

Put yourself behind the pages

Founded by a bunch of English lit majors with time and weed on their hands — or so the legend goes — *excalibur* has been a central part of York student and political life for the past 26 years.

About as hated as it is loved, *excalibur* inspires as many responses as there are students on campus. In a never-ending metamorphosis, it expands and takes in new people and ideas all the time. This September, like every September, will witness the birth of an entirely new paper.

Excalibur occupies a lofty fourth-floor office suite in the Student Centre, with floor-to-ceiling windows — a far cry from its cinderblock-cubicle origins. Drop by anytime and you'll find a group of volunteers who call this home and just about the best place to be on campus.

The *excalibur* staff is committed to the belief that the student press should serve as a forum for ideas and advocacy in which all astute students can participate — as staff

tion by their comrades. The staff chooses its editors through secret ballot voting. By-elections are held when necessary during the year as positions become vacant. Several positions are currently vacant, so we'll be holding by-elections before the end of September.

Editors, selected for their commitment and competence, have no more voting power than other staff members. Editors are responsible for ensuring the paper is running smoothly, to coordinating stories, photos, graphics and production work, and to providing inspired guidance.

The editorial board meets weekly to work out the details of production and to discuss the performance of its members. Any questions about the board can be directed to Pat Micelli.

Issues Coordinators

The editorial board also includes issues coordinators who concen-

stunning exposés... features are those major articles that make you feel like taking the paper home and spending a little more time with it.

Combining research, interviewing and creative writing skills, features writing is a great way to master the arts of journalism. Features editor Doug Saunders has a wide range of materials available to help you improve your skills, whether you're a new volunteer or an experienced writer.

Arts

Film, books, theatre, dance... the arts section diffuses cultural news, reviews the obscure and the overhyped, and gives you all the pop culture criticism you can stomach. Issues within the arts range from the white-washed world of the Canada Council to Dan Quayle's opinion of Murphy Brown.

Excal Arts is looking for an infusion of some new, off-beat, funky, critical or passionate writers. If interested see Arts editors Lilac Caña or Eric Alper for more details.

Sports

Sports coverage is more than scores and jock talk. Athlete profiles, drug scandals, cuts to funding — *excalibur's* sports section wipes the dirt off and finds the stories you need to read.

You don't have to be an athlete to write sports articles. Sports editor Nicky Davis needs writers.

Science

Conscious of the pervasive effects of science and technology on our lives, *excalibur* plans to set up a science department to cover new developments and social issues in the sciences. Contact Pat Micelli or John Montesano for more information about this new section.

Bearpit

It's a frustrating world and you should have a chance to say something about it. Say it in the Bearpit. An opinions section for the opinionated, the Bearpit provides *excalibur* readers an opportunity to share their ideas with the community. We'll run as much material as we can. Send your rants to Ira Nayman.

Podium

Some orators are worth repeating. *Excalibur* will publish excerpts from noteworthy speeches and debates under the Podium banner. If you find anything you want to share, send it our way.

Letters

Excalibur accepts all letters which are typed, 250 words or less, libel-free and signed by the author showing year study and faculty if applicable. Letters must include the writer's telephone number so we can verify their authenticity. Anonymity can be arranged when necessary — talk to Ira Nayman. *Excalibur* reserves the right not to publish letters deemed discriminatory by the staff.

Editorials

Comments on a wide variety of subjects appear on the editorial page, which also includes the newspaper staff box. Editorials are written or coordinated by members of the Editorial Board.

Between the Lines

Some information just can't be packaged into a regular article. But we'll get it to you anyway — in short form, on our editorial page. More than just gossip, BTL contains tidbits for hungry minds.

trate on race, lesbian, gay, bisexual and women's issues — subjects which have traditionally been excluded from the mainstream press. The coordinators hold meetings to discuss these issues and their relevance to the paper and the community. Working as recruiters and researchers, issues coordinators also help produce special supplements.

For more info on • lesbian/bisexual women's issues, contact Frances Limfat • gay/bisexual men's issues, contact Brian Rigg • race issues, contact Dwayne Morgan • women's issues, contact Sara Singer.

