

Excalibur

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

You CAN always get what you want

CYSF elections — nominations close Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 5 pm. Nomination forms and information are available from N108 in the Ministry of Love.

The campaign will be on from Jan. 22 - Feb. 2. It will be interesting — after we see who is running — to observe the issues which will be raised/ not raised.

It is probably correct to predict that the campus will be buffeted by endless candidates' newsletters railing against the continued irrelevance of CYSF to YOU THE STUDENT.

Following close on the heels of this rather stale (it's a perennial standby issue for most student bureaucrats) and superficial analysis of what's wrong with student government will be the stock rhetoric promising that 'If YOU elect me/ us (if it's a slate) we'll bring it all back to the students; ie. we'll make student council at York relevant (yechhh) to YOU.

Now, some people will say "that's not correct, EXCALIBUR, I'm different politically (right/ center/ left, activist/ non-activist) than X candidate is." That line is meaningless, except that it gives one an idea of the language the candidate will use in his campaign.

The basic reason that student government at York is not relevant, by the way, is that it has not/ does not/ will never serve the students at York.

The council — as are most governments — is structured in such a way that it serves as a kind of club for those interested in playing politics for a year or two.

Also, at York, CYSF fulfills a bureaucratic function for the administration — it distributes money, it provides the bulk of student representatives to serve on meaningless advisory committees, some other things which are so meaningful as to induce amnesia.

The problem is that most, if not all, candidates for political office, never get beyond the generality of damning CYSF (or for that matter, the college councils) for irrelevancy. They never get down to presenting specific platforms based on an analysis of the community they spend a great deal of their time in.

Perhaps they don't because that would mean real work for them upon election; ie., YOU would expect them to do, or at least attempt, the planks of the platform they ran on.

O.K., based on the premise that ALL POWER BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE, with the following qualifier, IF THEY CAN ARTICULATE AND EFFECTIVELY CHANNEL THE THINGS THEY WANT DONE, EXCALIBUR suggests the following platform for any individual or group who has the nerve and conviction to run on it.

1. Every student who is a member of CYSF will get \$5 at Christmas. This will come from the \$10 YOU pay as a "tax" to CYSF. This would mean an end to CYSF - financed clubs. Those who want to form/ join clubs would use their \$5 rebate to make a budget. This plank is based on the principle that it is unfair to make non-club types pay for something they get nothing out of.

The remaining \$5 would be used to help finance cross-campus services such as EXCALIBUR, RADIO YORK and Zaardvark (which would be out in time) and to pay for basic administrative costs of CYSF; ie., a full-time secretary.

2. First come, first serve parking on campus. This would apply to everyone from the board of governors and president down. Every car on campus would pay a basic registration fee of \$15 for the year. The only no parking zones liable to towing would be those designated as fire routes.

This could be enforced by a show of force, to be organized by CYSF, at the beginning of the academic year. The basic fact is that we have more cars and more ingenuity than they do.

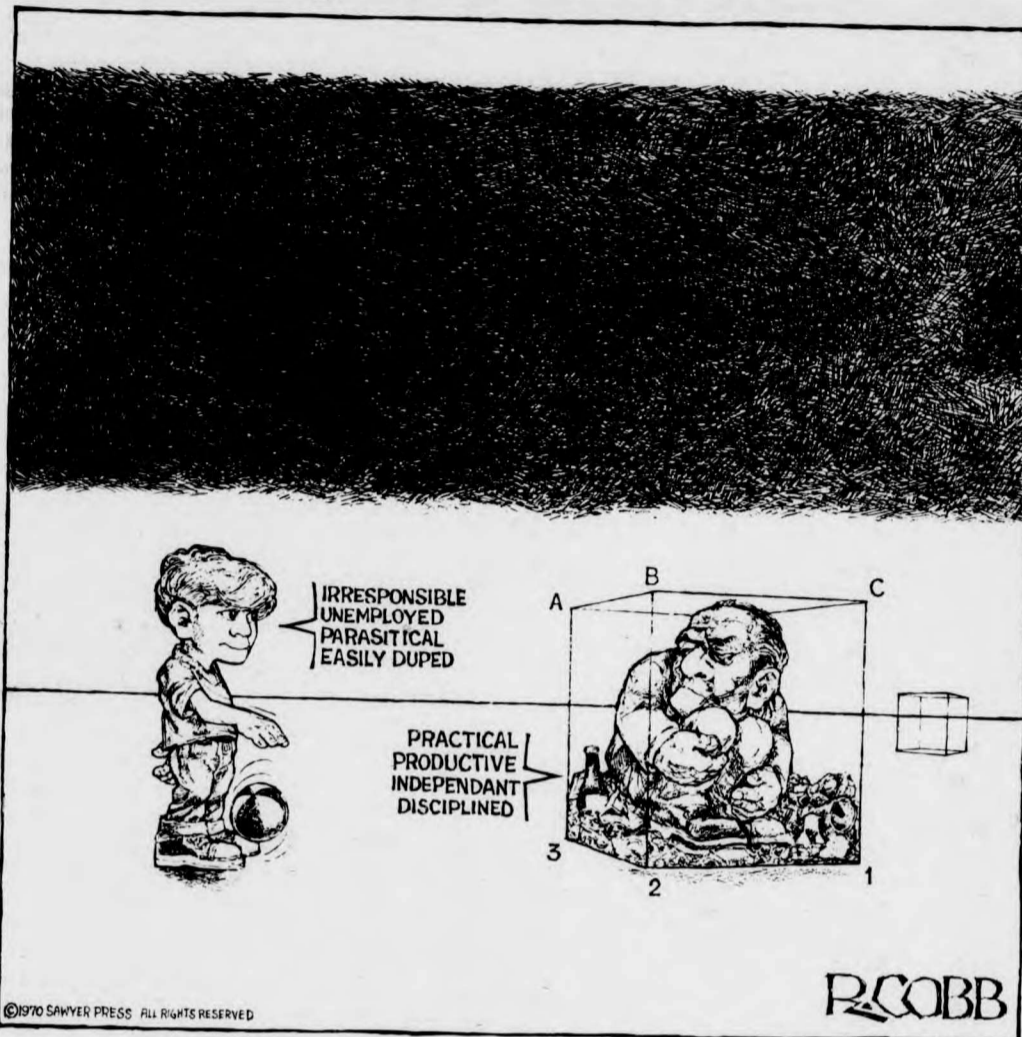
Furthermore, CYSF would immediately begin lobbying to institute better parking facilities with future buildings and corrected facilities with old ones. York has, by no means, reached perfection in this field.

