

EXCALIBUR

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

Editor-in-Chief Andrew Michalski
Managing Editor Tim Clark
News Editor Marilyn Smith
Cultural Editor John Oughton
Sports Editor Phil Cranley
Cartoonist John Rose
Business and Advertising Rolly Stroeter
Advertising Manager Jackie Stroeter

editorial phone: 635-3201, 3202
advertising phone: 635-3800

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 under the auspices of the Council of the York Student Federation.

controlled circulation: 13,000

Strong gov't needed

When political inefficiency takes hold, the electorate is the sorry loser.

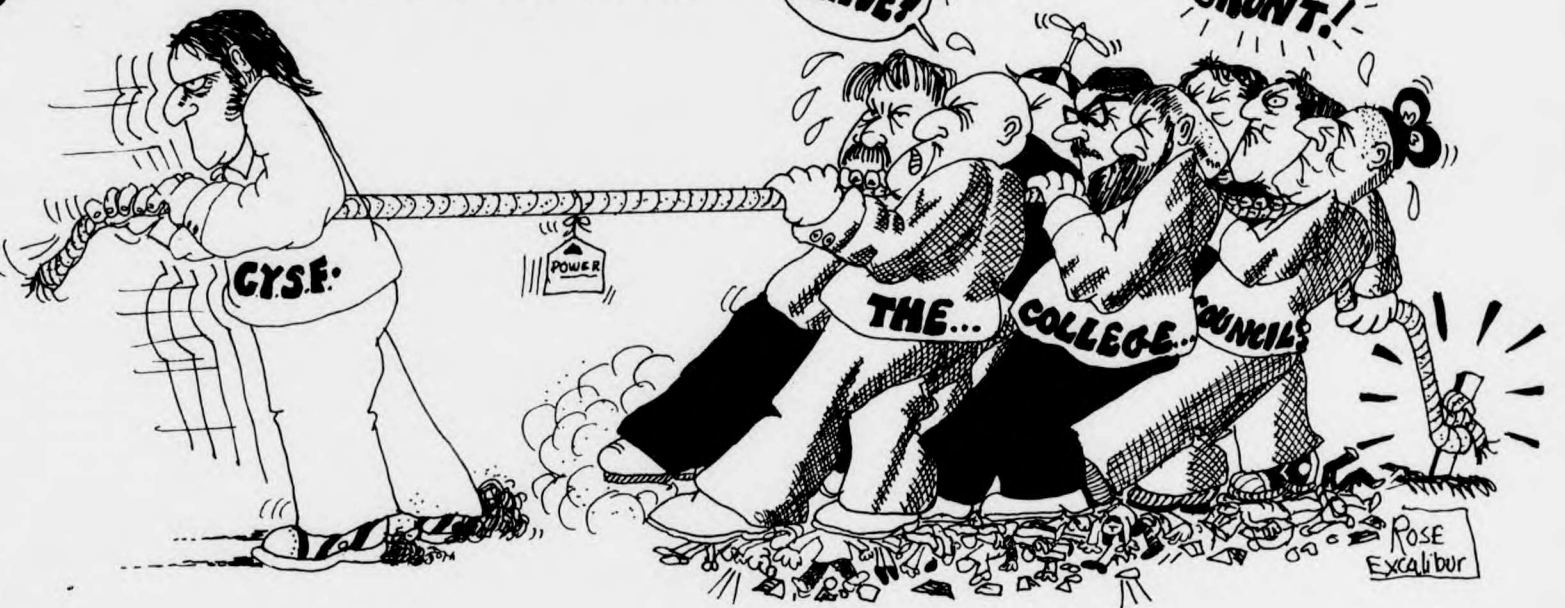
When political inefficiency stays year after year, there are always perennial losers.

As the Page 3 article on the clubs suggest, campus-wide clubs are the perennial losers in the political bickering that goes on between the colleges and Council of the York Student Federation.

