

Excalibur

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

editorial

Excalibur, 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 attempts to be an agent of social change. Typography by Foto Set, printed at Delta Web, Excalibur is published by Excalibur Publications, a body incorporated under the laws of Ontario.

News 667-3201

Advertising 667-3800

What to do in case of a YUSA strike

York students might do well to follow the example set by the university's support staff, who have stood up and said "no" to a cutback the university administration had attempted to hand them. If the university does not improve on its current (prior to Wednesday) wage offer, YUSA is prepared to strike.

Students across the province are faced with high fees and soon-to-be less accessible student aid, in a time of tragically high unemployment. At York, for our higher fees, we are rewarded with cutbacks in services (such as the library), in courses (for 78-79), in teaching staff and almost any other area one could name.

The university, in kowtowing to the Tory dictate that social services must be trimmed, has not been biased — for they have attempted to put the cutback crunch on support staff as well as students and faculty (for whom a hiring freeze is in effect).

But unlike the students (who have no union), YUSA won't stand for it. In reply to an administration wage increase offer which is an insult (6.5 percent compared to 11.3 percent received last year), they will strike if nothing better is forthcoming.

As a whole, the university would be better off without a strike. Since the AIB will roll back anything higher, YUSA may well accept an eight percent package (which would be calculated by combining a wage increase with a minimum sum requirement and a dental plan). This package is not much over one percent of what they have been offered.

So for many members, that particular increase, if won by a strike, would be largely lost in missed pay. The faculty and students certainly aren't going to benefit from a strike which could virtually close the university down.

Nevertheless, the university may have held to its offer in mediation talks yesterday (the outcome was unknown at press time).

YUSA has been reasonable in talks to date. Their wage request of 10 percent is hardly exorbitant in light of the present inflation rate and the fact that they are among the poorest-paid units in a generally underpaid category (public service workers). YUSA had dropped a score of other articles they had proposed for the contract in the interest of arriving at an agreement.

The university has not been so fair, treating YUSA with the same contempt that led the support staff to unionize two years ago.

It is true there is less money in the York budget to go around this year. But there is money, in the pockets of the corporations. While the AIB holds groups like YUSA to eight percent increases, corporate executives are getting unchecked annual pay increases of 40 to 70 percent, left, right and centre.

While students and workers like the members of YUSA tighten their belts to the point of constriction, corporations are letting theirs out a notch each year as they get fatter, thanks, in part, to the decline in the proportion of taxes they pay.

Meanwhile, social services like universities are squeezed dry and a group of contented corporate heads govern our campus.

In the event of a strike beginning Monday, students and faculty will have to decide whether to cross picket lines or not. It would be worth considering what this strike represents, for both the campus and on a larger scale, before we cross the line.

Absurd words from our "leaders"

We hope our student "leaders" in the CYSF office aren't serious.

In the budget the executive is presenting to council for approval on Monday, there is a little item about Harbinger, York's peer counselling and referral centre.

It recommends that Harbinger get a grant of \$4,000, exactly half what it received last year. The reason for the cutback given by finance vice-president Tom Silverhart, is that Harbinger has outlived its usefulness, and no longer is worth the money.

Silverhart suggests the money can be used on more worthwhile things like, maybe social events.

He suggests it amalgamate with the Women's Centre. (Will this save money? According to Harbinger full time employee Sue Kaiser, it wouldn't, "it would only lose us people".)

We would like to set the record straight about Harbinger.

Over 2,500 people benefitted from Harbinger's education, information, referrals, and counselling last year. 2,500. That's more than go to a couple of really successful social events, Tom.

And Harbinger may even be just a touch more worthwhile.

Harbinger does birth control counselling, unplanned pregnancy counselling, venereal disease information and referrals, abortion information and referrals, and general sex and sexuality counselling.

Yeah, you can get some of the same type of service from your local medical centre. Except at Harbinger you'll be listened to and counselled for a half-hour or so, instead of being talked at for a rush five minutes.