3. A complete birth control information centre, including supplies of devices, to be provided by York's health services.

In addition, CYSF would set up an (underground) abortion referral service.

4. Pollution control for York's new smoke stack. Not only that it's helping to shorten our lives, but also because we have a responsibility to set an example, the smokestack should have filters installed and should burn natural gas (it's not that much more expensive).

This plank would only be instituted if people were concerned enough to



picket for a couple of hours around the stack and participate in a few well-timed performances.

5. Cheaper books. Free enterprise will help us here. The Student Christian Movement (SCM), which operates bookstores across the country — and at much cheaper cost to YOU — should be approached about taking over the operation at York. A sit-in or similar peaceful disruption in the book store would get this plank nailed down.

6. Food — stop the profits. Turn them back to Versafood so better quality meals can be offered. Also, the university should be requested to increase Versafood's operating grant — not so they would get more profits, but for better food at York. Versafood

can do it — look at the Toronto Dominion Centre cafeteria.

A boycott of food services or borrowing of dishes at a few meals would shut the services down and get the point across to the administration ... if YOU want better food.

7. Covered walkways between buildings when the snow flies. The architects of York goofed when they designed this university as a walking campus. It isn't — shhivvver — so.

At little expense — given the benefits — temporary walkways — perhaps even heated — could be provided.

Sound relevant? If they are some of the things YOU want, perhaps YOU should run.

A final exam in Biafra

1. Which of the following countries is sad that Nigeria won the war?

a) Nigeria, b) Great Britain, c) Soviet Union, d) Canada, e) Vietnam.

2. Which of the following countries is happy that Nigeria won the war?

a) Biafra, b) France, c) Czechoslovakia, d) Quebec, e) Canada.

3. Choose carefully the most complete answer as to why Great Britain and Russia are happy that Nigeria won the war.

a) great powers love to win
b) they are losing a good customer for military hardware, but gaining a few oilfields

c) both have lots of experience in suppressing minority groups and will be more than happy to pass this along to General Gowon

d) nobody loves a gun runner, and some people were beginning to talk.

4. Choose carefully the most complete answer as to why France is sad that Nigeria won the war.

a) great powers hate defeat
b) France is losing a good customer for military hardware AND a few oilfields

c) at this rate they will have to devalue the franc again.

5. Find the best explanation as to why Czechoslovakia, Quebec and Vietnam are sad that Biafra has lost the war.

a) they know what it is like to be a downtrodden people and so share a common struggle

b) a setback in one struggle for national liberation is a setback in them all.

6. Find the best explanation as to why Canada is happy that Biafra has lost the war.

a) inertia has once again put Canada on

the winning side

b) noisy activists will no longer be able to pester the federal government with unfair tactics (e.g. pictures of starving babies)

c) Canada is a poor country and we could barely afford to keep up with our paltry payments to the Nigerian Red Cross and Canairelief

d) our relief payments were acting as a stimulus to inflation

e) no one wants Quebec to get any new ideas.

7. Mitchell Sharp has offered "Canada's services and experience as a federal form of government" to General Gowon. Pick the answer which best describes Mitchell Sharp's attitudes.

a) Sharp keenly understands "the white man's burden."

b) Sharp is secretly a genuine humanitarian and a great believer in meaningless rhetoric

c) Canada has had problems with her federal structure, but the English have had long experience in successfully suppressing French aspirations.

8. Relief money is now pouring into Biafra from Britain, the United States, West Germany and Canada. What follows is a list of possible explanations for this phenomenon. Which one is obviously, regrettably mistaken.

a) we have finally discovered that people are more important than a paper constitution

b) there is now no danger of toppling General Gowon's regime

c) to mask their criminal guilt, these powers are doing an obscene dance on the graves of two million of their victims.

Excalibur

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