

EDITORIAL

Welcome to York

It's fall. How can we tell? Construction crews are preparing to go into hibernation for the winter. The new television season has been announced (although nobody notices much of a difference). You have your choice of baseball, football, hockey or celebrity badminton (if you get TSN).

And, *Excalibur* has a welcome to York editorial. So, welcome to York.

A university education offers many challenges (like finding a seat in your first year economics course) and many rewards (not having to spend two weeks trying to get through to the Voice Response Enrolment System). New students may find York somewhat off-putting at first (found a place to park, yet?), but, with a little effort, you'll be fitting in in no time at all (actually, our mothers made us add that).

For those of you returning to York, well, you should know what to expect by now.

If you find that studying doesn't give you enough of the "York experience," there are a number of extracurricular things you could try. Each college has a council which organizes political and social activities; the York Federation of Students (YFS) does the same for the university as a whole. Check them out (at the very least, check out YFS President Jean Ghomeshi's hair).

There are a number of clubs and pubs which you can learn about from your student government (see paragraph above; sorry about the hair thing, Jean — it was just a joke). There is a super-duper-almost-finished-student-centre that is certain to become the envy of the Greater North York Metropolitan Area. On top of that, York's radio station, CHRY (105.5 on your FM dial) is so cool that we have nothing sarcastic to say about it.

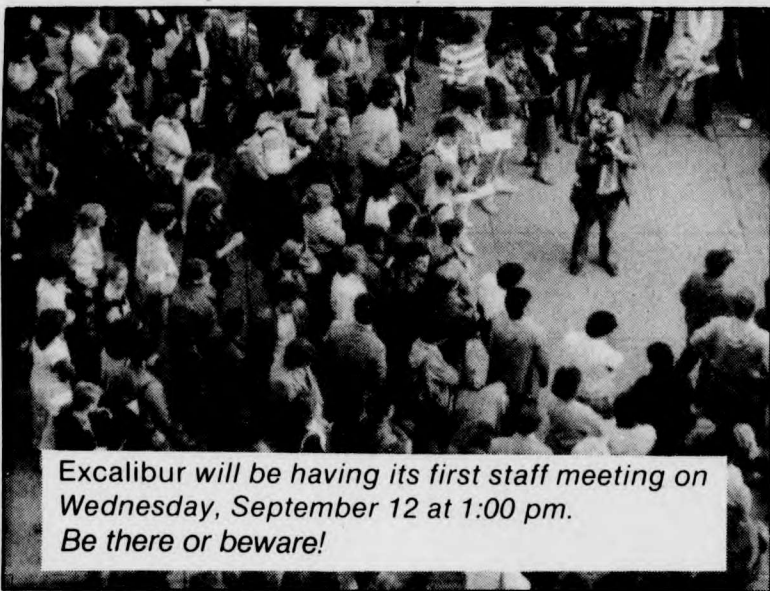
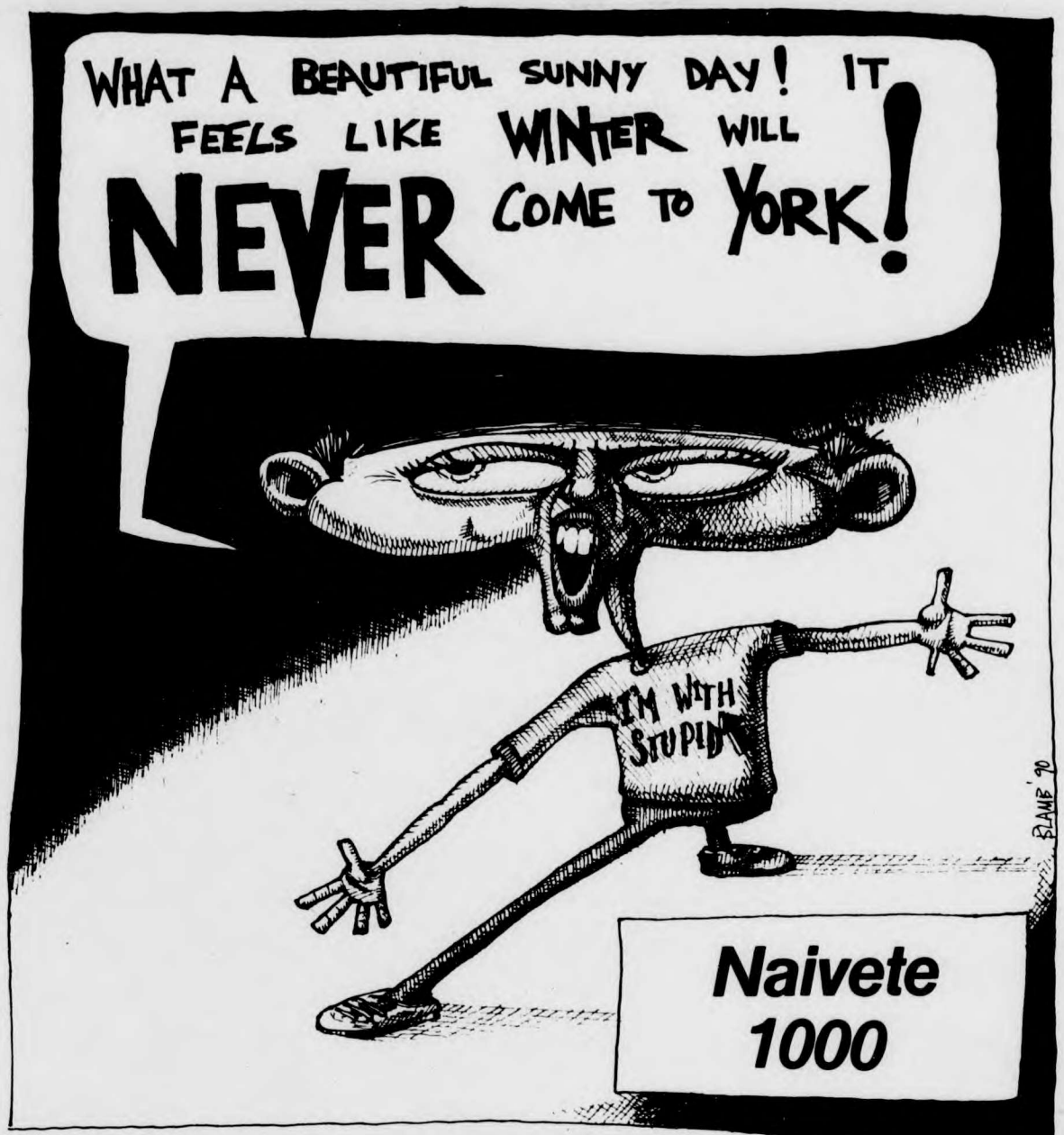
And, then there's *Excalibur*.