Campus clubs are what make a university tick. They join common interests that stimulate mind intellectually. Clubs are where long term friendships begin because they are built on a solid basis of mutual interests. They are not like colleges which arbitrarily divide students along no lines at all except to fill up a unit.

The clubs asked for \$60,000 this year and CYSF gave them \$17,000. No doubt, some of the requests were inflated but when one considers the fact that McLaughlin's council has spent over \$13,000 already on questionable social ventures, then you have to admit that something is going wrong somewhere. One must wonder how many people benefited from McLaughlin's social events and we doubt it's one half as large as the 30 clubs that each year must petition CYSF for funds.

When you add the other financial burden of the campus-wide media — Radio York and Excalibur — then CYSF financial burden is practically over-



whelming. And then to compound the problem by having the colleges ratify CYSF's budget is the same as adding lunacy to chaos: you have an indescribable situation. All of these clubs and media have operated in a fiscal vacuum since April leaving a great deal of their efforts and energies expended on worrying when the next dollar is going to come.

For the colleges to get \$17 and CYSF \$10 is intolerable. But for CYSF's beneficiaries to wait eight months for crippled budgets is idiotic and criminal.

Having to deal with CYSF political whims and college political fancies no doubt has its effects. When CYSF is reasonably efficient, then clubs can expect some action. But when CYSF is as inefficient as this year under Michael Fletcher, then the clubs are real losers.

CYSF regimes such as Fletcher's will be forced to be more efficient in the future with a new constitution proviso that an audit must be produced to the administration before funds are released. (Yet this proviso does not exist for the colleges.) Surely this satisfies the

skeptics of what CYSF can do.

Fletcher's actions so far are little better than the college councils. But as we pointed out last week, even if the regime was providing a cohesive program, the college system prevented its fulfillment when they start running the college gauntlet for funds.

There is hope in the new constitution. It can open the doorway for CYSF to provide the services that every York student deserves. Next Tuesday, Nov. 30, you can unlock that door. And the choice is yours and no one else's.

Letters to the Editor

All letters should be addressed to the Editor and sent to Excalibur, Central Square, Ross Building, York University, Downsview, Ontario. Excalibur reserves the right to edit all letters more than 500 words long. Unsigned letters are the responsibility of the editors. All letters will be published however due to space limitations letters may not be published the week they are received.

Make some changes in new constitution

I have read Council of York Student Federation's proposed constitution that appears on Pg. 3 of Nov. 19 Excalibur very carefully. There are, it appears to me, certain deficiencies that make this constitution totally unacceptable.

There is a lack in the constitution of a provision which would state that the CYSF executive must submit to the CYSF council an audited financial statement at the end of the fiscal year. Two qualifications are in order: The statement must be audited by a firm of chartered accountants and the recommendations of the auditor must be presented with the audit. Second, both statements must be given to the CYSF council at the end of the third academic term (as per the constitution proposed).

With this type of clause embodied in the constitution, the assurance that all funds will be accounted for exists and the Board of Governors would probably not object. But the essential thing is that this must be a constitutional principle, not a by-law tucked away somewhere where it is easily forgotten. One has constitutional assurance of an audit.

The second constitutional principle that is lacking is an assurance that at no time in the future whatsoever, the federation will have access to or control of the money that is given to the colleges by the university. Namely, CYSF embodies in the constitution a clause which does not allow it to collect all student fees from the University that would normally be given to CYSF and the constituent members (the colleges) as is done presently and the allocating the money to the individual constituent members. This would assure the colleges that they would never be placed in a power relationship vis a vis CYSF. It would also assure constitutionally the autonomy of the colleges.

The board of governors is assured that the balance of power is not changed and that they have a guarantee of financial responsibility of CYSF. Consequently, it is a great deal easier for them to approve the proposed constitution.

Mr. Fletcher, please, adopt these guarantees and put them in the constitution or I ask that the constitution be defeated on Nov. 30.

