care

This column is one of a weekly series written by the staff of Harbinger Community Services (214 Vanier Residence, 667-3509 / 3632)

"Now just slip your pants off, lie down, and put this sheet over your tummy - the doctor will be with you in a minute..."

This is the first line in a scene in which every woman at some point in her life plays the supporting role. Some of the props include stirrups to rest her feet on, a metal speculum with which to see her "insides", and an examination table on which to comfortably answer questions, flat on her back with her legs wide open.

This seems like a strange position to talk to a stranger in, but it is one which millions of women take for granted when going to see their doctor about a "problem", anything ranging from pregnancy, and abnormal discharge, pains in the abdomen, to that much talked-about necessity, the "pap smear".

Any woman who has been a patient knows the feelings of tension, isolation, and total lack of power over her own body when a doctor silently inserts foreign objects or fingers into an orifice, probes around, and then proceeds to write out a prescription, telling her to "take these pills and come back next week".

There may be questions she wanted to ask, or more information on what was happening to her body, but she thought he was really busy, and he said not to worry anyway, right? And besides, she's coming back next week, so she can talk to him about it then...

The problem with this "scene" is that it's real. Not only are women of child-bearing age the major con-

sumers of health care, they possess genitals which cannot be seen without a mirror, breasts which are sometimes surgically removed without just cause, "insides" which are as unknown to them as they are to most men, and reproductive organs which need attention from that first "it's three days late!" terror, on into womanhood.

The list is endless, but many women are now beginning to take a long hard look at each other, at the problems and at some of the solutions. One major aspect of this experience is the growing number of women's "self-help groups", which we at Harbinger will now be sponsoring twice a week, organized by women, for women.

What's a self-help group? It is women coming together to talk to each other about themselves, their experiences, getting to know their own bodies and learning how to examine themselves, to detect problems before or as they arise, such as vaginal disorders, pregnancy, unusual sores or lumps to learn just what to ask for from their doctors, and what to expect, so that those many "unanswered" questions get asked!

It is an experience which Harbinger feels is needed for women at York, and one which a lot of women have expressed excitement and support for.

The groups will be held on Wednesdays at 12 noon, and on Thursdays, at 6:30 p.m. in Harbinger, which is located in the Vanier Residence, Room 214 (down the hall from Health Services).

If you have any questions, please give us a call at 667-3509/3632 or drop in, and we'll give you your own speculum!

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