News

The first thing you read in every issue of *excalibur* is the news section.

News coverage draws from campus controversy, local Toronto stories, and provincial and national issues. We try to keep a keen eye on women's issues, labour, gay and lesbian concerns, racism, environmental nasties, and a host of other beats.

News stories are assigned by editors, though writers also work on individual projects. The office has a growing contact bank and an extensive filing system of clippings, documents, reports, etc. available for use by writers.

The department conducts seminars, often bringing professional journalists and other authorities in for advice.

Talk to Jennifer Lim or Mike Adler if we've caught your fancy about news.

Features

Beyond the weekly rhythms of news and opinion, there's a whole world of creative journalism out there. Incisive investigations, detailed studies, colourful profiles, gripping narratives,



photo by Joëlle Medina

members, as editors or as responsive readers. Whether we're on the heels of administrators and student politicians, questioning authorities high and low, or delivering incisive opinion, art criticism and locker politics, *excalibur* writers try to engage their readers and make contact with their community.

Excalibur provides students with the best free education on campus. A couple of years volunteering for *excal* will teach you more newspaper skills than anyone's journalism degree. Former staff members have gone on to become everything from *Globe and Mail* editors to *NOW* magazine publishers to fringe press gurus.

And unlike most media institutions, decoding *excalibur's* organizational structure is easier than it looks. The following is a traveller's guide to the newspaper for the uninitiated.

The Staff

Anyone can become a staff member of *excalibur*. To get a staff vote, you must contribute to three separate issues of *excalibur* — and contributions can include writing, taking photos, drawing or helping out with design and layout.

The staff makes policy decisions, discusses issues to cover, and organizes the business at weekly staff meetings which are open to everyone.

While speaking rights are extended to all present, only staff members can vote. Watch for notices in the paper announcing meeting dates.

The Editorial Board

Each spring the *excalibur* staff holds elections at which candidates for editorial positions present themselves for interroga-

