

# 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. Typography by Foto Set, printed at Newsweb, Excalibur is published by Excalibur Publications.

News 667-3201

Advertising 667-3800

## Anti-union profs. cannot derail new faculty union

Apparently, at least six of York's faculty members still believe that professors, scholars and the like are somehow "above" unionization.

They must believe it quite strongly indeed. While most of the university was enjoying its year-end holiday, six of them finally succeeded in one of their many challenges to the York University Faculty Association (YUFA), persuading an Ontario Divisional Court to suspend YUFA's interim certification as the bargaining unit for York's faculty. The move throws into jeopardy the recently negotiated contract between YUFA and the Board of Governors.

The "group of six" (who call themselves the "Independent Faculty Members", IFM) went ahead with their challenge in spite of the fact that faculty members had endorsed the certification with an overwhelming "yes" vote of 84 per cent.

The arguments against faculty unionization are old and tattered and one would have hoped that perhaps in 1977, we wouldn't have to hear them any more, that they would have died their natural death.

It was not to be. Once again we are presented with the old story; that professors don't need to be unionized, that being employed in academia is different than in an office or factory; and, (that old tear-jerker) that unionization will bring "confrontation" into the peace and calm of the ivory tower.

### STUBBORN OLD-TIMERS

As if the confrontation wasn't already taking place, in the form of government cutbacks in post-secondary education funding.

At the annual meeting of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) last May, three reasons for faculty organization were cited:

—government cutbacks in university funding that threaten certain jobs and departments as administrations cut corners;

—uncertainty surrounding upcoming revisions in the Fiscal Arrangements Act, which indirectly controls federal funding of universities;

—student demographic trends towards decreased enrolments in the 1980s.

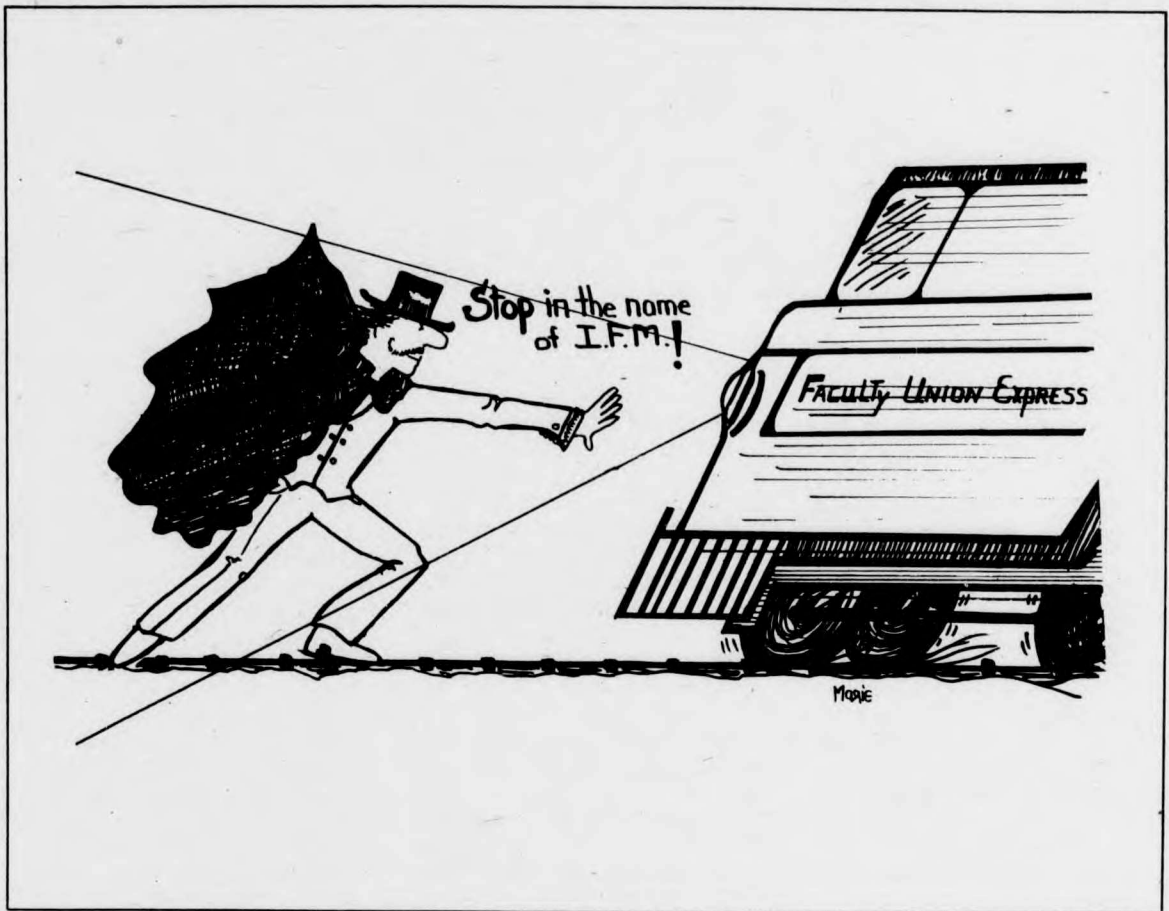
"The administrations' knives will be out" delegates were told, "and faculty should organize to brace for inevitable confrontations over maintaining existing programs, let alone developing new ones."

