

Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity — Lord Acton

CYSF begins?

If the opening meeting of this year's Council of the York Student Federation is to be taken as any sort of indicator, the CYSF will dissolve as the result of petty bickering, ignorance and procedural fumbling. The new council, with 19 of 21 elected members present, took over from the old council, introduced themselves to each other, elected a temporary speaker, set up a constitutional revision committee and then collapsed.

The council, in attempting to appoint temporary commissioners, revealed that some councillors were ignorant of the functions of the CYSF, that many did not know each other well enough to vote on the merits of the nominees and that all councillors either lacked or failed to demonstrate any procedural knowledge.

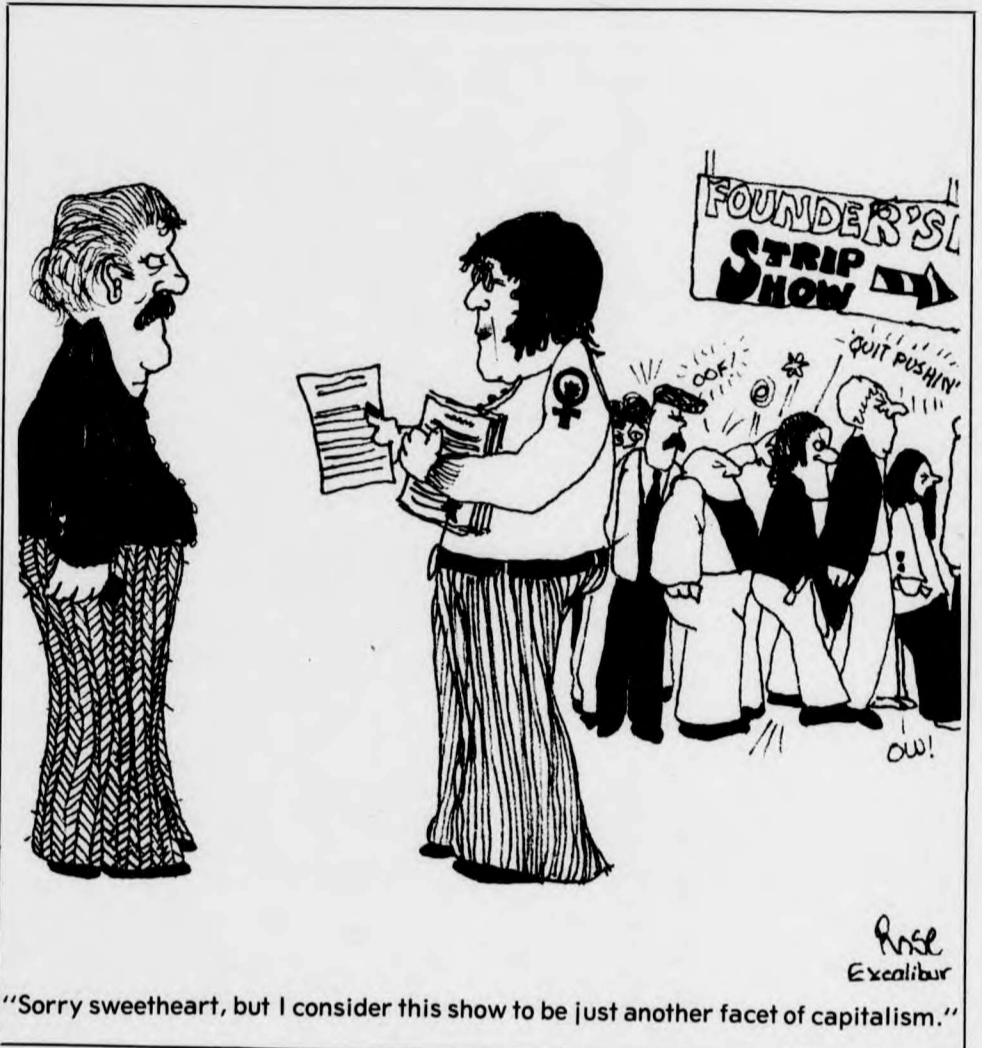
The chairman did not run the meeting with any semblance of order and therefore, the individual members of council drifted off in their own separate ways. Members bickered with others and there was a noticeable conflict between those elected on the Fletcher-Moore slate and the independents, the new council members and the veterans.

