

# Letters & comment

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, Excalibur, room 111, Central Square. Please type letters, triple or double spaced, and keep them to around 250 words. Name, address and phone number must be included, but name will be withheld on request. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for grammar and length. Deadline Monday 4pm.

## Arguments for coalition as is

I would like to set the record straight: the meeting called for 1 pm this afternoon in Curtis 'C' is an organizing meeting for the York Anti-Cutbacks Coalition, *not* a mass meeting designed to restructure the coalition, as you state in your March 23 editorial.

It is agreed by many participants in the March 16 rally, including this one, that the march should have been longer, that some of the speeches should have given a clearer sense of where the movement goes from here and that Kevin Schwenker, as MC, should have stated more emphatically that the Cutbacks Coalition is an on-going concern.

However, these criticisms do not logically lead to the conclusion that the coalition structure of the Anti-Cutbacks Coalition should be altered, as you suggest.

For the following reasons I believe that a coalition with delegated representatives from campus organizations is the fairest and most effective way to fight cutbacks at York:

1. It ensures that the ideas and needs of the unions on campus (particularly CUPE, IOUE and YUSA, but also YUFA and the GAA) will not be ignored in a joint student - union effort. Student - union coalitions on this campus are a recent development. Each union has particular needs and concerns. These can best be expressed and coordinated in a coalition. Keep in mind that February 9, and to a large extent, March 16 happened because of the initiative of the GAA whose members are faced with layoffs and because an informal coalition of the five aforementioned unions, meeting periodically during the fall, developed mutual trust and rapport.
2. Delegated coalitions give us strength. Organizations involved can put resources - financial, organizational and communications - into the effort.
3. The view that only "mass meetings" ensure democracy is hogwash! In a formally consti-

tuted coalition, each constituent group votes to enter into the coalition and instructs its delegates on positions to take. This means that 3,000 union members on this campus have a voice in Cutbacks Coalition policies. A mass meeting, on the other hand, at best ensures only that leadership is responsible to the 150 or so people who come out to any given meeting.

Of course, the delegated leadership of each group must be responsive to its membership.

Finally, I do agree that community meetings are important avenues of communication and discussion and enable people to get directly involved in the myriad of tasks that need doing in order to make our efforts a success!

**Ilene Crawford**  
Graduate Assistants' Association

## Post-hippie clique

After reading your most recent edition (March 23) of *Excalibur*, I could not help but be dismayed at the lack of irresponsible journalism this paper manufactures. [Sic, we assume.] The largest problem is that the paper is controlled by a smug group of "post hippies" whose naive idealism is reflected by the barest of minorites at York.

This one-sided group is seldom, if ever, open to other points of view in the paper, but instead runs' (sic) articles that hopelessly overwhelm in terms of length, dissenting articles. With the quality of education being a major concern your paper has done nothing but *weaken* York's position. Your stands in virtually everything have been so absurd that you have little, if any, credibility left, a *disgrace* for a university paper in the largest city in Canada.

Whereas you could offer viable alternatives and co-ordinate the education crisis in Canada, you offer stupid positions, i.e. "give us money for school", forgetting [sic] that the majority of youth do not attend and that this position reinforces [sic] the spoiled-brat image of universities (sic) dissenters', you urge big business to pay for all,

forgetting the precarious state of Canadian business and you publish gloating stories over a useless demonstration (I guess you would be happy to find other out-of-touch aged "hippies" like your self (sic) making one last stand) yet offer *no* alternatives, no compromises, an extremely unrealistic approach.

This paper has tremendous potential in this critical time of post secondary education. Yet by this extremely short-sighted group we students at York are suffering. I urge you to support Mr. Chodikoff in his efforts to make the paper not a joke as present, but a powerhouse.

I also urge you to join me to work for the paper because if we don't get our views across, (sic) nothing will change but have this minute but naive *hyperactive* group continue in Don Quoxité (sic) style.

**James Wesson**  
*Ed note, re "post-hippies"... Well man ... hey, I mean wow, that's really far-out ... wanna buy a candle?*

## Keep it participatory

Re: Pinder's Three Bad Breaks, *Excalibur* Mar. 23 pg. 7 by Ted Mumford. If Harvey Pinder had his first bad break at the hands of the CYSF representative system, think of the bad break for the majority of people who can't command the amount of power that Pinder can in voicing complaint.

I would like to remind Mumford that just as he does, every governmental representative thinks that they are doing a good job and intend to do so. However everything still goes wrong. (Atom bombs and cutbacks.)

