The average newspaper, especially of the better sort, has the intelligence of a hillbilly evangelist, the courage of a rat, the fairness of a prohibitionist boob-jumper, the information of a high-school janitor, the taste of a designer of celluloid valentines, and the honor of a police station lawyer. H. L. Mencken

## Soft pornography not so harmless

Recently, Excalibur received a spate of letters to the editor on the issue of pornography. The author of one such letter suggested that Playboy magazine is a harmless publication and that its readers are merely looking at beautiful women.

We disagree.

In fact, *Playboy* is the most insidious of pornographic material—it may seem innocent compared to some of its competitors, yet it's a strong part of an industry which seeks to retain men's dominance over women and portray human beings as things.

This type of pornography is not as blatantly hurtful as the obvious instances where women are shown being beaten, bound, or raped (and enjoying it).

To further add to the facade of harmlessness, Playboy publishes articles by respected writers, offering its readers the perfect excuse to buy it: "I only read it for the excellent writing." Readers think they're getting a taste of the sophisticated 1980s lifestyle.

But still, there is a very clear message relayed to consumers of all types of pornography, and the message is this: Women are but playthings of men, to be admired only when they are (at least close to) air-brushed perfect, do not speak (except to heap praise on "their man"), and care only for their outward appearance.

There is no reference to the personalities, intelligence, or opinions on issues such as politics or finance ("men's realms") of these women. Isn't that the most important part of a human being?

We do not advocate full censorship. We recognize that erotica can be an important part of an individual's sexuality. Images portraying sexual acts between or among consenting adults in a spirit of sharing and caring should not be censored.

But when human beings are exploited and used merely as objects, we must draw the line. In order for women to be treated as three-dimensional people, they must no longer be considered in one dimension—on the pages of Playboy.

# excalibur

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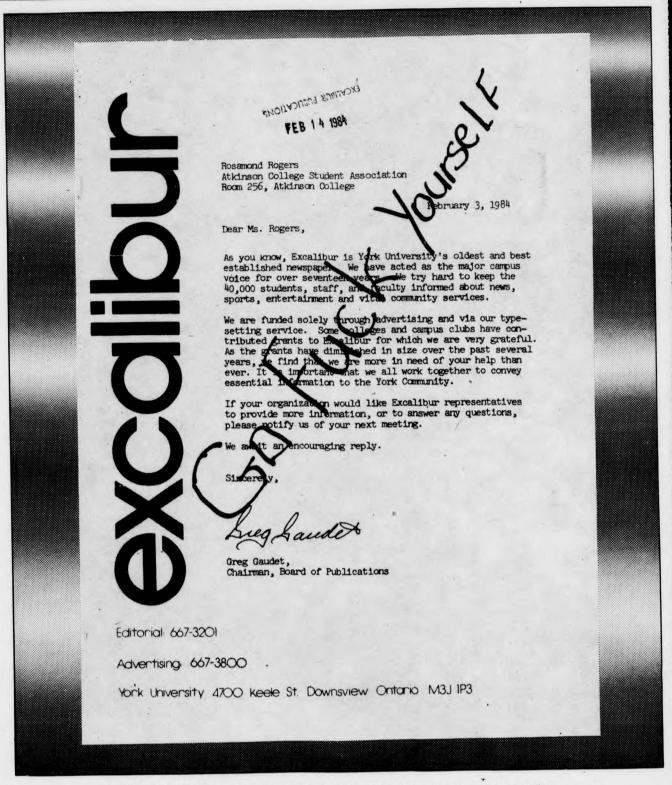
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Now, now! An anonymous response to Excalibur's request for funding

Excalibut attempts to print as many letters as space allows. Please be-briet—letters over 250 words are subject to editing for length. Aft letters' must include the author's name, address, and phone number for verification purposes. Pseudonymns may be used upon request.

### Corruption

Roman Pawlyshyn

Bernardo Cioppa

It's nice to know Excalibur has its eye out for corruption in high places (re: Atkinson Loan, 9 Feb 84). How about investigating another source of corruption? I'm referring to the fact that those who eat on campus are served poor to mediocre food at unreasonably high prices. -Neil Gunner

#### \$2 referendum

Here we go again! The CYSF has approved Radio York's request for a referendum regarding a \$2 levy on student tuition fees. Last year, York students voted and said no toward giving part of their tuition fee to the radio station. Yet, Radio York is back to try again. Is Radio York going to keep coming back, year after year, until it gets the answer it wants?

The voice of democracy spoke up last year and answered no to Radio York! Doesn't the students' vote mean anything anymore? Why hold a referendum in the first place? Holding another referendum will make a mockery of our democratic system!

I want my tuition fee to be used to further my education. I don't want it to be given away to a radio station that knows "dick all" about music. Canada is still a free country, and if Radio York wants to play shit let them do so, and if people want to listen to shit, they are free to do so also, but they'll have to do it at their own expense

Radio York's station manager admitted himself that the station is "being heard infrequently." Why lend financial support to a radio station that no one wants to listen to?

I will vote NO!

-Antonio Pacheco

#### Group status

At the CYSF meeting February 7, a new condition for club status was introduced. Groups with political affiliation would be denied CYSF membership: "Affiliation is the act or condition of being affiliated, allied or associated with another person, body or organization. This imports less than membership duties, but more than sympathy and; a working alliance to bring to fruition the proscribed program of a proscribed organization.'

I share the concern of some members in CYSF for the type of organizations given recognition. There are organizations on campus of particular religious and political orientation which I disagree with. I am not sure however whether the university environment would be served by attempting to deny them legitimacy. A university is supposed to provide an opportunity for diversity and debatenot often found before or after in an individual's life. The introduction of a vague clause dependent upon the ideological predisposition of a council majority

will not do this.

"Witch-hunt" is perhaps a premature phrase to use at this point. However, those now trying to decide who to choose in the next CYSF election should consider the possibility the present council has introduced.

-Andrew Murray Student Christian Movement

### No sympathy

Editor:

Having had the misfortune of obtaining an education in a string of "\$4.00 public high schools," as per the comment of Keith Boulter in your 9 February 1984 issue, I must express my complet lack of sympathy for his friend's predicament.

Disregarding argumentation which suggest that schooling has more to do with screening for pay cheques than instructional values, most individuals with a pulse yet remain aware of the realities/mechanics of the entire process. I don't know that Mr. Boulter's friend's only qualification for admittance to the "finest private school" address in Canada was a parent with a fat pocketbook, but it is presently clear that the matter of non-acceptance cannot be traced to York University's admissions policy, but rather his friend's ignorance of strategic behavior.

Further, reading between the lines, would Mr. Boulter not agree that his competitive social Darwinist universe is probably unfolding as it should?

-Michael G. Kraik