Walter P. Brzozowicz

Why CYSF lacks college support

I would like to inform you and the students of this university of one of the major reasons why the CYSF has failed to receive support for its budget this year. It is because that up until this date no college has received an audited statement of last year's operation from the CYSF.

What I am trying to point out is simple. The CYSF has, by far, the largest appropriation of student fees of any council on this campus. Who is to check on it in a revised situation such as proposed? Why should there be any change in the present 'division of powers' when the CYSF has failed to show financial responsibility towards its constituents?

As the system of student government stands right now there are a set of checks and balances to protect the students of this university from misuse of their money by a council.

I personally hope that the result of the referendum is a close 'no'. I hope the 'no' is close enough to get both the CYSF and the various Councils involved in some serious discussion and action in regards to the need to alter the present set-up of student government at York University as it now stands. I believe that once the councils can be assured that the CYSF is financially proper in its conduct, then discussion could follow quite easily.

Alan Shefman
McLaughlin College

Mike Fletcher is power tripping

I have just finished reading this week's edition of Excalibur, Nov. 19, on Council of the York Student Federation and the upcoming referendum. I must say that I am angry and

disgusted with the CYSF and its power tripping president, (small p is intentional), Michael Fletcher, esp.

The CYSF was formed by the colleges, why?, I don't know because to me it seems they have created a monster which is turning on them. The CYSF obviously wants all the power that the colleges have plus complete autonomy, at least when it comes to spending our money.

Let me say now that I am in favor of completely ousting the CYSF, let alone vote against that piece of garbage they call a referendum.

Why were the college councils formed if not to administer the student's funds towards student events and organizations? Did the need for CYSF arise because the colleges couldn't get together on various decisions and so felt the need for a "tie-breaking" organization. What a fantastic blow-job!!! It's difficult enough for the college councils to fairly represent the opinion of their students, so how in hell does Fletcher plan to solicit to an entire student population of 10,000. An indication of how well they are succeeding was evident in last week's poll as to the student knowledgability of the referendum.

What is this crap about the CYSF president not having to be a full-time student after election? Are they serious, an outsider functioning as the head of a STUDENT organization? This is another plot to enable the elected president to remain in power, should he wipe out in his academic courses or otherwise see fit to abandon his scholastic pursuits. Students who drop out of classes are not classified as members of the York community, so why the double standard? I wonder what real motives Fletcher has behind that one.

With regards to the recognition and support of University oriented functions and organizations, personally, who gives a damn whether CYSF supports or recognizes a University happening? All we should need is the support of the colleges in order to create or dissolve as they see fit (with student approval of course).

Maybe I'm looking at this situation too objectively. As an outsider, an ordinary resident student, it is easy to criticize but I can't help the feeling that the CYSF is a non-functional entity, trying to assume the power of the Colleges and create for itself a tower of invulnerability with Fletcher at the top.

It is very unfortunate that the CYSF was organized in the first place since it is only trying to accomplish one objective, pushing the colleges into being useless non-identities. Regarding a matter that has just recently come to the surface again, that being the installation of contraceptive machines in washrooms here in the residence.

Can anybody tell me who took it upon themselves to act as the father image for 2,000 resident students. The answer is easy, CYSF.

I have in no way managed to air my total disbelief at the CYSF and its platforms. All I can say to CYSF is "Take all the gravy while you can because it won't last long. The students and the Colleges are beginning to feel the effects of your probing shaft.

By the way Fletcher, how did you score on the CYSF's new pinball machine? I sincerely hope you lost your balls.

This is a general consensus of Leacock House, Mac Residence.

Robert Stewart
McLaughlin College Residence

Excalibur gets friendly letter

I would like to commend Excalibur for being a fine paper which covers all events on and related to York University by York students. The quality of writing in this paper is much better than the one produced by the last university I attended (Bellingham).

It is also the only paper on campus which gives us a full as possible resume of things going on. The Winters' paper gives us some humor, Winters' news and activities but very little general reporting.

Continue the good work and I'll look forward to reading future issues.

Pamela Clark