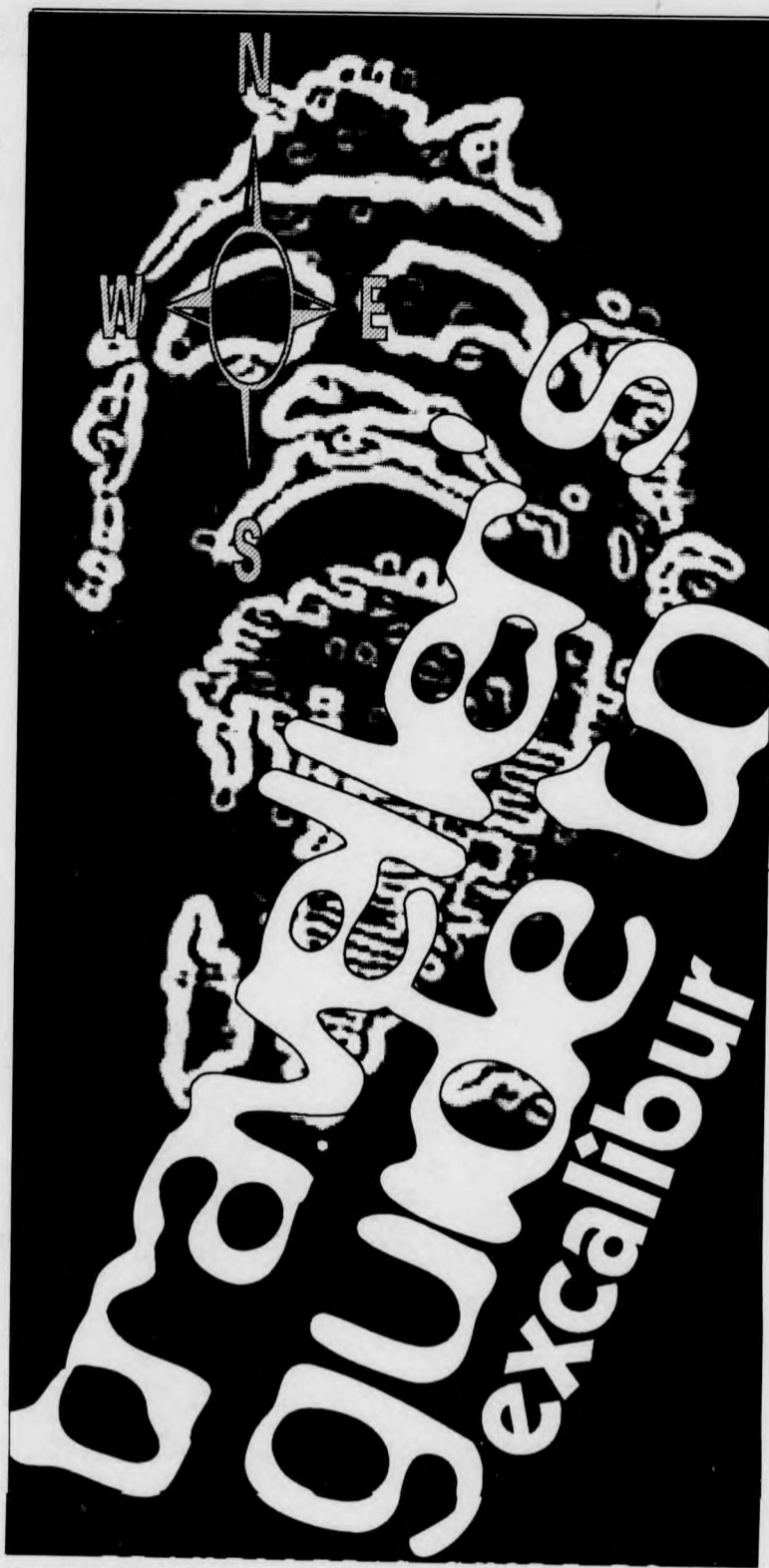


Illustration by Patricio Davila

Send your scraps of interesting info our way, we'll find a place for it.

Photography

Stories. Pictures. Down through the ages, they've been a cookies-&-milk style combo. Shutterbugs can learn the snap and crackle of photojournalism, take advantage of our darkroom facilities, and live up the pages of the newspaper with their work. Multitudes needed, no experience necessary — so drop by and talk to Joëlle Medina.

Layout & design

From the computer to the charcoal pencil, every newspaper depends heavily on the talents of toolwielders and visionaries. Layout and design is the multimedia experience that turns ideas into newsprint and goes on every week. *Excalibur* has a keen eye for cartoons, illustrations, and other visual broadsides.

Stephe Perry and Catherine Soukoreff coordinate the production department. Come talk to them in 426 Student Centre and join the *excal* production crew.

Drop Everything

York student groups can use *excalibur's* Drop Everything section to announce upcoming events free of charge. Meetings, lectures, speakers, debates, protests, forums, feasts — if you've got something to push, come by the office. Leave submissions featuring date, time, location, type of event, price and sponsor, in the Drop Everything envelope in our offices. Deadlines are Thursdays before Wednesday

publications.

Excalibur Publications Board of Directors

Excalibur Publications, incorporated under the Province of Ontario, is a non-profit and financially autonomous body. Years ago, York students voted to fund the newspaper directly and separate it from York's central student government and administration. Student fees together with advertising revenue fund the publication of *excalibur*.

Excalibur Publications is supervised by a Board that includes York undergrad, alumni and union representatives.

Canadian University Press

The acronym CUP, which you'll find from time to time in the paper, stands for Canadian University Press, a collective of 45 university and college papers from across Canada united under a progressive statement of principles.

Excalibur recently re-joined the 55-year-old newspaper co-operative, which is the oldest student organization in Canada. The papers are linked by a national office in Ottawa, a computer wire service, regional staff and conferences, and a yearly national conference at which the member papers decide CUP's future. *Excalibur* needs a news exchange editor to keep the circuits hot and help us stay in touch with other student journalists around Canada and everywhere else. *Excalibur* also exchanges copy with the U.S.-based New Liberation News Service.