Collective bargaining units like YUFA will protect academic standards while providing needed job security.

On top of this, the IFM's efforts are an exercise in futility and a waste of everybody's time. Faculty unionization is the wave of the future and a few stubborn old-time profs playing King Canute aren't going to change that.

Almost a third of Canada's 25,000 university faculty members have organized themselves into 16 certified bargaining units, more than triple the number of units in existence two years ago. According to CAUT, before this year is out, 50 per cent of Canada's faculty will be certified or undergoing certification.

So let's get on with it. The will of the majority must be respected. Hopefully, this will prove to be the final fling of York's "Independent" faculty members, a group that has outlived its time.



## Opposition to foreign fee hike must be upheld by BOG

The decision of the York Senate to recommend that the Board of Governors not institute a differential tuition fee for foreign students, is one more mark against the Conservative government's discriminatory policy.

In case you have forgotten, last spring, Minister of Colleges and Universities, Harry Parrott announced tuition fee increases for foreign students of over 100 per cent. Tuition for a student from outside Canada entering an Ontario university is supposed to be \$1,500 as of next year.

The Tories would have us believe that this move is somehow going to balance their budget and make this province a better place to stand. But, according to Ontario Federation of Student figures, the government's action is only going to save them 0.6 per cent in their budget.

They also ignore the fact that while the absolute number of foreign students has been increasing in Canada, their overall percentage of the Canadian student population is on the decline.

The Tories don't mention the thousands of Ontario students who study elsewhere in the world without a financial penalty being placed on their backs. And they don't mention students from Third World countries, the underdeveloped and "less-privileged" areas of the world, who will certainly be hardest hit by the regressive fee increase.

The Senate voted at its December 16 meeting to ask

the Board of Governors - the money men and women at York - not to go along with the government's unfair policy and to refuse to implement the fee hike. The Senate is to be applauded for taking this stand.

And a tip of the hat to CYSF President Barry Edson, who, although he originally supported the government's policy, argued the anti-fee hike case well at the Senate meeting.

Other universities in Ontario - the University of Toronto and Laurentian - have also

taken stands against this policy.

But the progressive stand taken by York's Senate is only a recommendation. They do not have the power to guarantee York University does not discriminate against foreign students next year by raising their fees higher than anyone else's.

The final decision rests with the Board of Governors, the York body in charge of the university's budget. They are the people who can make the Senate's recommendation binding. And they must.

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**Only 12 more issues to join Excalibur. Come to the staff meeting today at 2 pm in room 111 Central Square. All welcome.**