

editorial

Grilled Hallewick

When things go wrong at CYSF it seems that most members would prefer to do away with the bearer of bad tidings than deal with the root cause of the problem.

While the original issue, that of President Chris Summerhayes misleading the council about his activities, has been publically ignored by the majority of council, several members preferred to grill Hallewick simply because she informed *Excalibur* of the problem. Graduate Business Council representative Don McMillan went even further by suggesting at the last CYSF meeting that Hallewick should resign her position because she had questioned the president's ethics.

Rather than shooting the messenger, CYSF members should be asking both parties some tough questions about the event and ensuing controversy.

The most crucial implication of the van controversy concerns the state of CYSF financial management.

While there is certainly nothing illegal about Summerhayes not having his cash advance for the van rental paid back until over a month later, this type of privilege can easily be abused.

Last year, for example, in what amounts to a public loan, Summerhayes accumulated the better part of \$2,000 in salary advances to council members by the end of last year. It was paid back by Summerhayes during the summer, so there isn't much of a problem, but what happens next year if we get stuck with a less trustworthy leader? The opportunity for abuse of the system is simply too great.

It is essential, therefore, that CYSF take the advice of Director of Finance Valance Ellies offered at the last meeting and decentralize the council's cheque-signing authority by requiring the co-signing of all transactions by the president and the finance director.

The most immediate issue facing council right now, however, doesn't concern the actions of either Summerhayes or Hallewick, but the attitude of CYSF in general about their relationship with the press. Several CYSF members have expressed the opinion that such matters should be dealt with or investigated internally before the press is informed, but then how would the public know whether the investigation was carried out thoroughly and/or fairly without scrutiny by the media?

The crucial point is that where public funds are involved the public has the right to know how they are being managed. Hallewick not only had the right but the obligation to speak to *Excalibur* of her concerns if she felt there were financial problems at CYSF, for the money they manage is *our* money.

The CYSF constitution states that "the Director, Women's Affairs, shall act with the approval of the members of Council on the matter pertaining to the portfolio and with the approval of the Executive where action is immediately necessary." Some council members have said they will use this section in the constitution to censure Hallewick for what they say is her betrayal of council's confidentiality.

Interpreting this section to mean that council members cannot speak to the press without the prior notification of council is ridiculous, council members have too great an incentive to quash dissent if it threatens their collective reputation.

The whole issue has left a rather pervasive odor around the council, much like that surrounding the present Conservative government that is currently stitching up all those loose lips in Ottawa. Both legislative bodies, despite their obvious differences in size and importance, apparently have at least one trait in common; both would rather their members kept their little blunders and indiscretions a tidy in-house secret, well away from the public eye.