The council showed great incompetence in taking well over an hour to elect 5 commissioners for a two week term of office. One commissioner immediately resigned his post but did not have his resignation accepted. Therefore he will do nothing for the two weeks. The election of one commissioner was tabled until the next meeting. Those running were not allowed to speak on their political intentions, only on their "qualifications."

Then, a frustrated council decided to hear from people present asking for money after voting to skip the report on the council's present financial status. Thus, many councillors were placed in the position of being asked to give out money without having any knowledge of where the money was coming from or even if it was available.

At this point, the meeting broke down as members shifted seats and left the room to hold private discussions. The formal meeting stopped as council moved into Committee of the Whole. One member had written his resignation and others were talking of doing the same thing. Some people went home. Then the council reconvened and money was granted although many councillors were not fully aware of what they were voting on. Many voted so that the meeting could end and they could go home. After three hours they were tired and disgusted. Two more items were discussed and the rest of the business was postponed until the next meeting.

The meeting shows that the council is in deep trouble. A permanent speaker who can run the meeting efficiently and eliminate the minor distractions and major procedural hassles is desperately needed. The president and vice-president failed to take it upon themselves to see that council members, especially the news ones, were aware of the composition, functions and operation of the CYSF. This glaring lack of leadership must be corrected. The members themselves, failed to take any initiative in finding out about the council to which they were elected. The result was that they



"Sorry sweetheart, but I consider this show to be just another facet of capitalism."

were totally unable to handle the slightest demands made of them at the meeting.

Unfortunately, this type of beginning usually means that many of the members give up on the CYSF and stop showing up at future meetings. Thus, the business of the council becomes the business of the few, and instead of

having a student government we get a private club running a student's council with an expected budget of \$100,000. Therefore, it is up to each member of the new council to recognize and then correct this horrible start and to begin working as an effective team if we are to have any good student government this year or any year.

Letters to the Editor

Book ratio

The letter from members of the Committee for Liberated Learning which was printed in Excalibur Jan. 28 has inspired me to do some arithmetic. The authors complained about finding more greenery than bookery at the library. Having just read the report of the Minister of University Affairs (for 1969-70), I quickly realized that data, yes indeed, numbers, accurate factual information might be available on this issue.

So what I did was, I took the 1969-70 enrolment for full-time undergraduate and graduate students for the 14 provincially supported universities of Ontario and divided that into the estimate of the number of bound volumes in their respective libraries. In short, I can tell you the books-per-student ratio or just how many books are waiting for you at the library.

The gross ratios shown in the table were precisely misleading. York has a generous number of evening students and their numbers would have lowered the book/student ratio. On the other hand, library size is almost purely a function of the age of the library. In other words, York can grow. York's book/student ratio was 63.4 ranking ninth with U of T leading with a ratio of 138.4.

The ratios do reflect however the actual and present status of the York collection vis a vis the other universities in the province.

While no data is as of yet available for the shrubbery count at Ontario university libraries, it seems likely that York would probably rank among the leading universities in this measure. More research is needed on this horticultural question.

Ben Barkow

Not a member

In reference to the Jan. 28 York Briefs article on the Camera Club I wish to clarify a couple of things. The suspect is not now nor has ever been a member of the club. We believe that he is a student at York. In ad-

dition, I would suggest to all people and groups concerned that the university's insurance policy covering the type of loss we experienced is a \$1,000 dollar deductible policy, and that possibly a policy to cover from about \$200 to \$1,000 of that deductible be set up by all the colleges and CYSF from their own budgets.

