

# Excalibur

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

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.

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## Senate vs Search committee

### Lack of communication causing friction

Last week, the Presidential Search Committee presented its list of eight candidates to the Senate. Of the eight, all appear reasonably qualified for the job.

But none of the candidates are from York. More important, none indicate any particular knowledge of the intricate York bureaucracy. That, you'll no doubt remember, is what floored ex-president David Slater, and ultimately cost him his Job.

There were scattered objections from the Senate floor over the failure of the committee to include internal candidates. But, as Michael Mouritsen, a committee member, points out, no one told the searchers they had to present a York candidate.

Perhaps some senators merely assumed that one would be added, but assumptions can be dangerous.

Ten to fifteen inside people were nominated for the job. All but two are faculty members, the others being on the Board of Governors.

Over 200 names were considered, although only 30 were actually interviewed for the post. Of these, six were inside candidates.

The committee actions could cause problems. Not long ago, the city of Calgary was looking for a new police chief. The searchers, responsible people all, rejected the internal candidates of the force. They were determined to take the person with the best paper qualifications.

As it turned out, this was the Oakland, California police chief who was duly named to the job. The resulting outcry forced the American to give up the nomination. Most of the complaints, of course, came from inside the force, where the appointee was seen as nothing more than an unwelcome interloper.

No one is suggesting the same situation will develop here, but who can doubt that the successful applicant will be saddled with an extra, unwanted handicap — the problem of overcoming possible built-in resentment.

One of the eight candidates is Guy MacLean, dean of arts and science at Dalhousie University in Halifax. Since at least one York dean was considered for the job, the Search Committee isn't exactly giving our own faculty administrators a vote of confidence.

In three weeks, the Senate has to select a minimum of three candidates to be presented to the Board of Governors. All must receive a majority vote. Otherwise, the committee will have to produce more names.

The result may be close and coloured by the needless friction resulting from the Search Committee's choices — friction which could have been avoided if there had been better communication between the Senate and the searchers in the first place. Or at least some common sense applied by the committee members in the last place.



## Small unions need help

### Fight for decent wages and conditions

The Artistic Woodwork strike brings the plight of the ordinary labourer sharply into focus.

All of the publicity and huge wage increases gained by the big unions in recent years could easily lead one to believe that the struggle for

fair management practices and decent working conditions is just about over.

Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, about two-thirds of the Canadian labour force remains unorganized. Moreover, those workers who are unionized don't always have it easy.

The Canadian Textile and Chemical Union, a small organization affiliated with the Confederation of Canadian Unions, has been fighting for years to obtain decent working conditions in small plants like Artistic Woodwork.

The union is only asking for basic rights already granted to powerful organizations like the United Auto Workers or the Teamsters. Moreover, these claims have long been recognized by responsible businessmen.

The union asks for an effective grievance procedure, for automatic deduction of union dues from pay cheques, and acceptance of the seniority principle to prevent discrimination on the basis of age.

These are simple demands. The union doesn't even ask that everyone belong. Only that they pay since they all benefit.

Most of the workers are immigrants afraid of deportation if arrested. This, added to somewhat zealous police activity, has made the

union's job that much tougher.

The York students and faculty members who have shown their support for this strike, who have helped publicize the situation are to be commended. Without outside help, small unions wouldn't stand a chance.

#### Important news!

Readers who have requested more of The Humanoids, the comic that appeared in last week's Excalibur, will be glad to know that artist Peter Hsu has continued their adventures.

The Humanoids will make their second appearance next week in the Entertainment section.

**Staff meeting  
for all new staff  
today at 2 p.m.**

**Room III Central Square**

Editor-in-chief  
Brian Milner  
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Ed Piwowarczyk  
Layout editor  
Lerrick Starr  
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