

Editorial

Petty debates give way to the obvious

Forget about OFS, CYSF, decentralization, underfunding, YUFA and the Faculty Club.

It's football season.

And U of T is running scared. After last year's 44-20 drubbing at the hands of the Yeomen, who can blame them? As this year's match approaches even U of T student president Scott Burke is quaking in his boots. In a desperate move, Burke phoned CYSF's Reya Ali last week to challenge him to debate the comparative excellence of York and U of T.

But what on earth does this have to do with football?

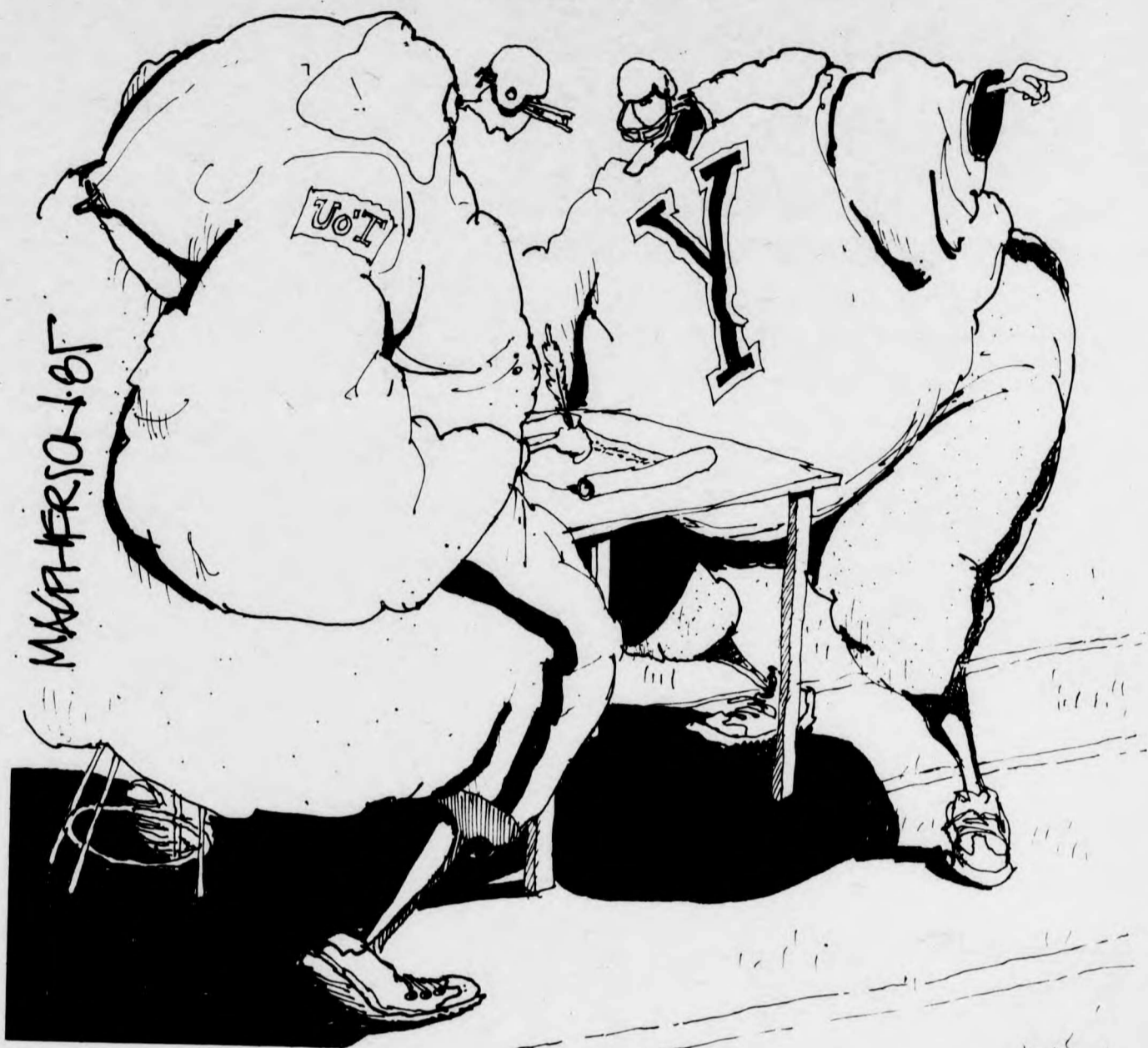
And regarding the subject of the proposed debate, as Ali said in declining, "It is obvious York is a better institution, so why debate the fact?"