In some societies people's power is taken away, in others people delegate it away. But individual responsibility can never be taken or delegated away it can only be ignored. In societies where individuals have no power they cannot invoke knowledgeable choice or action to assume their inherent responsibilities. I feel sorry for any one elected representative responsible for vast power. No person has enough knowledge to

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conduct overwhelming power for the good of all. Each individual must assume their responsibilities and powers and learn to use them wisely. To do otherwise is ignoring the fact that misapplied power brings disaster.

Pinder's third bad break: Mumford assures us that I "should" have dropped out of the race. The moral reason being that my platform was "close" to Pinder's. Besides, I had no chance of winning if morality is winning. If only Chodikoff and Pinder had the responsibility and voice, the world is in bad breaks. If Mr. Mumford was listening he would realize that my platform, except for *Excalibur* and Harbinger, was so different from Pinder's that Pinder's looked like Chodikoff's, except for *Excalibur* and Harbinger. Chodikoff and Pinder both believe in the viability of presidents and representative government and I do not. That is the major and moral difference between them and I. Check with Garfield Payne, CRO, I did not vote or give away my power or responsibility to any representative.

I believe that participatory government of one person one vote all the time is the only logical democracy. If my platform is the same as or close to Mr. Pinder's I assume that his "democratization" will follow the precepts of participatory democracy, not representation by a few. I take a guess that my vote supports agrees. My moral responsibility left me no choice but to stay in the race and make heard my voice as I saw no statement of agreement from Mr. Pinder.

**Arnie Bell**

*Ed note: Mumford's piece did not say Bell "should" have dropped out of the race, nor did it say Bell's platform was "close" to Pinder's.*

## Lay off Chodikoff

In regards to "Pinder's Three Bad Breaks" (Vol. 12, No. 24), Mumford's speculations as to the possible results of the CYSF elections are amusing if *unsupportable*: specifically, "Had even one of Pinder's misfortunes not befallen him he would have won." Prove it, Ted.

And in regards to "A faraway fairy tale of Pinderella and Lord Cysf", two things. First, "...Yorkyou was fated to remain a banana republic." Maybe, but I don't think that you should condemn "Chopitoff" before his trial, he hasn't even taken office yet. Secondly, a person usually gets the opportunity to face his accuser; perhaps "Ann Onymous" should come out from behind his - her pseudonym. Commentary is good, and I'm glad to see that you haven't stopped supporting Harvey; but maybe it's time to be a good loser, and swallow your pride and give Chodikoff an even break.

**Don Butcher**

## Partisan rhetoric

If Paul Kellogg really despises the PLO's terrorists, why does he deny Israel the right to eliminate them? The PLO - not merely El Fatah, but the PLO at large - still considers the destruction of Israel necessary to the creation of a Palestinian state. Last week, in addition, it announced that

since Israel is a 'military state', there are actually no Israeli civilians, and therefore the PLO cannot be accused of killing any!

If the Palestinian people want immunity from Israeli attack, they have only to refuse to shelter PLO terrorists. If on the other hand they encourage the use of violence, they cannot complain when it is used against them. Those who live by the sword, etc.

Moreover, since Kellogg objects to the use of partisan rhetoric in *The Star's* articles, he might consider deleting phrases like 'mighty Israeli war-machine' from his own.

**Paul Truster**

## Parking fees hike compounds problem

Why does the bureaucracy insist on 'up' being the cure for everything? Why not give the yearly payers a break; drop the rate to \$25 a year and be surprised at how many more would be willing to fork it over as it covers the cost of the first few weeks of \$1.50 parking or the cost of the TTC or a few tickets. It's so obvious that by raising the prices, the problem is compounded. The money made by more \$25 payers will far outweigh the extra \$5 increase paid by less!

During the first few weeks, *don't* place guards at the entrances or ticket the peripheral lots. Give students and staff the relaxed opportunity to pay their dues. When one is standing in long lines nonstop for a week forking out a fortune in tuition fees and books, the last thing one needs is the pressure to pay yearly parking fees!! When the smoke clears and one finds he actually came out on top with an extra \$25, then he can pay the fees. At the end of September start the guarding and the ticketing because by then nobody has an excuse for not having his parking decal.

**M. Johnston**

## Colored Girls drew on lack of structure

I was captivated with the performance of *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf* by Ntozake Shange. It was a potent collage of poetry, prose, music, and dance. A reflection of a black woman's pride in her roots and herself, it envelops the creative energy of all women - black or white.

