

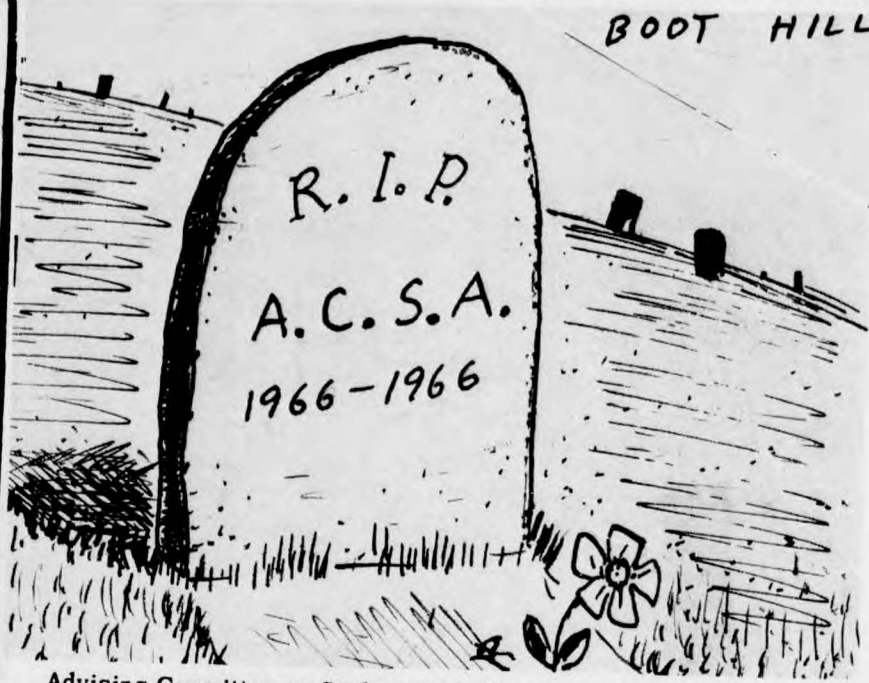
Excalibur



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 excalibur is published weekly by students of york university on york campus. opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the student council or the university administration. phone-635-2300
 Associate member--Canadian University Press



Advising Committee on Student Activities was a York U. hopeful.
 joe pivato

Editorial

On Xmas Broadside

The first term is over and it is a choice time to survey the mistake strewn battlefield of student council incompetance at York.

At the beginning of the term we said "The S.R.C. is in a sad state." If anything, the situation is worse now. The two Vanier members threaten resignation. There is an acute crisis in confidence. The college councils have little faith in the S.R.C. and vice-versa. The S.R.C. councillors have little faith in their leadership.

And what has the S.R.C. done for the students? Apart from partial financing of the EXCALIBUR and the York Yearbook, very little! The \$150 allotted for the setting up of a Central Advertising Agency has come to naught, as yet. The formidable budget for external affairs has yet to produce any appreciable results. The council has made no meaningful effort to involve students in the programs that the Canadian Union of Students has formulated. University clubs, a responsibility of the S.R.C., have been completely ignored. Finally, an important constitution committee which should have come into being long ago still does not exist.

However, the S.R.C. is not alone in its malaise.

The Founders Students Council has managed to lose over a \$1,000 of the students' money on social events this year. The Coffee House budget of \$350 (approx.) has been exhausted already. Most shocking of all, Fred Holmes, vice-president of the Publication

Commission, has, with the permission of the executive, been allowed to squander \$400 on a 'Jet Spray Kit' for poster painting. Technically, the money was spent illegally since it came from the Publications budget which is appropriated by a commission of three students (one of whom is the V.P.). In this case, Mr. Holmes did not even bother to consult the commission. The council should demand his resignation.

Finally, the timidity of some student councillors, is surprising. It seems several councillors, especially those at Glendon were shocked and most dismayed to discover that the EXCALIBUR had actually quoted (indirectly without comment, even) statements by Board Chairman Scott. Apparently to present views of important administrators at York, to inform students, to short-circuit the oh-so-polite and discreet negotiations of student councillors, destroys the effectiveness of student government -- or so we are told. If so, something's radically wrong with student government.

Seventeen dollars of your tuition fees go to your student councils. The responsibility for cleaning up the mess in student government lies with you. If you care about your money and what it does for you, you can voice your complaints to the councillors: you can write letters to EXCALIBUR; and, ultimately, you can run for office next February. We hope a few of you will care enough.

Letters

Dear Sir,

Before I answer your editorial of Dec. 2 entitled 'Vietnam and the Workers' I would like to protest the fact that your paper has not seen fit to report on any of the successful meetings of the York University Committee to End the War in Vietnam. It also surprises me that you could find my speech important enough for editorial comment and yet not print it when I submitted it to you for publication.

