

# editorial

## CYSF elections bode well for coming year

Well, the big event is over for another year. We're talking about the annual CYSF elections, in which students from CYSF colleges get to decide whether to throw a few of their tuition dollars into the wind or not. Or at least, that's how it's seemed from the seesaw succession of CYSF presidents in recent years.

Fortunately, the reelection of Chris Summerhayes was a sound choice, we feel. Summerhayes has performed competently over the past year, and if not flamboyant, at least he's honest. That he came through with such a small margin of victory indicates both the large number of candidates running for the position (five), and the low-key I've-got-the-race-in-the-bag campaign Summerhayes conducted.

Now that CYSF has an experienced president, we might finally see some results. The Summerhayes administration must first address the Bovey Commission issue and provide the commission with the real concerns York students have. Summerhayes should also fulfill his campaign promise of working toward the construction of a central student union building.

And now that he has some experience, Summerhayes should understand the problems of York's decentralized student government and ought to convince all campus student councils that one voice for students speaks louder than 13.

Also, although we disagree with elections CRO James Crossland and his tribunal on the Radio York referendum issue, we were impressed with Crossland's performance in the administration of a squeaky clean election. This year is the first in recent history that the election was run so fairly.

Crossland received compliments on his performance from both candidates and observers. At times though, he seemed overzealous—perhaps an overcompensation for last year's election fiasco.

Unfortunately, elections like this year's are all too rare.

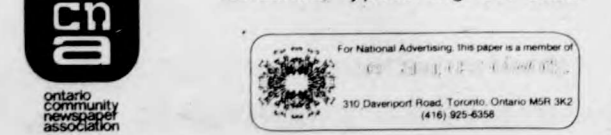
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Accuracy to a newspaper is what virtue is to a lady, but a newspaper can always print a retraction. —Adlai Stevenson



## letters

### Change system

**Editor:**  
The justification for government funding of education is that education contributes to the quality of our society to everyone's benefit. Everyone needs a minimal level of education to be a functional citizen. But not everyone is suited to post-secondary education. Government pleas for higher entrance standards reflect their concern that, given limited funding, those most likely to benefit the most from a university education should get priority for funding. But there is an alternative to raising entrance standards that would be fairer, and more effective in properly allocating limited funding.

Instead of raising entrance standard, make tuition commensurate with academic achievement. Students in the B range would pay about the same that they now pay. Students with higher marks would pay less, and those with lower marks will pay more. This would encourage academic excellence not just in high school but throughout the student's university career. Also, it would discriminate neither against the poor, deserving student, nor against the wealthier, less productive student. The details of funding on merit still need much consideration, but the general principle of making tuition commensurate with academic achievement would be the fairest way to deal with the inevitable evil of scarce resources. —Michael Orr

### Articles 'incredulous'

**Editor:**  
After reading last week's *Excalibur*, we felt it was our responsibility as students of York to inform the student body of the actualities behind the CYSF elections held on March 14 and 15.

Undoubtedly, after reading last week's article "CRO Denies Radio York Poll" and letter "Radio York Vote Denial 'Undemocratic,'" bias opinions towards Chief Returning Officer, James Crossland, are inevitably held by many of *Excalibur's* readers.

As a Deputy Returning Officer and Polling Clerk, we experienced first hand interaction with Mr. Crossland during the elections. After last year's scandalous election, the pressures placed on Mr. Crossland to run a smooth and clean election were unsurmountable. In order for this year's elections to be

run in a democratic fashion, it was imperative that all regulations were adhered to. Mr. Crossland's decision not to allow Radio York to proffer its referendum question on the CYSF ballot was not an attack against Radio York personally; he explicitly stated that he supports Radio York's cause!

Unfortunately, his successful efforts, an extremely well organized election, were marred by the incredulous articles of last week's *Excalibur*.

—Carol Richardson  
Janice Mervyn

### Astounded by critic

**Editor:**  
Re: "Art reviews" by Kevin Connolly, *Excalibur*, 9 February.

We, the undersigned artists from the Fine Arts building have decided to award Mr. Kevin Connolly with the "Fine Art Critique of the Year" award. His outstanding merit and knowledge of art criticism has held us astounded.

His reviews not only showed an absence of art-criticism skills but also a total lack of visual knowledge. We are therefore in favor of a representative of York University artists who has the appropriate visual background. A responsible approach to art criticism ought to be expected from a University paper with such a wide circulation.