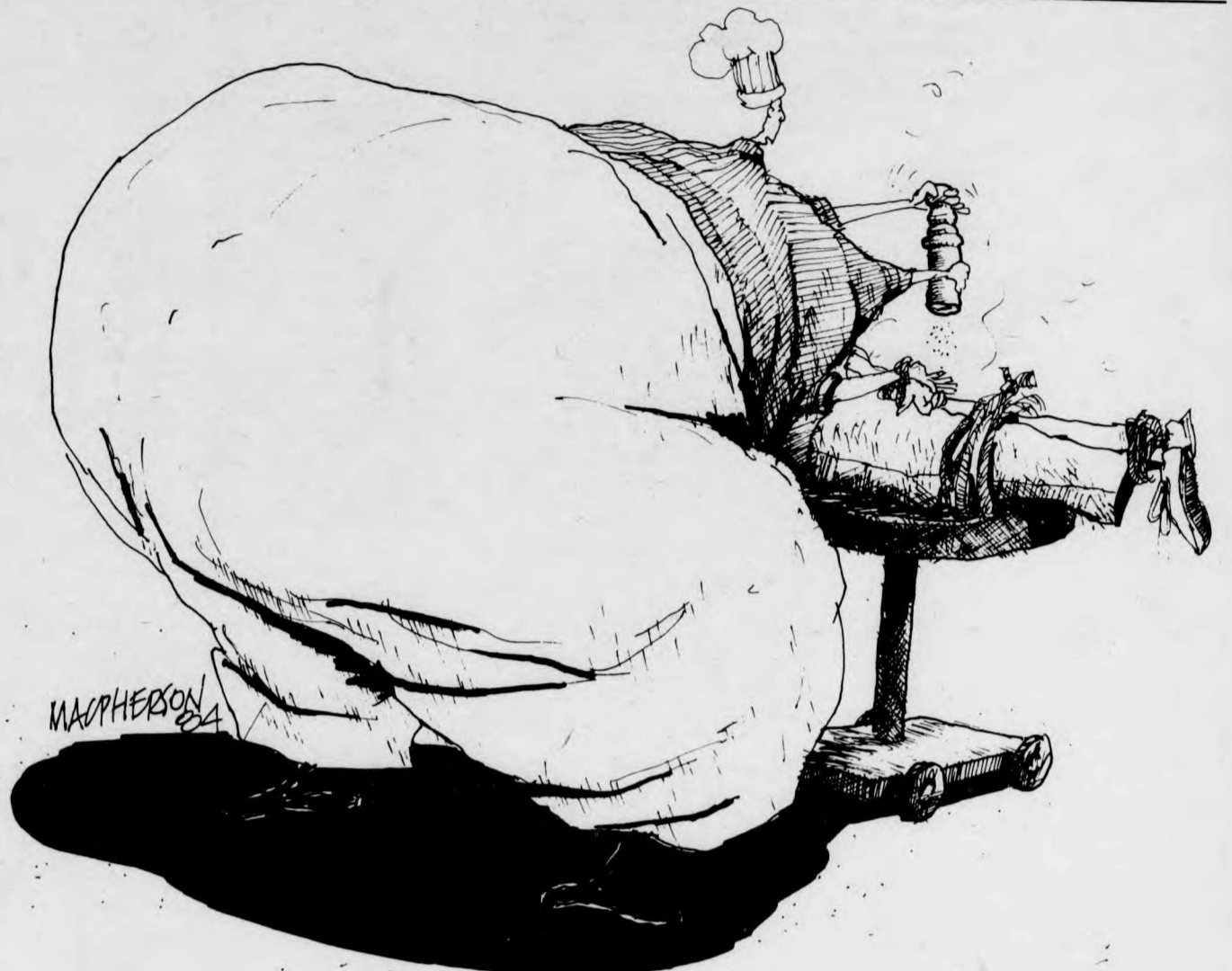
Unfortunately, trying to keep political issues quiet only confirms people's suspicions that something is awry in council.

If CYSF really wants to heal the wounds quickly and quietly, they should do three things. First, request an apology by Summerhayes for misleading council and Hallewick. What he did amounts to no more than a very minor transgression of trust, but an open, gracious apology would serve to ease the tensions that are disrupting council.

Second, those council members that have been unfairly criticizing Hallewick should stop. She did only what was her right to do, and while she could have handled the situation with more tact, at least she had the courage to pose questions that needed to be asked.

Third, institute a more accountable, less centralized system of salary advances.

After that the council can forget the whole mess and get on with the business they were elected to do.



MACPHERSON '84

letters

Deterrence no deterrence

Editor: I would like to respond to issues raised in "Deterrence the best policy ex-prof says," (*Excalibur*, 2 November 1984).

While John Gellner says he "... would welcome any nuclear control or arms agreement," I wonder why he would when the article later quotes him as saying that verifying nuclear weapons treaties would be impossible.

Although the cruise missile is unverifiable, existing satellite surveillance systems can verify larger weapons systems. I would also suggest that all the possibilities of arms verification methods have not yet been exhausted.

Gellner supports deterrence; American military personnel among others agree that only a few hundred nuclear weapons are needed by each superpower for deterrence to be effective. If this is true, why do the superpowers have tens of thousands of these weapons in their growing stockpiles?

As for accidental outbreak of nuclear war, Gellner says he doubts a subordinate could initiate it. The article does not mention if he has considered the possibilities of a lunatic leader, a sane leader who might behave irrationally in a crisis or the development of a launch on warning system.

