

# 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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## SDS smears left

### Bad tactics used at Banfield talk

A lot of talk has been generated by the Edward Banfield incident at the U of T. People have been tossing around words such as fascism, democracy, anarchy and racism ever since Banfield, a prominent and controversial American social theorist, was literally driven from the podium by the Students for a Democratic Society.

The trouble with people who toss around complex concepts as if they came out of a breakfast cereal box is that they tend to get awfully muddled.

Several distinct groupings have crystallized as a result of the Banfield affair though, and we can mention these without further muddling things.

One group — by far the vast majority — asked: "Who the hell is Banfield and why wasn't he allowed to speak and what's an SDS?" Later, they asked: "How do we know Banfield is racist (the stated reason for shutting him up) if we can't listen to his views?"

Another group, led by the SDS, but with numerous supporters (see page 5) says: "Banfield is a racist. Racists aren't entitled to the same rights as other people. Any measure must be taken to deny them a public forum for their views."

Still a third group states: Even if Banfield is a racist, he has a right to air his views unless he breaks a law by so doing.

It is our stated position that, based in his published writings, Banfield is an academic racist. We also reject the notion that such persons should automatically be granted a platform for their views on the grounds of democracy.

However, we emphatically reject the tactics of the SDS in breaking up Banfield's speech. Once invited, Banfield should have been able to speak without physical or verbal harassment.

All the SDS did was smear the entire left with their bad tactics, heightening demands from reactionaries for harsh discipline measures which must, repeat must, be opposed at all costs.

In future we recommend that students be given more say, possibly through elected student councils, on speakers allowed on campus. Remember that Jerry Rubin was prevented from speaking at the U of T a few years ago—and not by students.

Moreover, speakers presenting alternate viewpoints should be granted time, if they request it, at lectures such as Banfield's. If this is not possible, then a mandatory question period must be instituted following such speeches. Views like Banfield's should never be presented unquestioned on any campus, for any reason.



## It's time to evaluate UFSC

The University Food Services Committee has finally taken some action and the time has come to evaluate the group.

The food services committee serves as nothing more than a glorified rubber stamp of ancillary services, and under the present set-up can be nothing more.

The committee was formed in December by Harry Knox, assistant to the vice-president (business operations), to serve as "an advisory committee" and, as such, none of its decisions are binding.

Norman Crandles, of ancillary services, is present at all meetings and serves as the committee's secretary. Although Crandles is a non-voting member, he dominates meetings with ancillary's point of view. Crandles is used as a source for most of the committee's facts and figures, and the committee members passively accept his information without question.

Crandles represents a group that has a definite

vested interest in food services committee decisions and asking him for reports on food is like asking Richard Nixon for an unbiased report on the Watergate affair.

Another flaw in the committee is that most of its members don't even care what happens. Food service committee meetings are the worst attended on campus. The meeting where the 10 per cent price hike was approved only had quorum because the Versa member was allowed to vote. Monday's meeting was the committee's most important, yet there was no quorum at all. This shows that the committee cannot be considered a responsible body.

The food committee has a majority of student members, but its students representatives have the worst attendance record at the meetings. As a result, at all the meetings thus far, students have been in the minority. This clearly shows that the committee does not represent our true interests.

Michael Lawrence

## The Politics of food — an indigestible tale

If the food services committee (UFSC) demonstrated anything this week, it was its lack of courage in challenging the York administration's concept of budgeting.

This newspaper has received numerous letters from members of the committee defending its role in modifying food services, but the conclusion remains the same. The UFSC is nothing better than a device to formulate options agreeable to the administration.

The recommendations approved this week by the UFSC, in a meeting lacking a quorum, range from closing the Central Square cafeteria and three of the college dining halls, retention of the scrip compulsory food plan and the monopoly supply rights over the college coffee shops. It's more than interesting to note that a UFSC meeting a week earlier had voted to reject the scrip system, a meeting attended by a quorum of its members.

Though the committee has no real power to implement its recommendations, no doubt the administration will justify its restriction of food services next year as being on good advice from the UFSC. Just as quickly, the administration would have rejected the recommendation to abolish scrip if the motion had

not been reversed this week, claiming that the UFSC was only an advisory body.

The recommendations, as presented by Norm Crandles, the ancillary services representative, were in preparation for weeks, ready to overwhelm members of the committee with reams of figures justifying the closures. Even the student members on the committee felt at ease supporting the motions.

The whole food controversy is a fine example of bureaucratic bungling and corruption that can only be described as incredible. Food services, after failing to respond to community dissatisfaction — a dissatisfaction expressed in growing numbers of people patronizing the independent college coffee shops — has decided that the free market system will be obsolete next year.

The recommendation that food services become the monopoly supplier to the coffee shops or, failing that, that it be allowed to take a percentage of its competitors' profits, is perhaps even more outrageous than the retention of the scrip system.

Food services counters this criticism by saying (a) it can supply more cheaply because it has larger buying power than the separate coffee shops and (b) the coffee shops are unfair competi-

tion because they can sell food more cheaply. Curious logic, don't you think?

The key to this puzzle lies in maintenance and service costs the administration charges Versa but not the college shops. This additional \$200,000 dollars is eventually passed on to students through Versa cafeterias; cleaning, heating and lighting costs that the administration never charges the faculties.

This arbitrary charge is a device to demonstrate that the university is covering food deficits, while in fact the deficit is only money taken from the right pocket and put in the left.

These maintenance costs (called DPP's) also reflect bill padding by the department of physical plant. This department is overdue for an auditing and examination of billing procedures as well as personnel top-heaviness. The number of \$20,000-plus administrators in the physical plant is only one outstanding example.

Another example of corrupt accountancy in the DPP is the practice of charging full-day flat rates for their truck services, as the body responsible for campus transportation. Full-day rates are charged to university facilities, often for a truck and driver used only two or three hours. It seems

a committee to thoroughly investigate physical plant would be more sensible than the UFSC.

If the food committee wants to do more than be a yes person to the administration, it had better be willing to reject the demand that food services not produce a deficit. This red herring is a creation of under-budgeting and over-billing by the administration, an accountancy device that only gives the student body gas pains instead of reasonably prepared and priced food.

The recommendations of the UFSC are the reasonable results of unreasonable demands placed on it. Until it's prepared to force the hand of the finance officers at this university, it might as well end the charade it's been playing.

As long as the administration is willing to budget faculty vacations and "hospitality" at a cost running into the hundreds of thousands of dollars, it cannot justify robbing from the poor to feed the rich.

When students are forced to walk out to Founders next year to buy the same unpalatable food they could get at Central Square, the howling should be tremendous. But until students are prepared to do more than express their oral flatulence the situation will remain unchanged.

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TODAY 2 P.M.

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