Over 70% of the employed persons in Canada receive \$5,000.00 or less a year. It is this group, the Canadian working class, which you maintain is the bastion of authoritarian regimes. It is strange that you should have this opinion of the majority and yet claim to be a friend of democracy.

This is not my view. I consider the working class to be the real force for democracy and social change. In our society there are

two basic forces, the workers and the corporate elite. While the middle class is large, it is not as big as the working class. History has shown that the middle class is a class caught between. It must either ally itself with the 900 or so industrialists (Porter--The Vertical Mosaic) who run our country, or with the working people.

An excellent example of the anti-democratic tendencies of the corporate elite is provided by Mr. Scott, Chairman of the Board of Governors of York University, who feels that the students who picketed Pearson should be expelled. It is not surprising that these are his sentiments. He is a representative of a small group, who run this country not by virtue of any democratic mandate, but because of their wealth (which to a large extent they inherited). It was his class which introduced the Ontario Police State Bill

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Profs: U.S. Get Out!!

Founders Social and Debates Room was the scene last Thursday afternoon of a panel discussion sponsored by the York University Committee to End the War in Vietnam, the topic being (appropriately enough) 'How to end the war in Vietnam?'. The speakers were Mrs. Guild, an assistant professor in Modern Languages on Glendon Campus; Dr. Cutt from the Economics department here on York Campus; and Dr. Knelman from the department of science of Glendon.

When questioned by Joe Young, chairman of both the C.E.W.V. and of Thursday's discussion, as to whether an end could be brought to the war most effectively by negotiations or by the withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam, all three panelists agree that a 'categorical withdrawal' of the American troops could only be initiated by an unconditional ceasing of bombing.

Although Mrs. Guild, who has been active in the Peace movement for the past fifteen years, claimed that it was ludicrous for the American government to interfere with self-determination in Vietnam, she praised the administration for its disinclination to silence protest movements against the war, saying that such movements had given 'political and moral courage' to those who approved the war and were attempting to make their views known.

Dr. Cutt seemed to feel that if and when the American troops are withdrawn from Vietnam, there will be a Communist revolution unless the conditions of gross inequality and exploitation improve radically. When asked about the role of the Canadian Government in the war, he said that Canada could have a ponderous effect on the outcome of the war if she was prepared to make the economic sacrifice of refusing to sell strategic raw materials to the American government and by taking an unequivocal stand of opposition to the war. He added that Canada could play a substantial part in achieving a peace settlement by offering to play the role of an intermediary between the two countries. Dr. Cutt concluded that it would be 'shameful' if Canada continued simply to 'straddle the Fence'.

Dr. Knelman (who recently wrote to Prime Minister Pearson, suggesting he relinquish his Nobel Prize, having 'forfeited' his right to it), labelled the American position in the war invalid. He claimed the American government had failed to recognize the indigenous nature of the revolution in South Vietnam. He also said that there was bitter irony in the fact that thousands of American negroes are being sent to foreign land to fight for 'freedom and demo-

cracy'--rights they are denied in their own land. Dr. Knelman later remarked that conflict will continue in this world long after the war is settled and that we must look beyond an immediate solution to the Vietnam problem to the more important question of how to eventually secure an international community for all mankind.

Fat Boy Promises

Ross Howard

In a recent interview at Yorkdale Shopping Centre, EXCALIBUR received assurances that Toronto's most famous annual visitor will satisfy everyone's Christmas wishes. Mr. S. Claus, rotund resident of the North West Territories, promised to be especially kind to York U. students.

For Keith Kennedy, S.R.C. president, Mr. Claus has:

A walking-talking Al Kaplan doll that only says 'Yes!'

A revised constitution that gives the only vote to the president.

The new best-selling novel, 'Student Council Revolts and How to Breed Them.'

Mr. Claus has also promised 150 empty rooms for Founders College Residences, as soon as the residence fees go up \$166.

For Virtue-Food Catering Ltd., he's delivering several copies of the book, 'Yesterday's Meals, and How to Re-serve Them.'

For York University he promised to 'give them U. of T. to fill up the hole behind the library.'

Santa added, 'I will see that York Pres. Ross gets a framed painting of 'Secret A.C.S.A. Meetings Lead to Berkley', by Picasso, for his office wall.'

'To anyone intersted, I will give the teeth to put the bite on Premier Robarts for increased student aid. With this gift goes the presidency of York.'

'To EXCALIBUR editor, Ron Graham, I offer one well-organized waste-paper basket.'

Santa, chuckling throughout the interview, commented that he will give all York students good Christmas marks if can get enough Yule Fuel into the profs. (And, oh yes, if you haven't been good--no way!!)

He closed the interview by saying, 'Just tell the students they'll get theirs.'

Did you know that more tonnage goes through the locks at Sault Ste. Marie than through the Suez and Panama Canals combined?