Harbinger's so busy they need at least two full time people. They had two last year but this year they can only afford one. One full timer and last month 269 people used Harbinger's



Staff meeting 1 pm

Agenda will include: what we're doing in the event of a YUSA strike, plans for an arts supplement after Christmas, our situation with Youthstream, assignments for issues nine to infinity, discussion of issue eight and editorial personnel.

Entertainment editor needed

Editing and organizational ability would be an asset for anyone interested. Time requirements would probably demand less than full course load. Pay is low, but it's good experience.

An attack on minority viewpoints

The Council of the York Student Federation has moved to cut off all funding to - on campus political clubs.

Founders representative Steve Muchnik, who proposed the motion, says the council's funds should be spent on better food in the residences and higher quality bands at dances.

How much money is going to be cut? The \$20 duplicating allowance which goes to every official York club and any special grants which up to now have been awarded for things like guest speakers.

Hardly enough money to provide steak n' eggs breakfasts in

the colleges or get top bands to strut their stuff more often.

What this cut can do is seriously damage a club's ability to promote its activities and its initiative in planning meetings.

CYSF President Paul Hayden who voted for the motion, says after all it's a tight budget year and besides a lot of clubs who can't get money anywhere else think of CYSF as a haven.

Well thanks to Bill Davis and Company a tight budget it is, and not just at CYSF. If council is concerned about fighting cutbacks to education, it wouldn't be taking relatively small — but needed — amounts of money from student clubs. Right now we need a student council which will work with as wide a range of the student spectrum as possible, to oppose the cutbacks.

What about political clubs getting money they don't deserve?

First of all, every genuine York club ought to get a basic allowance to cover printing costs. This insures each club a minimum opportunity to express its ideas; that after all is what universities exist for.

Any project which a club tries to get CYSF to fund, should be judged on its merits. If a club

proposes a project which can be expected to attract a fair audience, council should allow it as much money as possible.

It doesn't matter if a given club is left, right or fifth dimensional; it should be given a chance as long as it's genuine and not outrightly racist or fascistic.

What matters is to judge each issue on its merits.

That's what Steve Muchnik said he would do in his recent campaign. He apparently convinced Founders voters that unlike his United Left Slate opponent, he didn't have an ideology which would prevent him from looking at each issue fairly.

Actually, Muchnik, Hayden and the others who voted for the motion have put themselves in the camp of right-wing ideologues who are out to stomp on political views they see as a threat.

For this move is going to hurt the left-wing clubs more than anyone.

CYSF members are of course free to adopt any ideology that they please. But it is regrettable they want to damage the rights of others.

Editor in chief
Managing editor
News editor
Photo editor
Sports editor
CUP editor

Paul Kellogg
Ted Mumford
Paul Stuart
Byron Johnson
Kim Llewellyn
Denise Beattie

Staff at large: Susan Grant, Scott Clayton, Peter Hadzipetros, B.J.R. Silberman, James Brennan, Agnes Kruchio, Rich Spiegelman, Tony Polyzotis, Sue Kaiser, Colin Smith, Norm Faria, Cynthia Rantoul, David Saltmarsh, Robert Gasner, Bruce Gates, Sandy Bullock, Steve Rimmer, Laura Brown, Tracy Teeple, David Himbara, Ian Kellogg, Michelina Trigiani, Ara Rose Parker, Maxine Kopel, Grant Kennedy, Sandy Zeldin, Gary Hershorn, Tony Cheung, Annette Goldsmith, David Goodman, Ian Wasserman, Mary Desrochers, Andy Payne, Paul Tipton, Alan Fox, Mary Fraker, Mary Marrone, Paul Hurley, Pam Fitzgerald, Andrea Doucet, Diane NguiYen, Tony Carty, Irene Astrauskas, Andrew Nikiforuk, Kathy Horne, Donna Mobbs, Murray H. Miskin, Eric Walberg, Jacqueline Bruneau.

Business and advertising manager

Olga Graham