

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.

News 667-3201

Advertising 667-3800

Student government is vital Issues must be dealt with

The importance of this coming week's election is wholly dependent on how important the student body wishes to make it.

The irony of past CYSF elections lies in the self-fulfilling prophecy of disinterest. Convinced that their council was valueless, students guaranteed this by failing to provide a proper mandate for this body.

This disintegrating oscillation seems to have been the pattern for the last elections, a pattern that should be interrupted this year.

No student can complain of a lack of issues. Most of the candidates have expressed similar concerns with campus problems that must be dealt with. The role of CYSF should be an important one and can be, but only if its representatives are responsible to more than a handful of voters.

Both in their literature and in interviews, the candidates for election have vocalized their concern over problems that are common knowledge to most York students; so common in fact, that many have shrugged their shoulders, willing to humbly bear inequities they feel too powerless to change. This passive attitude is not only mistaken, but worse, a guarantee that students will continue in their failure to cope politically with their needs.

A co-ordinated CYSF, with a president and representatives supported and directed by the student body, is vital in dealing with the real needs of York's student community.

The issues exist, problems whose nature demands a combined student voice and effort. Though previous councils have failed to come to grips with these difficulties, the urgency of the present student situation demands support of a major student political body.

THE ISSUES

If a "motherhood" issue exists, it would be the continuing budget cuts and their consequences. The provincial decision to limit university funding to the bare bones has taken, and will continue to take, its toll on both academic quality and availability.

Rising student-professor ratios, lack of physical facilities, limited openings for students in graduate work are all but a few

examples of what the student body must be willing to fight and what they must fight for: a decent education in exchange for increased tuition.

The bureaucratic structure and its failure to pay just attention to student needs is another issue that the new council must be prepared to challenge. Although university budgets are determined by provincial authority, the power to designate where cuts will be made remains with the university administration. Students, as those who pay the piper, must have some say in determining the tune.

The Versafood situation remains a thorn in most students' sides, particularly those in residence whose mandatory purchase of scrip makes them a captive market for food lacking both in quality and economy. The failure of student members appointed to the Food Services Committee even to attend meetings, heightens the need for the new council to act in the community's interest.

The deteriorating (if one exists) community social life is another task CYSF must deal with. As the only central student organization at York, council must be able to co-ordinate and supply social events that encourage community interaction.

Library service, student daycare and health clinics, campus media, student organizations and clubs, these and many other issues demand a council and president who are committed and able.

THE PRESIDENT

In a presidential election with eight candidates voicing concern for similar issues, the deciding factor for the electorate must be the candidates' ability to deal with student needs. Because of the structure of CYSF and its present status within York, its president must be willing and able to organize council in voice and action to realize real student needs. For this reason, Excalibur supports Dale Ritch as candidate for CYSF president.

Though many of Mr. Ritch's opposition candidates have expressed concern with similar issues, few have suggested a programme to deal with these. Wholly familiar with the workings of CYSF as well as the university's administration, Ritch

has demonstrated his ability and eagerness to co-ordinate the student voice.