Jonathan Young

Wall pollution

This friend of mine owns a film company — calls himself Executive Producer and President for Godsake! But despite all this clutterbungle and razzmatazz of corporate overkill, one thing about this guy's business is basically honest.

People go voluntarily to see his films. He shoots'em, wheels'em, deals'em, bangs'em together, knocks'em around, squeezes'em into shape — his shape — offers'em up for sale, and starves on the profits. Yep, he's a busy man; more complaints, hassles, twists, turns, grumbles, gripes, nonsense, and nincompoops per square hour than you or I or many of our fellow students have to tolerate in a lifetime.

Including those student's whose dissident voices adorn York's walls which is what this letter is all about. Yeah yeah, I'm all in favour of free speech, and the right to be heard, and the right to be seen and make announcements, pronouncements, propaganda, et al. Every York student should enjoy the right to all of this democratic free and groovy shit.

But. Whoever said the right to be heard constituted the right to intrude.

Not too long ago, the much-troubled Executive producer and President came to York for a visit. Not, I'm glad to say, at my invitation. Do you know what he saw?...do you know what he saw? In every single direction he chose to turn his ever-lovin' corporately-overkilled head? He saw posters. Not only posters, but bills, stickers, handouts, scribbles, tabloids, ad-

vertisements, flags, messages, and, in a word, paper. Everywhere.

And I mean everywhere. He saw so much paper on the walls — he couldn't see the walls. Never got to see central square, just the wrapping paper. That's what he told me.

We have notice boards, maybe not enough of them but we have them, and I really dig reading them. Like an agony column. But I don't dig reading the walls of stairwells, toilets, broom-closets, library-carrels, lockers and so on ad nauseum.

It's getting so's a poster has no effect around here unless it's issued in multiple-ultra-xeroxed-cetaquituplicate! The fight for reason through the medium of print has become a fight for impact, which, in turn, has become synonymous with a fight for space.

And as the fight progresses, the amount of space runs out, along with my patience, and along with the credibility of visitors like the super executive producing presidential thing that left here disgusted and wondered where his taxes were going etc., etc.

And wondered what happened to the freedom of choice. Like choice to see what movie you want. Play what record you want, hear what speaker you want. Choice. Privacy. Not intrusion.

This burgeoning exponential poster thing is an intrusion. Not only that, but it's ugly and silly. That's what my friend thinks, that's what I think, and if you look around you, maybe that's what you'll think too.

Make your views known if you agree. But not with a poster.

Derek Best

Staff meets
Friday 10 to 4
Faculty common room
8th floor

Excalibur

The York University Weekly

EDITOR

BOB ROTH

MANAGING EDITOR

TIM CLARK

NEWS EDITORS

Barry Lerner, David Chud

NEWS

Brian Milner, John Livingston, Rob Barlow, Anna-Maria Kovacs, Paul Thompson, Mike Savage, Wendy Dennis, Shell Hunter, Manny Masongsong, Jim Smith, Rhonda Rovon

PHOTOGRAPHY

Tim Clark, Harry Kitz, Dave Cooper, Sandy Cormack

ENTERTAINMENT EDITORS

Brian Pearl, John Ughion

ENTERTAINMENT

Pat Kutney, Steve Geller, Dan Merkur, Steve Davey

SPORTS

Tim Clark, Rob Rowland, Phil Cranley, Ivan Bern

GRAPHICS

John Rose

LAYOUT

Louise Paradis, Murray Meldrum

BUSINESS AND

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Rolly Stroeter

ADVERTISING

Leo Smits, Jackie Stroeter

TELEPHONE:

editorial phone: 635-3201, 3202

advertising phone: 635-3800

controlled circulation: 15,000

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 under the auspices of the Council of the York Student Federation. Office: Central Square (southeast corner), Ross Building, York University, 4700 Keele St., Downsview, Ontario.