Then the phones started ringing at *Excalibur*. Still hoping in some futile way to sidetrack the issue, a gaggle of hack U of T student politicians were trying to get us to stir up a controversy over what they termed Ali's "sheer cowardice." What babbling.

Consider the facts. Last year, York humiliated U of T in:

- Women's Track and Field
- Men's Basketball
- Gymnastics
- Figure Skating
- Men's Soccer
- Women's Volleyball
- Water Polo
- Field Hockey
- Rugby
- Men's Hockey
- and yes—FOOTBALL

Who's got time for petty debates that yield no real conclusions. Let the games begin.



"WHAT TRANSPIRES OFF THE FIELD IS INKONSEQUENTIAL"

Letters

Riha rebuked for comparison

Editor:

While Alex Riha's letter of September 26, 1985 lends itself to considerable criticism, one point is particularly revolting: the notion that Reya Ali and CYSF, in not putting the OFS membership question to a referendum have "caught up with Botha, Duarte and Pinochet."

Perhaps Mr. Riha merely employed this incredibly bad comparison in an attempt to shock people and increase his readership. In fact, since Mr. Riha considers himself a "progressive student," one might surmise that this is the only explanation.

Unfortunately, the victims of the Botha, Duarte and Pinochet bloodletting might not be so easily convinced of Mr. Riha's "progressive" nature.

To even attempt to compare what is happening at CYSF to the despicable acts of terrorism and racism practiced by the Botha, Duarte and Pinochet regimes is, at best, an exercise in poor taste; at worst, a trivialization of the problems faced by the victims of these leaders.

I hardly think that the actions of Mr. Ali and CYSF, although distasteful to some, will result in torture, terrorism and brutal murder, and any attempts to link the two display an ignorance and insensitivity that is impossible to measure.

Mr. Riha owes the victims of Botha, Duarte and Pinochet a very large apology.

—Greg Gaudet

Coach sets record straight

Editor:

I am writing in regard to the story in the September 26 issue on the Yeowomen Soccer Team league opener. After the game, Mr. Prajapat and I discussed at

some length the developments that have made possible the introduction of varsity women's soccer in Ontario. In the course of the discussion I pointed out that women's soccer has emerged because of impressive gains in girls' soccer in the club and high school setting. There is an important terminological distinction, which I attempt always to respect, between girls' and boys' soccer (under age 18 players) and men's and women's soccer (18 and over). The *Excalibur* story (inaccurately) quotes me as using the term "girls" to apply to Yeowomen players. Despite the fact that several members of the team are first year students who until this year were active in girls' soccer, they are now involved in women's soccer and should be referred to accordingly.

—David Bell

Coach, Yeowomen Soccer Team

the legal and constitutional aspects myself, I am more than willing to hear from undergraduates who believe that in this approach may lie a remedy to a situation that otherwise could perpetuate itself ad infinitum. In addition, undergraduates 19 and over are voters, and should attempt, individually and in groups, to lobby their MPPs.

—H.T. Wilson

'Lottery system' a scam: reader

Editor:

I write to you with reference to the appalling state of college residences, specifically the picking of those lucky few who are able to live on campus. All too often one witnesses the blatant favoritism of some over the discrimination of others. The "lottery system" employed by some residences—especially McLaughlin—is merely a method of picking those who are wanted and those who are not. A more apt name would be the 'preferential system.'

Waiting lists are not really worth waiting for as the places are never consistent. One finds that students are never admitted to residences once the school year has commenced with the waiting lists being sidestepped by residence secretaries. When a senior student who has previously been in residence for a number of years, and also served the college faithfully is placed on a 'waiting list,' is it a polite manner of saying, "We don't want you." When one attempts to inquire as to the status of waiting lists, bucks are passed as to who does the picking, and rarely is a straight answer given. It is relatively simple for a residence secretary to say, "Sorry, no movement on the waiting list," or that ultimate responsibility lies with the resident tutor.

Students would prefer an honest straight-up answer so that they can get on with their lives, and not be held in limbo on some unfair waiting list that is really based on preferential treatment.

—Tony D'Amasso

Students must take initiative

Editor:

After years of being told that York undergraduates are funded at 80% of what holds for other students in the Province of Ontario, as if this could continue to be used to argue that the present arrangement may discriminate against York undergraduates and is therefore unconstitutional. I believe this provision is no less applicable to provincial than to federal arrangements, and that it may therefore be relevant to the present situation that obtains at York and at other institutions of higher education in this (& other) provinces. It may be necessary to show that institutional choice is to some extent an involuntary condition in order for this provision to hold, to be sure.

While I am not sufficiently expert on

excalibur

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