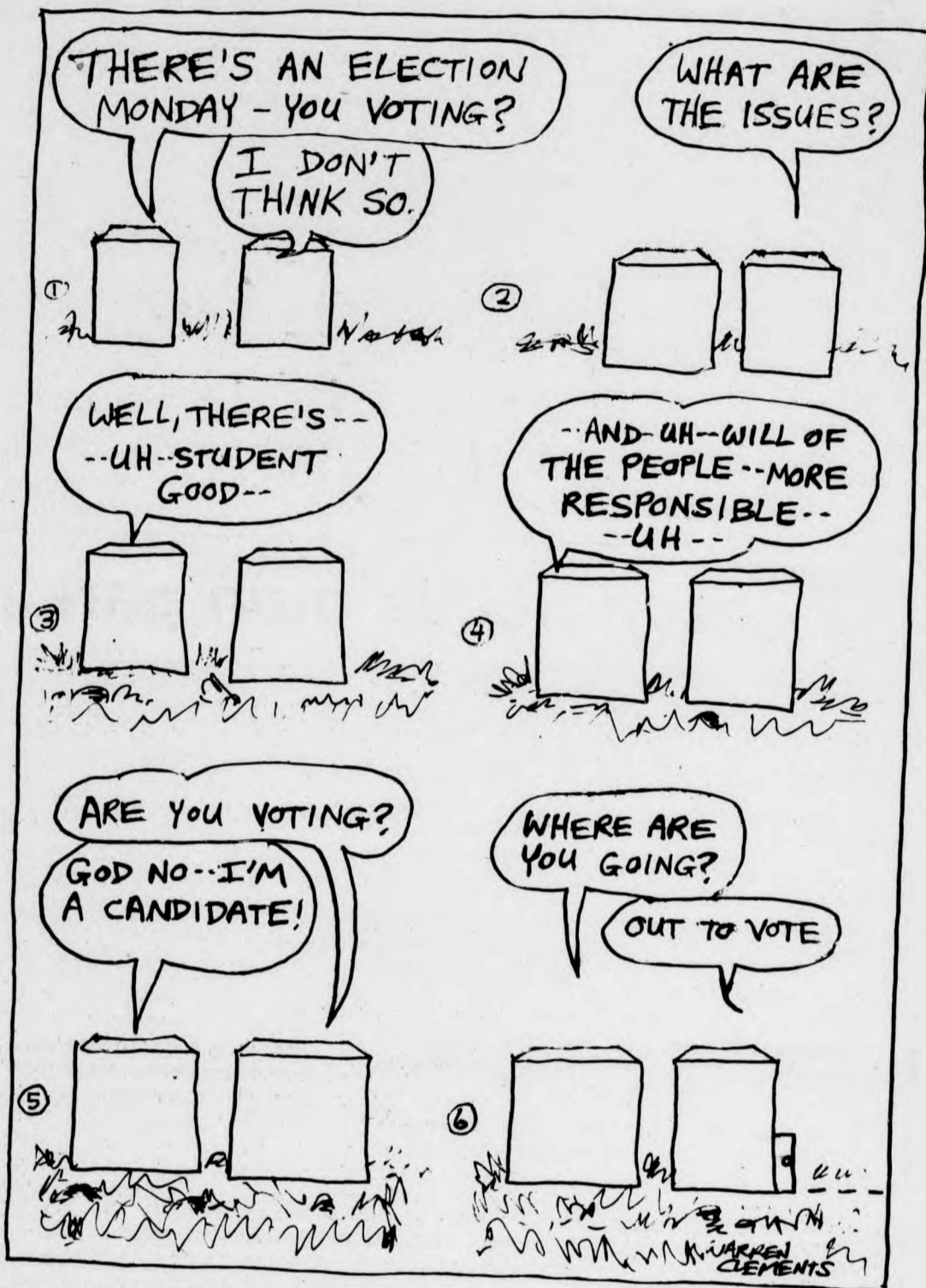
His role in the York fee strike and occupation last year, in the present cash boycott of Versa services, as student representative to the Senate all confirm his concern: a concern that extends beyond simple vocalization.

Many condemn Mr. Ritch as an activist. None the less, the release of student grants following last year's occupation, the review of Versaservices and the scrip plan, the extension of formerly withdrawn library ser-

vice at Christmas; all seem to demonstrate that responsible activism can be successful in achieving student needs.

Mr. Ritch, in combination with an able council should be able to demonstrate that CYSF deserves student attention, in fact merits it.

Ritch or not, students cannot afford to ignore the upcoming election. The issues are too important. If CYSF continues to fail as a body, the electorate must take the responsibility.



Radio York must prove itself worthy

Responding to the Radio York question on next week's election ballot is like betting on a horse who's never really run before.

Basically, the radio station is asking the students of York to give them \$25,000 a year for the next three years to carry on as a full-fledged FM broadcasting unit, with a "non-commercial, educational licence". This means that the station will not be allowed to accept advertising, and will have to rely on charitable donations from outside companies to supplement their annual grant.

In addition, Radio York's proposed budget calls for capital expenditures of \$31,000, for transmission equipment to set up the FM operation.

But aside from the question of money, does Radio York really deserve the chance to go FM? Have they proven themselves a sufficiently viable alternative to the other FM sources in Toronto?

Frankly, the answer is no. Consider how many times you have listened to Radio York's multitude of speakers on campus and felt tempted to sit down and continue to listen.

When the station isn't playing the same wall-to-wall music as any other station in town, the public affairs department produces rabid animal shows like the Bearpit sessions, in which the "spit out your views and prepare to be attacked" format forestalls any legitimate expression of ideas. Or United Nations newscasts imported from the United States on tape.

(The American serial Moon Over Morocco, a dismal piece being broadcast regularly over their airwaves, is described as a "temporary measure". Can we take the station's word that the situation will improve?)

Radio York has grand plans for the future, including "more Bearpit sessions" (rabid and non-rabid) and the instigation of BA credit courses, an offer as yet untouched by any York department. But they have been after an FM licence for three years; why, we might reasonably ask, haven't they yet emerged with a standard of programming which doesn't leave them stammering for rationalizations whenever they are questioned on their broadcasts' quality?

Radio York is a good place for students to

learn a craft, although there are insufficient positions to accommodate more than about 20 students. And for all its inconsistencies in programming, some of its efforts, particularly its sponsorship of a York playwriting contest, are most commendable.

But why rush the FM licence? Why not spend a year working up a level of programming which a student can listen to constantly without wincing?

Radio York has not shown itself ready for an FM licence, and has not earned the trust it is asking for. In the meantime, appeals for extra funds from CYSF should be answered commensurate with their plans and their performance, and any alternative proposals to the FM licence should be heard with an open mind.

Radio York has been described in the past as an "expensive toy". It is more than that, of course. But how much more?

Excalibur would suggest that, to avoid getting a more expensive toy, students turn down the station's premature bid for what amounts to a risky gamble with over \$100,000 of their money.

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