—James Lahey, Shauna Earle, Kelly McCray, and 19 others

**Editors note:** *Excalibur* extends its welcome to every York student to write art reviews (or anything else) for the paper.

### 'Anal and banal'

**Editor:**  
So P.E.C. Brendon decided to grace us all with a letter of wisdom, wit and insight (8 March), the goal of which was to demonstrate the inferiority of *Excalibur*. Unfortunately, the letter did nothing to convince one of *Excalibur's* inferiority. It did even less in its effort to grace us with wisdom, wit and insight.

P.E.C., it is your anal, banal obsession with trivial matters such as 23 typographical errors, three irregularities in typesetting and "a number" of instances of incorrect or poor grammar that makes your position untenable.

Yet, P.E.C., you don't comment on the format, the cartoons or the editorials. Good sense of perspective there, P.E.C. You won't "expound" on these issues because some faculty and students may

feel that *Excalibur* is exemplary of modern journalism. You then add that you could comment on the intellectual astuteness of those people, but you won't.

I could comment on your undergraduate ignorance—but I will. Your pretence of honest criticism is a lie. Honest criticism involves not only the appraisal of a past product, it also—even when negative—provides for the possibility that the product has some kind of future, no matter what that future might dictate.

You provide for no such future. All you do is whine in the present about an irreversible past. Your pseudo-intellectual "criticism" is useless. If you are really concerned about the quality of the paper, take the editor's advice and volunteer to work for it. If you are not so disposed either shut up or offer some suggestions that are constructive and applicable. Your whimpers are neither desired nor warranted.

It is granted, however, that mistakes, even the piddling ones you choked on, are unwanted in any publication. It is true that *Excalibur* made a few mistakes. They will continue to make a few mistakes. However, these mistakes are insignificant both in degree and in number.

You said that you would continue to read *Excalibur* only until you see your letter published. Well, P.E.C., you got your wish. Maybe now you'll do us all a favor and stop reading it.

—Greg Kelly

### Land of Crandles

**Editor:**  
Once upon a time, a student living on a tight budget in residence land, read an article in the *Excalibur* on the Food Services at York. Now, although the article was quite good, there were some comments made that she felt required some sort of reply. The following were her reactions as she read the article:

1) She agreed with Michael Adam saying that Norman Crandles' attitude to the situation was a "poor way of dismissing genuine complaints." Crandles' sarcastic "smile on your kisser" attitude doesn't fit the position of Director of Food and Housing Services and tends to create a lot of resentment among the students relying on him. Residence students have to eat at Rill's three times a day because it's mandatory to buy scrip. At least if we ate at the Royal York three times a day we would come out feeling pleasantly full instead of unpleasantly bloated. At the prices Rill's charges

we should come out feeling like we were eating at the Royal York.

2) By the way, yes, she could sell her scrip to commuters but she can't afford to lose 20-30 percent of the \$1050 in scrip that she's forced to buy.

3) A 7.1 percent increase in mandatory scrip purchase is ridiculous considering that the prices are already too high.

4) Residence students should at least get a "bulk buyers" discount, mentioned by Eli Gershkovitch or the option to opt out. Now for the final comment. The comment by Paul Leonard, the Winters College Absinthe Pub manager absolutely enraged this student. The comment was "if the three percent levy were increased, students can and will pay extra—and Crandles knows it. There's just too many Camaros in the parking lot." There actually are, believe it or not, some students that borrow money (i.e. OSAP) and work their butts off during the summer and school year solely to be able to attend university.

During the eight months that we are here we are on tight budgets but we still like to, once in a blue moon, go down to the pub and have a drink or a bagel. We can't pay extra so therefore if the three percent levy were raised we would have to forget going down to the pub. Although some students and professors do have Camaros there are still a majority of students who couldn't afford the gas to run a Camaro much less to own one.

—Betty Ann van Gastel

### Corrections

In our last issue, *Excalibur* reported that York Food Ombudsman Eli Gershkovitch endorsed a unitary system run by York. In fact Gershkovitch did not stipulate that the system should be run by the University.

In our March 8 issue, *Excalibur* erroneously reported that CYSF presidential candidate Michael Strapko admitted he knew of his campaign worker's actions involving the removing of other presidential candidates' election signs.

*Excalibur* regrets these errors and any inconvenience they may have caused.

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