

EDITORIAL

Vote or vegetate

Are you going to vote on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday?

I don't care if you vote YES or NO. I just want to know if you're going to vote.

It's probably a good idea unless you're planning to keep your mouth shut for the rest of the year.

You see, when ole' York gets up on Friday morning, we'll either become an integral part of a larger student movement or we'll still be isolated up here in the heart of nothing — lovely North York.

Here's a reality check. Lobby groups are in vogue these days.

I'm not sure if it's just because they come with custom designer labels or because they are truly efficacious, but politicians have come to expect pressure from special interest groups (like university students). Governments listen to large groups more than they do to individual people.

Everybody's doing the lobby. Maybe we oughta try it as well.

Consolidating power is always a worthy goal. Having every university and college belong to a central democratic organization is both noble and practical.

OFS and CFS are not the best thing going, but they are going, and that's more than we have now here at York.

If we take the Davey and Goliath story, we can cast the students and government in the lead roles. If students are helpless, then they need to pick up a sling close at hand (their student government), arm themselves with a couple of far-reaching projectiles (something like OFS or CFS, perhaps?) and aim right for the forehead (Minister of Colleges and Universities).

If you're a little guy, you gotta team up with other little guys to deal with big daddy. If that paternal figure happens to be a government which has learned to push through its agenda, stopping only to listen to pressure groups (and we know how many thousands exist), then you need to yell very loudly. In fact, you need a megaphone.

OFS is the megaphone for Ontario. CFS is the PA system for the country. Sometimes the wiring breaks down, but people know it's there. End of analogy.

Whether it's token participation or not, provincial and national governments go to the OFS and CFS to get the student perspective about their policies and, of course, to make the whole democratic process look good.

Speaking about democracy, you'll notice that this issue of *Excalibur* is running a two page pro-con analysis on the referendum. For those of you who have been grumbling about the lack of a balanced perspective on this subject, we've brought you the YES side vs. the NO side in a head-to-head debate.

Read it before you vote.

The decision to accept or reject OFS and CFS shouldn't come from 10 or 20 or even 25 per cent of the students. We should have a YES or NO verdict made by a majority of the student population, not just a few eager beavers or a couple of sour grapes. That's right, I'm appealing to you: that large, apathetic portion of people on campus who are too busy to participate in important decisions, but feel justified in complaining about them later.

If you don't vote on Tuesday or Wednesday, you don't give a damn. And if you don't give a damn, that's fine.

I just don't want to hear any moaning later this year about the results of the referendum.

ACTIVISM or APATHY.

Put up or shut up!



LETTERS

Excalibur welcomes letters to the editor on all topics. We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 500 words in length. They must be typed, double spaced, and accompanied by the writer's name, signature and telephone number. The opinions expressed belong to the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of *Excalibur* staff or directors. However, letters judged to be racist, sexist or libellous by the editor will be refused. All material is subject to editing. All submissions must be addressed to the Editor-in-chief, Room 111, Central Square.

3 cheers for Pete

To the editor.

Three cheers for *Excalibur* editor Peter Stathis.

It is, to say the least, refreshing and encouraging to see some objective thought on the OFS/CFS referendum.

There has been a dire lack of objectivity on the part of YFS. Instead of acting as a student representative body, they have unilaterally decided what is best for York students.

As a result of a highly slick campaign on the part of YFS/OFS/CFS, the students of York are being fed a single perspective. This is more befitting of the federal Conservatives and the G.S.T.

To answer one of the questions raised in the Oct. 17 editorial, NO, we are not going to be able to make a truly informed decision at the referendum ballot box. I strongly agree with Mr. Stathis' statement that, "our student representatives have overridden the democratic process."

In the interests of making an informed decision, I urge the students of York to go to YFS and ask to see the *External Affairs Committee Report on The Ontario Federation of Students and its Relationship to the Council of the York Student Federation*. YFS might even consider posting for students to see.

As well S.A.C. Vice-President for External Affairs (UofT) Tom Brown released a report after UofT's one year trial membership. It too makes very informative reading. (As a side note, after UofT students had their one year trial to evaluate OFS they voted

themselves out and have remained out since 1989).

Before voting, ask yourself, ask others, ask YFS what a provincial lobbying organization will really do about line-ups and the price of parking here at York? Ask, while CFS may provide services such as SWAP, Travel Cuts, ISIC cards and so on, what services does OFS provide? Ask what universities don't belong to the OFS and why? Ask what York students have received for the over \$450,000 they have already given to OFS? Ask how much money (student money) is spent on salaries and how much is spent on campaigns (I assure you this one will really shock you).

Before voting to spend yours and other students' money, please BE INFORMED!

Dwight Daigneault
former CYSF External Affairs
Commissioner

No respect for Debord

To the editor

Apologies are in order to Mr. Guy Debord for your misuse of the title of his book *Society of the Spectacle* as a subtitle in your article on the "Die-in at Marriot."

The phrase induced me to pick up the paper, expecting to read a Situationist analysis of the situation (for lack of a better word).

I was truly disappointed to find nothing of the kind: no respect at all for the subjectivity of Mr. Ron Kelly and PLWA's as against the totalitarian management of Marriot. No recognition of the die-in as an attempt to realize art and reconstruct everyday life — as an attempt to Smash the Spectacle.

And that was indeed what it was. In beautiful proportion. Death in the kitchen. An interruption of Lunch. Brilliant chalklines on the floor. People festively chanting for life as against mere subsistence and death. Eminently justified and justifiable. Ethically and aesthetically correct.

By allusively associating the name of Mr. Debord with an article which effectively condemned the protest in a manner inconsistent with situationist principles, you have done him a great disservice.

Sincerely
Michael Giglio

Facts wrong about Marriott

To the editor.

Over the last several weeks, there have been a number of factually incorrect allegations and misinformation circulating on campus about Marriott Corporation's policies regarding its employees and about the corporation's position on certain legislation in the US. It's time to set the record straight.

Marriott Corporation did not take a position on the Chapman Amendment to The Americans With Disabilities Act when it was being considered in the US.

Marriott Corporation wrote regarding the Chapman Amendment to the co-chairs of the Sixth Annual International Conference on AIDS held earlier this year in San Francisco. The letter, dated June 14, 1990, said, "We will not take any position on the Chapman Amendment until those issues are resolved."

"In the meantime, I can assure you the Marriott Corporation has

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