

Excalibur

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

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We need a few 'ordinary people' on York's board

Within the ivy-laced walls of the venerable University of Toronto to the south, where angels and students used to fear to tread, altercations disturb the hallowed peace whenever the governing council meets. Students (a dozen-odd of them) professors, community types fling verbal barbs with wild abandon. A veritable free-for-all.

They even have public meetings.

At York we are protected from such distasteful escapades into primitive democracy. Few community types, a mere two students, and certainly no mob rule threaten to disrupt the hush of our board chamber. Until not too long ago, no prying eyes could see which way the university crumbled behind the locked doors. Even now we guard, and are guarded by tradition.

The tradition of the private ways of corporate boardrooms keep pesky, ungrateful reporters at bay, and out of committee or regular meetings of the board of governors, or wherever anything of importance is actually decided.

Take the recent appointment of Conrad Black and Mel Lastman to the York university board of governors. A bit of a scoop to get them, we're told.

Conrad Black is not only a 33-year old wunderkind from Argus but a scholar as well: the author of an authoritative book on Duplessis.

And Mel Lastman, the flamboyant millionaire "bad boy" mayor of North York. We have nothing against these two men as individuals. It's just that our board's roster now reads like a who's who of the Canadian corporate elite. Hardly "representatives of the community," they.

President Macdonald said something interesting in the board meeting this week. The only qualification for a board member, he said, is a sympathy for the aims of the university, and a willingness to roll up the sleeve and pitch in.

At that meeting, all the York types (students, faculty, administrators) and the ever-faithful chairman Gerstein were there to "roll up their sleeves and pitch in".

But fewer than 10 of the other 22 showed up.

We realize these men (and three count 'em, women) are extremely busy "important individuals". But where are they?

We would be better off with a board composed entirely of ordinary citizens, the representatives of the community. Wage-earners, housewives, artists, academics, small business men, farmers. At least they might do their representation in person.

Parrott on tour — a lot of students, a lot of questions

As we go to press, Minkler auditorium at Seneca College is the scene of the Toronto confrontation between Harry Parrott, Ontario minister of colleges and universities, and post-secondary students who have questions and complaints about his new student aid scheme.

It is the fourth in his five-campus tour of Ontario campuses designed as his office puts it to "answer questions about the plan and discuss the philosophy behind it."

Judging by the packed-house response he has met so far, there are a lot of students with a lot of questions.

The plan, announced two weeks ago, effectively disqualifies over 7,000 graduate students from receiving financial assistance from the government, and has caused many people, including *Maclean's* magazine writer Cheryl Hawkes, to ask whether Ontario's universities are "becoming, once more, haunts of the very rich?"

Some effort has been made by student governments to hastily organize buses to allow as many students as possible to attend the meeting (five buses went from U of T and two from York). But U of T Students' Administrative Council President, John Tuzyk, pointed out that the "meetings as scheduled will not allow for meaningful participation.

In a letter to Parrott, Tuzyk invited him to hold a public meeting at U. of T. which is "Ontario's largest university with the highest number of OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program) recipients."

Next week, *Excalibur* will carry in-depth coverage of the results of Parrott's tour, as well as a detailed examination of an alternative approach to student aid outlined by the Ontario Federation of Students.



A little bit of fun in the sun

At the last minute, *Excalibur* has backed out of a 40-day contract with a local construction firm.

In the wake of days on end of sullen sodden weather, culminating in last weekends's near-flood conditions, we contacted the ship-building firm of Noah, Noah and Noah Inc., for an estimate on an ark

large enough to accommodate *Excalibur's* half-a-hundred staffers.

But on Monday the sun came out. Our concern proved unnecessary, we were saved the expense of the ark, and *Excalibur's* David Himbara even had a chance to take in and photograph a York version of sport of football, pictured above.

The last Radio York editorial

York's radio station seems to be back on the rails.

A week ago Wednesday, the radio's staff held its first staff meeting of the year. It dealt with many of the issues which had shrouded the station in controversy at the beginning of the year, issues which contributed to the resignation of station manager Richard Gould.

Central to Gould's resignation was the question of internal democracy. He maintained that if the station took on a democratic form, the operations would break down and he would feel obliged to resign.

Gould felt that the station's attempt (still ongoing) to maintain a six-mile radius FM license would be jeopardized if his time was occupied with democratizing the station's structure. When he came under pressure from an *Excalibur* article and CYSF to do just that, he resigned.

The first staff meeting voted to hold monthly staff meetings "so that communication within the station is kept at a high level." The staff held elections for five executive positions, including a vote of confidence for new station manager Giulio Malfatti.

Those are steps in the right direction. Still, communication does not amount to control. It must be clearly established that the station's staff has the final say in all matters. Otherwise, some year, an executive will let its position of authority go to its head, and we will see the same old problems of lack of democracy resurface.

It also leaves unanswered many of the questions about last year's operation which were

raised last month.

Malfatti still maintains (in a letter on page 7 of this issue,) that last year, the station ran its affairs democratically. He says that since CYSF voted to give the station manager complete control over the internal operations of the station and that since CYSF is a democratic body, therefore the station's internal life was democratic.

That makes no sense. It doesn't matter how the autocracy was established. When the people who are the

radio station, its volunteer staff members, have no say over anything that happens at the station, it is still an autocracy.

But we are willing to wait and judge Radio York on its performance. Hopefully, the new improved, internally democratic structure of the station will facilitate its quest for that elusive FM license. The much talked about license is essential for the station's credibility, if not its very survival. To put itself on the map, CKRY must first put itself on the air.

**Join the staff!
today at 1 p.m.
Room 111
Central Square
- our weekly
staff meeting**

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