

Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity
—Lord Acton

Excalibur is the York University weekly and is independent politically. Opinions expressed are the writer's. Unsigned editorials on this page are decided upon by staff vote and do not necessarily reflect the views of individual editors. Excalibur attempts to be an agent of social change and a forum of democratic debate. Typography by Fotoset, printed at Delta Web. Excalibur is published by Excalibur publications, a body incorporated under the laws of Ontario.

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York Unions



The York staff talks back to Macdonald

It was rather reassuring to see the quarter page ads in the Toronto newspapers taken out by York University on September 27th. If the University administration has thousands of dollars to spend on mass advertising, they surely must also have money for our wage increases.

The Administration speaks of its "new initiatives" on job security. They seem to have forgotten that YUSA has been presenting these proposals for three years—without a single response. When they did begin to talk seriously about these clauses, they found that YUSA was flexible and reasonable and a common ground of agreement was reached. The question is, why did it take three years of frustrated negotiations, one week of strike and the intervention of a senior Vice-President into negotiations before the University Administration would even discuss these issues? We think that this shows that there is something basically wrong in the attitude that the Administration displays towards its

staff and unions.

YUSA members are fully aware that in negotiations this year we have stressed wages and job security - and wages have always come first. For the University administration to suggest that there has been a change in our priorities is ridiculous. What is true, is that the Administration found that they could not defend their refusal to discuss our job security proposals. They returned to mediation to get these items off the table so that they could fight the strike strictly on wages. Their action reflects no small amount of cynicism.

If we must fight this strike on wages, so be it. First let us point out that we not only dropped our wage demands to 9% or dropped completely 6 proposals, and modified another 9. The University made no response to this new package we put on the table. It was only after the University failed to respond in any way that the mediator called off the meetings.

But more to the point, YUSA members are

not about to apologize for the wage increases sought. We are the lowest paid group of workers on campus - over half of us earn less than \$10,000. a year. If we accept what the University is offering, it means that most of us will receive an increase of between \$338.00 and \$392.00 a year. That's if we take every penny in wages and nothing in improved benefits or increased time off.

York's Administration claims that it's ability to pay is restricted by provincial funding. However, other universities in Ontario, which are under the same funding restrictions, have been able to provide more adequately for their employees. The University of Windsor recently granted increases of 9% and 6% over two years to its clerical staff. At Laurentian, increases of between 6 1/2% and 8 1/2% were granted over one year.

The Administration of York also displays an uncanny ability to come up with money when it suits its purpose. They are presently

pursuing a policy of appointing three more Vice-Presidents with salaries probably in the \$50,000 range. These funds could go a long way in providing improved increases to YUSA members. Similarly, within a week after having agreed to a below average wage increase, the maintenance and cleaning staff at York witnessed the posting of three supervisory positions with a total salary of \$78,000.00 - enough to provide an extra 2% for their entire bargaining unit. It would appear that the Administration looks out for its own interests very well.

If we accept the University's offer, it will mean that we will suffer a 5 1/2% drop in real income. That means that we will be directly subsidizing the services that the University provides. And we've been asked to do this every year.

When Bell Canada or Gulf Oil or any of the corporations that do business with York University increase their prices, the University administrators do not take the position that they will only pay a maximum increase of 4%. They pay the full shot. If the University administration doesn't demand that its materials and services be provided at below cost, why is it demanding that the labour of its employees be provided at a discount?

The University administration has refused to consider deficit financing, yet by attempting to impose a 4% wage settlement on YUSA members, they are forcing us, the one's who can least afford it, to go into deficit financing on a personal level.

Finally, in these ads, the University administration has admitted that it is not engaging in collective bargaining. It has stated that it has put 4% in the budget for our increases and that's the end of it. An employer without a union representing its employees might be able to operate this way, but the laws of Ontario require that an employer bargain with the union representing its employees. Our fight is to force the University to begin to bargain in good faith on monetary items. This means that the present practice must be reversed. The University administration must first negotiate with us a just and fair settlement and then set the budget to meet this settlement.

YUSA is prepared to enter into serious negotiations on monetary items. But the University Administration must realize that their 4% offer is not acceptable.

Way Back

Flipping back through 12 volumes of yellowed pages, you arrive at 7 October 1966. The first issue of Excalibur.

What happened at York, back when the summer of love was approaching and the 'Frisco sound was taking over the airwaves?

Not a great deal it seems. In fact, judging from the old pix, quite a few York students were still reliving the Eisenhower era as the 60s rolled on.

Perhaps the most interesting article in that year of slim editions, was an account of a U of T "psychfest," *Perception '67*. The Immigration Department even went to the trouble of keeping acid-advocate Timothy Leary out of the country, when he was invited to attend the event. Excalibur, incidentally, described Leary as "high priest of the LSD cult."

