

Excalibur

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

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Edson must clarify issues on referendum

Barry Edson's proposed Radio York referendum is nothing short of confusing and appears to be a deliberate attempt to mislead the voters and slip a major change in CYSF policy through the backdoor.

Edson has proposed that in the spring a referendum be held to determine whether or not students want the council to back Radio York in its bid for an FM license and to financially assist them should the CRTC give them the on-air go ahead.

This is a good idea and an issue of this importance should be resolved by a referendum. But Edson does not seem content to simply poll York students as to whether they want CKRY on the air waves instead of over loudspeakers. A simple 'yes' or 'no' ballot would suffice but Edson is trying to pull the proverbial 'quicky' by slipping a second question onto the ballot. The part two of Edson's proposed referendum raises the issue of funding for an expanded Radio York. It asks whether students would want their tuition increased by \$2.50 to cover the increased costs or —watch this one from left field — if they would like the \$2.20 they now pay for the On-

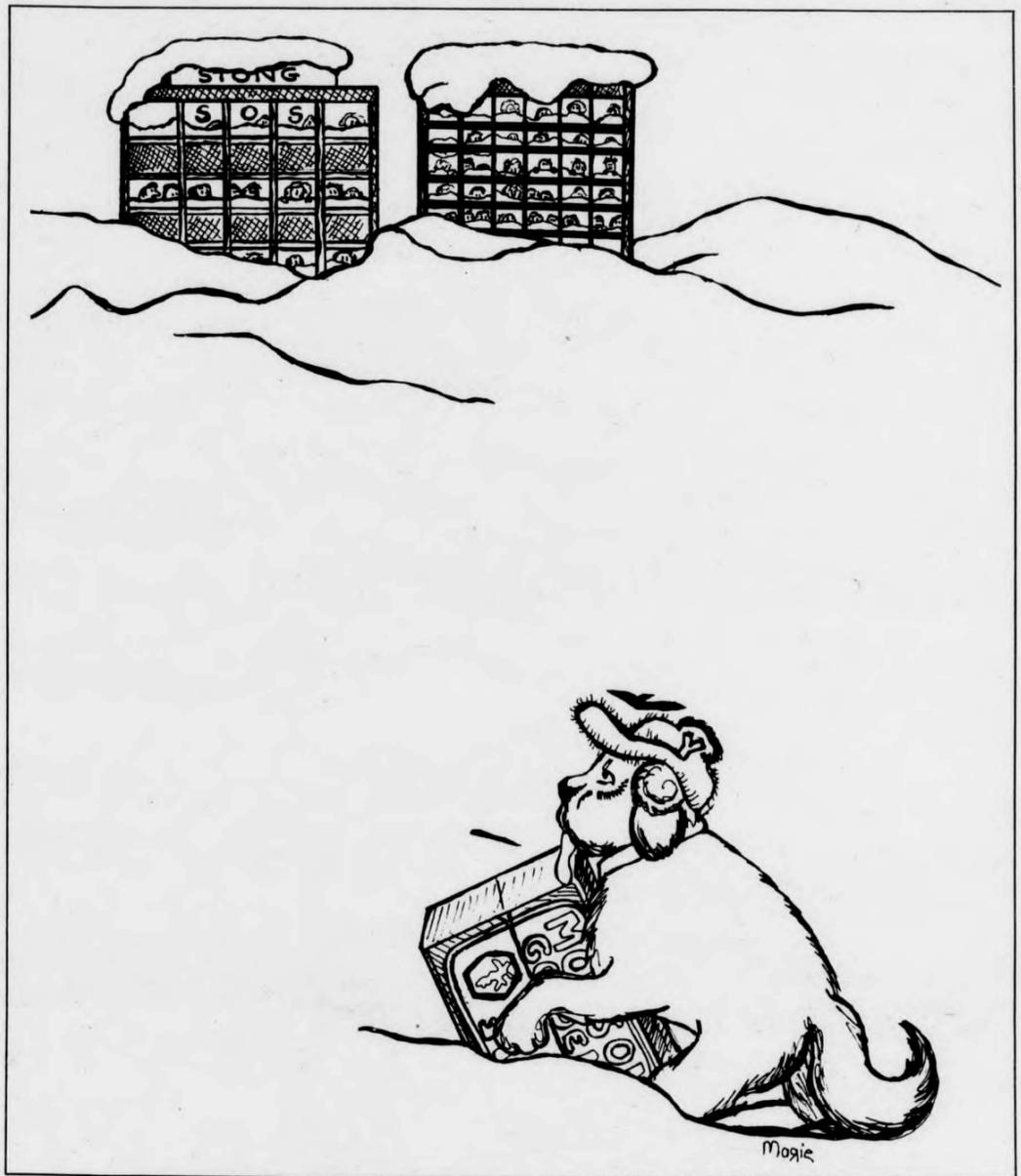
tario Federation of Students (OFS) and the National Union of Students (NUS) re-directed to meet the expenses.

What do OFS and NUS have to do with a radio station for the York community? Why has Edson chosen this area of the CYSF budget for 'redirection'? If Barry Edson wants to hold a referendum on York's membership in OFS and NUS he should say so. His proposed Radio York referendum is not this though it has all the implications of a pro or con UFS, NUS vote.

This referendum implies that if students want a radio station but don't want to pay increased fees, their only choice is to vote to drop-out of OFS and NUS. This is garbage.

OFS and NUS have long been big issues at York. In fact in the last two years referenda have been held to increase student fees to pay CYSF membership in both of them. Both referenda were passed overwhelmingly in support of the two student organizations.

Despite these votes, Edson has never been a big supporter of either organization, in fact, Edson was the only student council president in Ontario to consider attending



a meeting at Western to discuss creating an alternate provincial student federation. The meeting failed to take place due to lack of interest.

If Edson holds these anti-OFS NUS feelings so strongly he should not be afraid to defend them in an open and clearly worded referendum campaign.

If he really feels York University students would be better off out of OFS and NUS, he should ask them, through a referendum.

It does seem shocking that at a time of mounting threats against universities and students, a group allegedly pledged to fighting cutbacks like the CYSF, would even consider leaving these organizations.

Both NUS and OFS provide York students with essential organizing and lobbying bodies during these difficult times for post-secondary education. Edson should be supporting them and working to improve them rather than

participating in attacks.

If Edson has complaints about OFS and NUS he should take an active role in participating in the organizations to improve them rather than 'confronting' them with threats to pull out.

So Barry, let's clear the air. Let's deal with the Radio York issue in an atmosphere of healthy discussion. And if you insist on challenging York's membership in OFS and NUS, okay, but do it honestly. We all would appreciate it.



Don't just read Excalibur — come write, draw or take pictures. Join the staff at today's meeting, 2 p.m. in room 111 Central Square.

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