

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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A question or two about responsibility

Excalibur needs a publications board to safeguard, in writing, its independence, its integrity, and its freedom from political intervention.

That was made crystal clear this summer when the executive members of the Council of the York Student Federation decided to interfere in the paper's internal operations, to the extent of proposing to suspend them.

Who's to say they couldn't interfere? It's not written down anywhere that they can't. But, then, it isn't written down that they can, either.

And that basically is the problem.

Only an independent board recognized by the paper's staff, the Council, the administration and the student body can clear up the dilemma.

Council members have political interests which necessarily bar them from any kind of legitimate political control.

The Ontario Federation of Students, of which York is still a member, recognizes this fundamental principle that student councils have to keep their hands off student papers.

What kind of integrity can a paper have if it's a council tool, or if it's constantly worried about becoming one, or if it gives the impression of being one?

No newspaper, and certainly no editor, likes to dwell on internal problems in print. But the issue of freedom from political interference is involved here, and more than one newspaper is affected. The implications for other

student activities and other student papers are too great to ignore.

Michael Mouritsen, CYSF president, feels he and his fellow executive members have acted in your best interests during the summer. He firmly believes that freedom of the press is not the issue, but that the paper must be made to act responsibly.

Responsibility, however, is a two-edged sword.

No responsible politician would completely ignore a petition signed by more than 400 members of the York Community requesting that the paper remain completely free of political control.

No responsible student politician would even consider making major decisions affecting every student on campus, while those students were away for the summer.

No responsible politician would jeopardize a newspaper's entire production schedule, completely disregarding the possibility of breach of contract lawsuits.

No responsible politician would mess with a newspaper's policies when such interference is clearly not in the best interests of the community.

No responsible newspaper would ever allow such interference. No responsible campus politician would reject the idea of an independent board of publications for this or any other university paper.

Excalibur accepted such a concept from the outset.



Damn termites

On the buses

Where's the TTC when you really need it?

By AGNES KRUCHIO

If you are ready to cry "rip-off" and are ready to storm the administrators' offices who have perpetrated this latest injustice to impoverished students' fast-emptying pockets, stop.

Some would say that to have to pay for a university commuter service is really scraping the bottom of the budgetary barrel — after all, U of T provides a free commuter service to the subway from Erindale — but so it seems is York since the budget crisis last year. "I must be glad to have been offered a free book-binder", said the assistant to the vice-president of administration, Peter Wood.

The university bus service is set up by the administration as a supplement to, but not a replacement of, the route set up by the TTC. Hence the charge of 25 cents — in order to keep losses within acceptable limits. God forbid, if you forget to buy your vouchers before you get on the bus. The bus driver is not allowed to sell vouchers to commuters, nor is he allowed to handle any money.

Therefore, forgetful schoolmouse, you can just slip off the bus quietly and buy your bus tickets ("vouchers," pardon me) from the Cashier in the Temporary Office Building. And remember to do so during office hours, as the Cashier closes at the regular time.

Why all the complicated red-tape? The key to this mystery lies in the attitude of the TTC. Like some prehistoric dinosaur, the TTC still seems to be under the impression that no one exists out at this part of the world; it still treats York as if it were a milkstop on an unimportant siding. Said Peter Wood, "It is only after years of relentless pressure on our part that the TTC improved service from 18 buses a day to over 800 a week."

At first there was no weekend service at all, then there was no Sunday service, now there is intermittent service. Hence the university introduced the shuttle service.

According to V.L. Berg, senior administrator at Glendon, the university has never claimed any responsibility for getting students from one campus to the other, and it is up to the individual to find his own way. In other words if you think

you can improve your education by taking courses at the 'other' campus, (there is no other reason), you'll just have to pay up.

Whatever the wrinkles in the present system, we must give the administration some credit for Effort.

As far as the University-run shuttle service is concerned, though, why not introduce a flat fee for all students as with athletic facilities? How many students really use the facilities as much as they are entitled to. But at least they are there if needed. The same could happen to a commuter service. Surely, many people who now drive would take advantage of it once introduced on a dependable basis.

But the real problem is still the TTC. It is not willing to install a commuter service to favor 'a special interest group'. One of the many claims for not doing so is the supposed cost of such an operation — any service that runs full one way and nearly empty the other is not deemed profitable by the TTC.

Yet any unbiased citizen may ask why such a service would be any more expensive than the dial-a-bus service introduced in North York, — a hideously expensive proposition.

What the TTC needs is a good poke in its paleolithic ribs. Two years ago, a planned blitz to jam their switchboard with complaints fizzled out due to lack of participation. Yet when the graduate student tenants' association appealed to Barbara Green, a North York councillor, the bus stop for which the administration had been angling for 'for a long time' was quickly installed, according to Wood.

And that is why, dear commuters, you now see a bus stop outside Atkinson College. As for the university shuttle service from York Mills, if you have any suggestions, criticisms, outrages or comments, or if you would use the TTC if service were improved, contact the Excalibur office and we will forward your complaints to the people concerned.

Come join Excalibur.

No experience
needed.

Staff meeting

at 1 pm today.

No room for a hero

Thursday, September 6 is an important day. Not many people realize it, but September 6 is Lafayette Day.

Oh, how quickly we forget. Why, just a couple of hundred years ago, Lafayette was a household word — on the lips of every schoolchild.

And where is he today, that noble revolutionary who did something or

other to save America for the world? A fast check through York's calendar reveals that not a single course is devoted to his exploits.

Chaucer is in there, and so is somebody named Karl Marx. Even Linear Algebra made it. Well, at least he has his day, and nobody can take that away from him.