However Allen Ginsberg, the infamous Fugs and Yippie-to-be Paul Krassner, all put in appearance at the Convocation Hall event.

"The most amazing thing about the Fugs," reported Excalibur "is their beautiful, satiric, non-sniggering attitude toward sex and four letters words in general."

The Fugs finished up the evening with their anti-Vietnam tune, *River of Shit*, "and were forced to do an encore by 2,000 hippies."

It doesn't seem, however, that York's student politicians were "tuned-in." On January 20, we reported that the president's advisory committee on student affairs decided to "ban drugs on campus. The drugs in question were marijuana, heroin and LSD. They are apparently infiltrating York University from the University of Chicago and an undetermined Toronto source."

"However to the knowledge of everyone present they are not being manufactured at York."

• Then as now, Excalibur presented its readers with only the finest in literate film criticism. An October 14 review of Dr. Zhivago praised the David Lean film for presenting characters "with delicate innuendoes of personality."

• A glance at the old issues gives you a pretty fair idea of why people derided student councils for "sandbox politics." It



seems that nobody exhibited much interest in the election of the Students' Representative Council and all seven members of the executive were acclaimed. Only two posters were put up to advertise the election.

"Surely," intoned the Excalibur editorial, "the student council could have spent another \$2 for extra posters."

• The most popular extra-curricular activities seem to have been beauty contests

and "slave auctions" ("remember guys, she's your property from eight to three Saturday night. Hey, I like those odds.")

• How's this for an old fashioned collegial pursuit: Debating Teams.

York's squad attracted 150 people to a Tuesday evening discussion of Sex and Morality in October '66. A week earlier, 75 had shown up for a discussion on Vietnam.

Paul Stuart

Harbinger's Column

by Jay O'Hill and Chuck Wheeler



You'd better watch out for STD

Venereal disease is going modern.

It's now called sexually transmitted disease, or STD. Like VD, STD refers to such diverse diseases as syphilis, trichomonas, venereal warts, and gonorrhea. A new name doesn't change much of the character of these illnesses. The ancient problems with which they confront an individual remain to be understood. As well, though, you need to learn about newly emerging problems in these illnesses.

Gonorrhea is the most common form of STD. Recent studies have shown that in certain Canadian communities upwards of 20% of young adults have gonorrhea. In 1974, official records showed three million North Americans—women and men, heterosexuals and homosexuals, young and older adults—had gonorrhea. Since then, the numbers have increased dramatically. Beyond these official counts lie other millions who, though infected, remain unrecorded. Out of guilt, ignorance, or fear, they have failed to contact medical professionals for help. Through them, gonorrhea continues on its disease-ridden journey.

Most of you may have a passing idea of some of the possible symptoms of

gonorrhea: discharges, burning irritation, slight bleeding, redness. Some of you may realize that between 50 per cent and 80 per cent of women infected by that devious bacterium *Neisseria Gonorrhoeae* show no observable symptoms. (As is the case with oral and anal gonorrhea.) Probably few of you know that an increasingly large number of men will not show any detectable symptoms. This is primarily due to new strains of the disease.

Besides the problem of knowing you have gonorrhea, there is the growing difficulty in treating it. Today, few have to endure the painfully large injections of penicillin that once were "standard treatment" Smaller needles, pills, and alternative antibiotics have made treatment more tolerable.

Yet, we are dealing with a clever villain Gonorrhea is becoming increasingly resistant to antibiotics. The day may come when no known antibiotic will work; today, you confront the possibility that a type of treatment may need to be altered, with more drugs taken, and time and money expended, to overcome gonorrhea. Even worse, if insufficient dosages of drugs are not taken, or proper procedures are not followed precisely, its symptoms may

disappear even while the individual remains infected. Only conscientiously keeping follow-up medical appointments will ensure that you are cured and can responsibly enjoy sex again.

We can now see many of the reasons why gonorrhea is rapidly becoming an epidemic. One other central cause must be seen if we are to have a full understanding of our position. This society is visibly affronted by the idea of STD, and does not easily allow us to talk about it. Thus, it is no surprise that an individual thinking she may have gonorrhea is often feeling so upset or guilty that she does not seek immediate medical attention. Deep undiscussed conflicts about sex can make an individual so insecure that he fails to talk openly to medical professionals, or refuses to inform others whom he may have infected.

So, the knowledge of symptoms and treatment is essential, but not enough. Prevention—available in condoms, spermicidal jellies and creams, or prophylactic dosages of penicillin—is undeniably better than cure. Yet, until we all work together in overcoming not only ignorance, but also fear of social puritanism and guilt about sexuality, we won't be able to take responsibility for our own bodies.