In response to Michael Christ's review, in the March 23rd *Excalibur*, I felt that the apparent lack of structure in *For Colored Girls* was actually the source of its strength. The numerous accounts of each woman on stage combined their different experiences into a unified history - a history of women in America. One that any woman can identify with, and that many men can grasp. Indeed, the audience was far from being 'white and happy about it' as Michael Christ suggests.

Black and white alike responded to each poem with thunderous applause and a feeling of being at one with the women on stage.

**Carol Szkwyra**

## Thanks to Rill for musical thrill

As word goes around residence, Rill's "Trust Warren Rill Dinner" was beyond mere description. Topping the evening was the distribution of 85 free tickets to the musical *Annie* as well as transportation to the O'Keefe Centre for the recipients. Our special thanks to Warren Rill for allowing a group of students without transportation the use of the free buses.

**Katherine Berry**  
**Mickey Trigliani**  
Dons, Founders Residence

## Calumet says it's quitting CYSF in order to survive

An Open Letter to the York Community:

Calumet is leaving the Council of York Student Federation. We are doing so because we wish to survive as a viable community and because we wish to survive beyond the immediate future. In order to do so, we need the funds which we pay to the CYSF returned to Calumet. The decision to leave the CYSF was reached only after various alternatives had been carefully explored and ultimately rejected.

The Council of Masters suggested the possibilities of amalgamating Calumet with another college and our master, Eric Winter, thought Bethune the most likely candidate. Talks were held, visits were made. While we saw much to admire in Bethune, it was the belief of the General Meeting of Calumet College that we stood to lose too much. We have worked tremendously hard to create a community and we believe that the community will best survive in the guise of an independent, unamalgamated Calumet College.

Calumet is different from York's other colleges. We have neither residence nor building of our own and while living space may be rather cozy on occasion, we do not believe that we suffer from lack of it. If anything, we regard our situation as a stroke of luck. Calumet students are commuter students and thus the College's orientation is not inward, focusing on its own residence and physical boundaries; rather it is outward toward the community. Calumet is concerned with the whole student, with the future of that

student beyond the three or four years spent at York. For this reason we have Praxis, a program to teach students how to create their own jobs, their own careers, indeed their own futures.

Calumet does not have a student council either. Instead, we have a General Meeting open to all students, faculty, and staff of the college. Our community survives not because of an artificial structure imposed upon it, charged with carrying on its affairs, but rather because it is the wish of the members that it does so.

There was another alternative to our leaving the CYSF other than our amalgamation with Bethune, and that was the possibility that the Council of the York Student Federation would try to help us. There was vague talk from Paul Hayden and David Chodikoff of loans from the \$10,000 cushion CYSF maintains in the bank. Instead, the organization to which we have faithfully paid our student activity fees ever since Calumet's inception suggested what might be best described as the CYSF's perennial pipedream. Each college would contribute 75% of its social budget to the CYSF, and all pubs and coffee shops, would be centralized under their control. The individuality of all the colleges would be attacked if not destroyed. Rest assured that we at Calumet have no intention of taking the rest of the colleges over the side with us. Obviously though, the likelihood of this idea being carried out is, to put it mildly, minimal. What is not obvious however, is how (even if it were possible) this notion could help our college.

Calumet will survive this year because one of our staff members has voluntarily taken a three month leave of absence to save the college money, and another will shortly be taking a seventeen week maternity leave. The rest of our cut will have to be taken from our programs budget. We can do it this year, but Calumet needs the assurance of a steady income to meet the cutbacks not just this year, but every year so long as they are with us. Therefore, we believe that we have no alternative but to withdraw from the CYSF and to regain control of what is, after all, our own money. We are forced to choose between the services offered by the CYSF and those offered by Calumet. For the choice is simple; we prefer Calumet. This does not mean however, that Calumet will cease to support *Excalibur*, Radio York, Harbinger, and all the rest. Rather we prefer to speak directly to these groups, we prefer that the General Meeting of Calumet College allocate funds to the various organizations around campus.

We have decided that Calumet will survive, but not as a hollow shell. We have decided that Calumet will survive as an independent college of York. We have decided that Calumet will survive because we will not let it die.

In conclusion, we wish and hope that our fellow colleges at York may find suitable solutions to their cutback problems as we have done.

**General Meeting**  
**Calumet College**

*Ed note: The 400 word limit on letters was lifted for this submission because of its importance and since it is from the entire Calumet community's General Meeting.*