Each college has its own newspaper (the *Lexicon*, the *Vandoo*, the *Atkinsonian*, *Obiter Dicta*, etc.) which you should read and support; the more sources you use, the better informed you will be. *Excalibur* is the student newspaper which serves the entire York community.

As a student newspaper, we need your input and support. If you've ever wanted to review stuff, report on other stuff, take photos of even more stuff or learn how to lay out and paste up all the stuff other people have reviewed, reported on or photographed, drop by our office at 111 Central Square. We also welcome letters on any topic, even your pet Alaskan Malamute (although it better be a damn cute dog).

Welcome to York. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Ira Nayman



EXCALIBUR

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Excalibur is York University's community newspaper. We publish 20,000 copies twice-weekly, distributed across York and Glendon campuses and various locations within the North York community.

Excalibur is an autonomous corporation with a mandate to inform, educate and provoke thought among York University's diverse population.

We provide a democratic weekly forum for our volunteer membership. The distinct opinions and articles appearing in *Excalibur* constitute our collective voice. However, they belong first and foremost to the individual writers and are not necessarily shared by another *Excalibur* staff or board member.

Final editorial responsibility is retained by the Editor-in-Chief.

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*I can't believe it's
almost tomorrow morning.*

LETTERS

Excalibur welcomes letters to the editor on all topics. We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 500 word in length. They must be typed, double spaced, and accompanied by the writer's name, signature and telephone number. The opinions expressed belong to the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of *Excalibur* staff or directors. However, letters judged to be racist, sexist or libellous by the editor will be refused. All material is subject to editing. All submissions must be addressed to the Editor-in-chief, Room 111, Central Square.

Excal lacks insight

To the editor,

Your decision to place Shaun Lacob's article, "ANC leader's remarks disappointing" (July 18, 1990), on the "Insight" page was in error. I read the article closely, and must conclude that the author has no insight into the nature of the ANC.

The article seems to have been inspired by Mandela's refusal to turn his back on long-time ANC supporters simply because they are unpopular in the developed capitalist countries. On the "Nightline" program referred to, Mandela remarked that it is a common error of political analysts to assume that "your enemies must also be our enemies." He went on to explain that the ANC judges others by their attitude towards, and degree of support for, the struggle to end apartheid in South Africa, rather than against some abstract standard.

Lacob's remark that the ANC is a "communist movement" is not a new one. He parrots faithfully the South African government's line. Though this charge evokes a special horror for many Canadians, we should not expect leaders of the ANC to deny it categorically. After all, the ANC, and many other anti-apartheid organizations, were crushed under the "Suppression of Communism Act," first used against the South Afri-

can Communist Party (SACP).

As ANC leader Alfred Nzo said in 1986, "When we were asked to purchase a circumscribed freedom by denouncing communism, all true South African democrats refused. They refused because they remembered that the denunciation, persecution and murder of communists would be but a prelude to the suppression of the entire democratic movement." Joe Slovo, General Secretary of the SACP, is currently one of the ANC's five negotiators with the deKlerk government because, as Nzo said in the same speech, "the maturity and experience which the South African Communist Party has accumulated and achieved over the period of its existence will stand our broad movement for national liberation in good stead."

However, none of this makes the ANC a "communist movement." At the end of the 1956-61 "treason trial" of ANC leaders, Judge Rumpff found the defendants not guilty, despite the fact that the evidence showed "it was the policy of the African National Congress that Communists and anti-Communists could freely become members of the ANC, provided they subscribed to the policy of the ANC, and that some responsible Executive members of the ANC were members of the Communist Party before it was banned in 1950."

The ANC's Freedom Charter outlines the organization's goal of a democratic non-racial South Africa. The Freedom Charter bills itself as a "revolutionary," rather than socialist, programme. It

states that in the new South Africa: the people shall govern, all national groups shall have equal rights, the people shall share in the country's wealth, the land shall be shared among those who work it, all shall be equal before the law, and that there shall be work and security, learning and culture, housing, security and comfort for all.

This is not the programme of a "communist movement," though it has the full support of the South African Communist Party.

Sincerely,
Peter McVey

Atkinson loses room

To the editor,

Honourable Sean Conway,
Minister of Colleges and Universities

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you on behalf of a constituency of part time students, who are working towards their degree at Atkinson College, York University. I am talking about a constituency of 7,000 plus students.

Atkinson College use to have facilities for students to study in. I may explain to you that the facilities were occupied by people who did not have a proper environment