

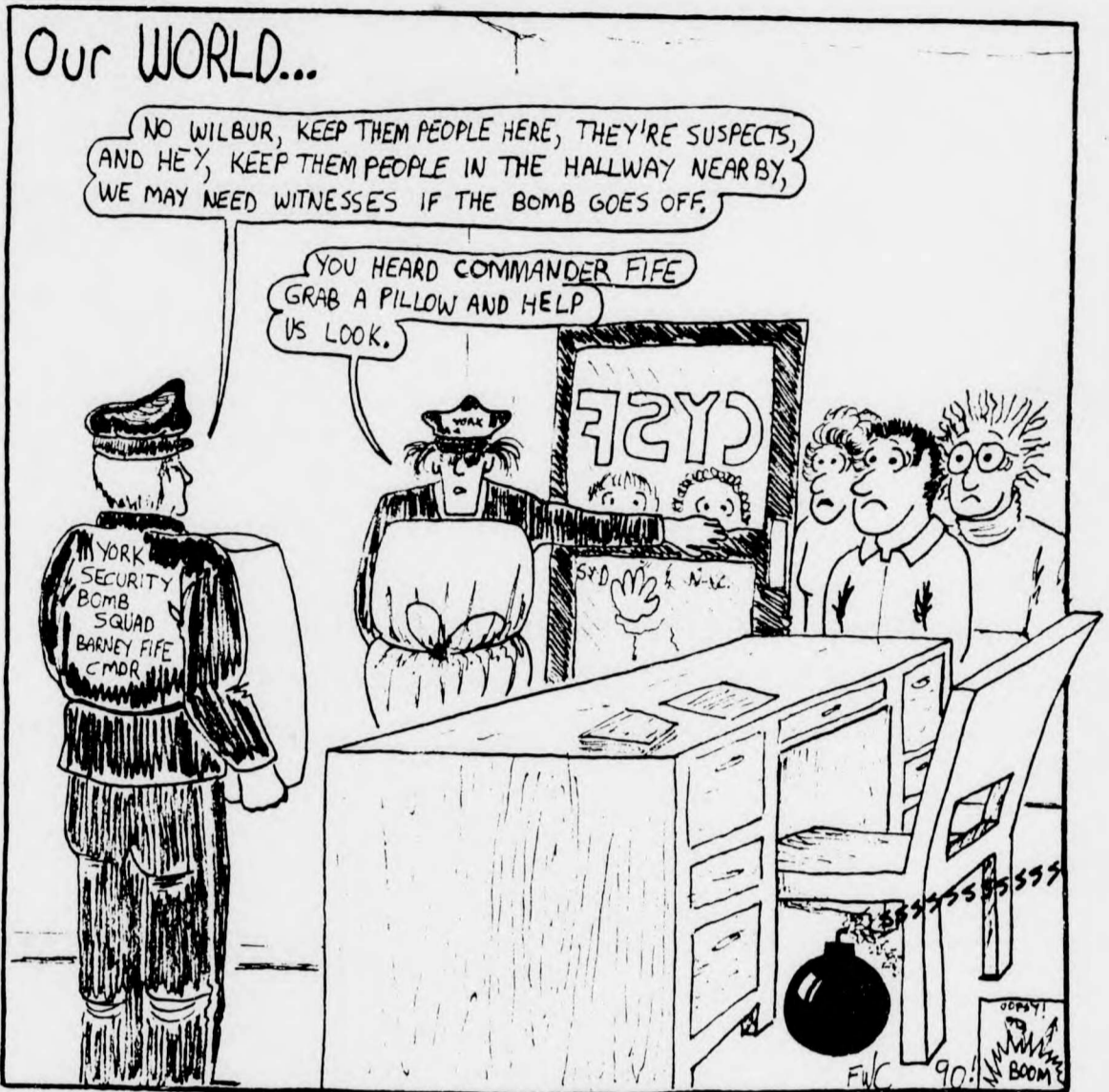
Enough, already!

This year's student council's behaviour can only be described as ridiculous. From alleged assault, alleged threats, alleged and overt racism, sexism, attempted censorship, attempted impeachments, admitted election improprieties and now the possibility of criminal charges, the CYSF has managed to drag its own name through the mud.