Gellner is correct in saying there should be a greater focus on conventional war because:

- 1) Conventional wars are killing many people right now.
- 2) Conventional weapons, e.g. chemical or biological, are also very dangerous.
- 3) Conventional war is part of our reliance on military rather than negotiated solutions.
- 4) Conventional wars seem to be an outlet for superpower aggression fought largely at the expense of the Third World.

To see peace as an absence of war either between the superpowers or in the northern hemisphere is too limited a view which excludes the issues of worldwide injustice and militarism.

—Janice Boneham

Shhh . . .

Editor: Concerning the Scott Library at York—perhaps one of the cleanest but

definitely not the quietest of libraries. One seriously wonders why some students find it necessary to conduct their social lives here. There are so many other places to converse, and very few places to find quiet.

It's no wonder that U of T students call York "camp" when areas of study and serious students are treated with such utter disrespect by their colleagues.

Perhaps a visit to the John Roberts Library would enable these noisy students to comprehend what "quiet" really means.

—J. Sanson

Don't change that dial

Editor: How dare the newly elected Tory administration in Ottawa cut any kind of financial support from the CBC television and radio network. Mr. Mulroney promised jobs, jobs, jobs, in the 1984 summer election. What do we get instead—cuts, cuts, cuts. The CBC is an accomplishment of our society as a multicultural and diversified "people country." There is no other major radio or television network in Canada presently that is more dedicated, determined and "apolitical," and certainly none which does more to foster a sense of identity in the Canadian people.

The CBC has always represented the views of Canadians whether they be in the minority or the majority. The CBC has designed, directed and produced some of the most exciting, interesting and exceptionally well thought-out plays and documentaries over the past 50 years and has always programmed in a positive fashion, instead of producing smut for a buck.

How dare you arrogant and obtuse hypocrites (Tories) cut back on the CBC budget. Cuts in the CBC is a knife in the back of every honest past or present Canadian ever affiliated with the CBC (including the audience and employees) like Foster Hewitt, Gordon Pinsent, Jeanne Sauve, and the late Gordon Sinclair.

—Tom Cook

Sherman vermin after all

Editor: It comes as no surprise that the small minded, petty, and vicious claims made

by Jason Sherman regarding the recent production of *Waiting for Godot* have little or nothing to do with intelligent theatrical criticism.

To be kind, this writer will ignore the obvious grammatical and syntactic errors which appeared in Mr. Sherman's "review," even though I found them to be peculiar, especially in light of our Oh so established writing program.

However, dishonesty and malicious attacks on the part of a critic are definitely indicative of intellectual or moral failure, possibly both. Mr. Sherman's main complaint seems to be that he did not see what he expected. This is scarcely surprising.

It is patently obvious that Mr. Sherman is not familiar with the script, otherwise he would know that Lucky is supposed to stop breathing hoarsely in Act 2; moreover Mr. Sherman's mindless complaint that Pozo's (*sic*) voice is not bass indicates that even a rudimentary understanding of theatrical license is miles beyond him.

Why is it so difficult to find a critic who is honest with himself? Instead of a well reasoned article outlining the strengths and weaknesses of this production, *Excalibur* readers were forced to endure unoriginal insults about music that the reviewer was obviously incapable of understanding in the vain hope that the writing style would settle down and say something important.

Rather than explore the fact that Lucky's—not Lucy's—rope is brand new, Mr. Sherman automatically assumes that this detail is an error. The consideration that Lucky's rope was a symbol of the priorities of a misguided society, where the only new and strong artifact is used to subjugate and degrade human beings, was of course too esoteric for Mr. Sherman's twisted little gray cells. Such an understanding requires thought and honesty, two qualities that he lacks.

If there has been a cruel joke played on the York community this month, it was not delivered by *Godot's* director Kevin Prentice, but rather by *Excalibur* who sent a "critic" who is so caught up with his own self-importance that he is incapable of referring to himself in the first person. Why "we"? Does Mr. Sherman have pretensions to royalty, or is he simply preoccupied with his tapeworm?

—David E. Armstrong

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