

void which mainstream media has created.

Furthermore, they challenge and critically evaluate the motives and purposes of mainstream institutions and its system of thought. And thirdly, they provide a voice for and from marginal minority groups, so their needs and concerns can be heard.

You are right in stating that "there is no rationale for every student to give part of their tuition fee towards a project they're apathetic about." Maybe you and the rest of the students who feel this way should consider doing something to change your state of apathy. Andrew, maybe you could think of a "popular and worthwhile undertaking" that the majority of York students would agree with and would be willing to funnel 100,000 of their dollars into? And if you'd like, CHRY could maybe find some way of supporting you in your endeavour, let's say by maybe promoting your project during its programming hours, free of charge.

Lavinia Lamenza

CYSF is "paranoid"

In response to Nancy Phillip's article (Jan. 26, "CYSF rejects *Lexicon's* bid"), *The Lexicon* would like to clarify and expand on a few points.

Does Ms. Hasselfeldt realize what she is saying in the above-mentioned article? If groups have to satisfy the administration that they are central student services,

why do we bother asking CYSF for funding? Perhaps we should go straight to the administration. Or is Hasselfeldt inferring that the administration is spending the student government's money?

In response to Warren Pratt's statement "I think we'd be setting a horrific precedent if we funded *The Lexicon*," we obviously disagree. *The Lexicon* can prove it is a central student service better than any other college newspaper could, including the ones that don't publish. Heck, Pratt is inferring that should the college papers become central-type operations and begin serving the York campus with a great service which all students could enjoy and benefit from, then CYSF would want no part of it, in fact, it would be horrific.

Actually, we were "acknowledged" as a central service by the CYSF, and in writing, too. We answered an ad (in May 12 *Excalibur*) for "Clubs and Associations funded by CYSF during 1987-88, or wishing to apply in 1988-89," and after fulfilling the requirements were clearly listed along with several others as "eligible for funding during the upcoming year" (June 16 *Excalibur*).

It's your [CYSF] ad, folks. The Federation may escape responsibility for its actions last year, but this appeared during the current term. We don't think you can get more explicit than that.

We saw the Federation's initial offers of support withdrawn for cheap political reasons that had nothing to do with how good the paper was or how well we were serving York students. If the CYSF was

committed to spreading its money where it would do the most good for York students, we would have some of it right now.

This is the third time this year that the issue of funding *The Lexicon* has been raised for CYSF's consideration. It is also the third rejection, and to date, no official letter explaining the reasons not to fund the paper has been received from CYSF.

The decision for CYSF not to fund *The Lexicon* represents unfound paranoia, spineless decision-making and a general lack of concern for York students on the part of the Council.

Mike Adler
Rajiv Persaud
The Lexicon

"Final word" on abortion

Editor,

As the writers who spawned the current weekly abortion debate in the "Letters" pages of *Excalibur*, we wish to present a final word on the matter: first, to clarify our position; second, to respond to T. Quek's piece from last week, "Abortion is Non-Viable."

Our original letter, dubbed "Fighting Pro-Lifers," was primarily a call for support for the pro-choice demonstration against 'Operation Rescue' at the Morgentaler clinic. We did not implicate that all those who are opposed to abortion subsequently subscribe to right-wing views. We specifically stated

that "Anti-Choice forces have a broader political agenda." The point was not to take issue with anyone's individual beliefs on abortion (in fact, we are aware of some pro-choice advocates who are personally against it). However, we do oppose the imposition of these personal convictions onto all women and society. This is also why we stand for no new abortion law.

With regards to T. Quek's letter, we take issue with his/her insight into the "two inalienable privileges — freedom and life." Not surprisingly, given the abstract starting point, Quek ends up championing the rights of the foetus ("Little Child") over the rights of the woman.

In response, our starting point is to say that "Life" and "Freedom" have never been "inalienable privileges" other than in abstract letters in college newspapers, and in ancient philosophers' heads! For example, the freedom to hold slaves obviously rested on the denial of freedom and life to the slave in any meaningful sense. The freedom to make profit from arts rests upon the denial of life to those on the receiving end of said arms. The freedom to strive for profit in the food industry has led to food mountains growing whilst mass starvation (the denial of life) also grows daily. Freedom today is an abstract; it is the freedom of a minority with access to power and wealth to determine what the majority may or may not do.

As for the "inalienable privilege of life," how readily this is ditched when politically detrimental. South African forces daily attack the freedom and life of 'their' black population. Unfortunately, the existing system does not recognize Quek's high-sounding — but empty — "inalienable privilege of life." The

life of a homeless mother in Canada, a black miner in South Africa, an Irish Catholic in Belfast, is not a "privilege" but a miserable existence founded on oppression and a lack of freedom.

It is precisely the continuation of the denial of freedom to the majority that Quek supports with her/his concluding attack on access to abortion. We ask Quek to reach her/his neck out of the ivory tower to ponder these facts:

- Between 1962 and 1966, backstreet abortion was the leading cause of women's deaths in child-bearing years — accounting for 20% of ALL deaths. (*Statistics Canada*)
- Between 1970 and 1977, with partial de-criminalization of abortion, the maternal mortality rate connected to abortion fell by 92%.
- In 1985 the United Nations estimated that a minimum of 200,000 women a year die at the hands of the illegal backstreet abortionists.
- According to Statistics Canada (*Committee on Operation of the Abortion Law*), between 80% and 90% of women seeking abortion in the first five years of its legislation were using some form of contraceptive.

Studies in Sweden and Canada have also found that many women who undergo backstreet abortions can no longer have children because the internal damage to their bodies is too severe. If one removes access to safe, legal abortion, one does not remove the need for it. It is not therefore without reason that the metal coat-hanger has come to symbolize the struggle for legal abortion. In today's society, that is often the deadly and brutal alternative to which many women are forced.

Jean Ghomeshi, York New Democrats
Phil Johnson, International Socialists

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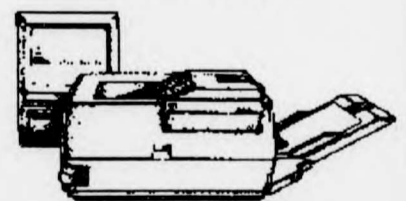
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