Last year, President Peter Donato promised in his campaign platform that the profile of the CYSF would be raised this year. We offer our congratulations as council has been very successful in this endeavour.

There is no point in dissecting all of this in an editorial. Council is a mess because of selfishness, personal interests, miscommunication, power-tripping and hypocrisy. All of this overshadows any good the CYSF may have done this year. And no one can claim innocence.

We wish CYSF president-elect Jean Ghomeshi luck with his council next year. We hope that this year's embarrassment will not be repeated.



letters

This is the list of eligible voters for the 1990-91 *Excalibur* editorial election. If your name does not appear on this list and you feel it should, talk to Nancy and Heather.

Jeannine Amber	Shaun Lacob
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Anton Katz	Mark Wright
Jeff Kippel	Toby Wunch

We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 500 words. They must be typed, doubled spaced, accompanied by the writer's name and phone number. Libellous material will be rejected. Deliver to 111 Central Square during business hours.

exhibited in *Excalibur*. As university students, we should have the insight to go beyond our established bigotry. This, sadly, Popichak has not done.

E. Thomas

No room for Popichak's anti-Semitism

Dear Editor:

It seems that in attempting to make his point regarding the Sasakawa affair, Steve Popichak has done his best to offend as many ethnic groups as possible. His first letter (February 20) left the reader with the impression that: "The Jews run the school and make all the decisions here." While Popichak's anti-Semitism was suspected in his first submission to *Excalibur*, it was crystal clear in his letter of March 8, when he took the opportunity to declare his belief in "the strength of the Jewish lobby and influence at York."

This assertion is totally unfounded and based on the traditional European anti-Semitic canard describing a worldwide Jewish conspiracy aimed at consolidating their power in order to dominate the world. This premise that developed out of phobias and ignorance in the 19th century, was used to cultivate the notion of "Jews as scapegoat" for all the world's problems. Indeed, the theme of "Jewish influence" is prominent in Hitler's own *Mein Kampf*, in which he clearly spelled out what would be the best way to deal with the problem.

There is no room in our pluralistic society of the '90s for the overt prejudice that Popichak has

Atkinson dean defends college's actions

Dear Editor:

A report in the March 13 issue of *Excalibur*, and an editorial in the same issue, address Atkinson College's recent action in cancelling courses scheduled for the coming summer session. I should like to correct a couple of false impressions which your report may inadvertently have left your readers.

Whatever may be said to the contrary, the combination of the budget cut schedules for 1990-91 which Atkinson has to share with all other faculties, and the unexpected decision to curtail the growth which it has been confidently anticipating, did offer the prospect of very serious financial difficulty indeed for the college. The central administration insisted that action be taken to prevent this, and "froze" certain parts of our budget to emphasize its anxiety. We did not enjoy cancelling courses, but we were between the proverbial rock and the hard place. Had we not cancelled courses, action of some kind would have been forced upon us, and the chances are that it would not have been dissimilar from our own, with the important difference that its effect would have been potentially more damaging.

In the event, an arrangement was worked out which enabled us to decide ourselves to reinstate

all but four-and-a-half of the cancelled summer courses. This arrangement does indeed include the possibility of a little more growth for the college, but it has other important elements as well. The important thing, however, is that it enabled the college to reinstate the summer courses. This was a source of great relief to all of us, and I remain convinced that had we not taken the action of cancelling the courses in the first place, the outcome would have been far more damaging to our students.

We have been criticized for taking our action at the last minute, and too late for any alternative arrangements to be made. Your readers ought to be aware that the crisis did not erupt until the last minute — my records show that matters became critical on Friday, February 23, only 10 days before summer registration was scheduled to begin, and five days before the first available meeting of the college committee charged with advising on such matters. We searched assiduously for alternatives to cancelling courses, but under the circumstances there was none available.

Finally, no one at Atkinson, least of all its dean, deliberately shirked contact with the media. Our position was adequately stated, however, in our note to students and, to ensure that this formed the basis of our comments, all calls that came in when I was unavailable were routed to two members of the Atkinson community who were briefed to take such calls.

This has been a miserable episode that has distressed all who have been involved. The interest of *Excalibur* in our difficulties is much appreciated, as is the hospitality of your columns in correcting the record.

Yours truly
Stephen Griew
Dean, Atkinson College

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