

Excalibur

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

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Poster pulling and virgin beauty

We thought he was kidding.

At the beginning of the year, John Becker, Assistant Vice-President Student Affairs, announced that henceforth, Central Square and Ross building walls would be kept "free" from posters.

Nobody took him seriously. York's bare walls are not exactly Vintage Van Gogh. Early American Dull would be more accurate. Even ugly posters are a welcome relief.

The very fact that Becker avoided discussion with both on-campus clubs (groups most affected by the legislation) and CYSF before making his decision had most people persuaded that his pronouncement was just an exercise in memo-writing.

Well, this week, from an unimpeachable witness, Excalibur received the following information. Systematically, with their usual meticulousness, obviously following very explicit instructions, members of York's cleaning staff were observed performing the invaluable task of removing posters from Central Square walls — all posters.

No longer will the York student be assaulted with information about Friday night movies. No longer will her/his freedom be infringed upon by being forced to know that Central Square Cafeteria is open till midnight, that Bob Stanfield, Stokely Carmichael, Stephen Lewis are to speak on campus. We can now freely stroll through the unhampered virgin beauty of the Ross building jungle, with nothing to hide its natural grey.

Putting up posters in the Central Square, Ross building area (by far the most frequented area of the university) is easily the least expensive and most effective way for on-campus organizations to publicize their activities and for the university community to find out about them. Without this, the work — especially of the low-budget student clubs — becomes immeasurably more difficult.

Student clubs are now being forced to buy ads in Excalibur to publicize their events. Although Excalibur isn't exactly rich, we don't enjoy accepting paid ads for organizations who usually live, financially, from hand to mouth.

Yet if Becker's policy continues, more and more clubs will be forced to go to this unnecessary and costly exercise to get the publicity they and their activities need.

And quite apart from the annoyance and expense Becker's dictum is causing, his disregard for democratic procedure is a slap in the face to every member of the York community.

This nonsense must end. CYSF at its last meeting went on the record as being opposed to Becker's dictum.

Although a positive step, it is not in itself enough. As we go to press, the CYSF position is obviously being ignored, posters being removed now as they have been all year.

At its meeting tonight, the CYSF must move immediately to take action to see that Becker reverses his position. Sponsoring a meeting of all affected clubs and organizations to map out a plan of action would be a big step forward.

With or without CYSF, it is obvious that action against Becker's bare-wall policy is in the air. After six weeks spent literally 'banging their heads against the brick walls,' the clubs are up in arms.
P.K.



A York security guard eyes posters on Central Square window.

Time is of the essence

For two months now,
student council president

Barry Edson has been trifling with York's student tenants. Since last May, the question of whether York rent increases are legal, has been up in the air. And it still is.

It was only three weeks ago that Edson decided and finally mobilized the students to form a bargaining committee to negotiate with the university administration for concessions. And, as we hear it from the administration's side, this tenant bargaining committee has not yet darkened the administration's door.

If any rent appeal is to be made, it must first go through the Ontario rent review office for a ruling. And we all know how long these bureaucratic processes take. Brian Bucknall, a former member of the Rent Review Board tells us it will take at least three

months for a ruling and any appeal after that. With luck, York tenants might know where they stand by January.

If anything is to be done, it should be done soon. Edson's rent referendum won't accomplish as much as he thinks. Time should not be wasted on a pointless referendum. Instead, work should be done on serious negotiations with the administration to ensure students have an active part in future decisions of this nature. As well, work must begin immediately to see that those entitled to rent rebates get them as soon as possible. Students' money cannot be negotiated out of their pockets.
A.V.

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