

EDITORIAL

Those of you who read Monday's article "YFS urges NDP to stand and deliver" should have noticed the glaring mistake in the article. At the rally, the protesters listened to and cheered the party in power, booing and throwing macaroni at the opposition critics.

Shouldn't it have been the other way around?

Unfortunately, this was not a mistake made by the press; the blame falls squarely on the shoulders of the protesters.

I know that the urge to throw macaroni at the Tories is hard to resist, but it's an exercise in futility to lobby the political parties not in power.

Even more unbelievable is the fact that the demonstrators, some of whom travelled from all parts of Ontario, were not blinded by Premier Bob, or the NDP education minister Richard Allen, but by a mere parliamentary assistant.

The protesters should be embarrassed.

Perhaps some people are still waiting for Premier Bob to pull out his magic wand of socialism and bestow a miracle upon the populace.

It's time to wake up.

A politician is a politician is a politician; it makes no difference what side of the ideological line they stand on or how long they wear their hair. The essential similarity is that election promises are made but seldom kept.

Don't tell me that the NDP is any different. They have been in power for two months and already they are going to renege on two promises.

They told us that landlords would not be able to pass on the cost of maintaining or improving property to their tenants. Now they are hinting they may no longer be able to keep that promise. This directly affects all students living on and off campus.

Bob Rae told us that if he was premier he would cancel the sale of Consumers Gas Ltd to British Gas Ltd so that it could be turned into a public utility. Last week it was sold for \$1.1 billion.

But still the protesters cheered the NDP.

In contrast, Mulroney's visit to York was an example of a successful demonstration. The protest and macaroni-throwing, despite being rejected as disrespectful and ignorant by some, accomplished two things that the Queen's Park demonstration did not.

First, we made Mulroney sit up and notice students. It was quite evident from his comments during his speech that he could not brush off the protesters as easily as the macaroni.

(How much attention did Bob Rae pay to the demonstrators. He sent out one of his smooth-talking stool pigeons and the protesters fell for it.)

Second, we diverted media attention away from Mulroney and his attempt to ram the GST down our throats. The media carried our message, our demands and our concerns.

(The only message that the protesters at Queen's Park got through is that students can be manipulated.)

The YFS spent considerable money to provide four buses for the protest, of which only one was used. The YFS and other student governments have diminished the reputation of student activism.

They wasted money and effort to demonstrate at a rally, and accomplished nothing more than consolidation with the NDP who should have been made to stand and deliver.

EXCALIBUR

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Excalibur is York University's community newspaper. We publish twice-weekly, and distribute 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.

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 any other Excalibur staff or board member.

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

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Attention Excal Shoppers: There will be many in-store specials this week. So come out to the meeting today at 4 pm to take advantage of these great buys.



LETTERS

Excalibur welcomes letters to the editor on all topics. We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 500 words 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.

Employees not a lazy bunch

To the editor,

Being one of the "folks in brown work pants" at York University, I was irritated by your editorial in the November 5 issue of the Excalibur.

I found the reference to physical plant employees demeaning. Believe it or not some of us really do know what's going on! Also, I felt saddened by the adjoining "cartoon" depicting physical plant employees as a bunch of lazy creeps with pinups pasted to every wall.

I can assure you that this conception of our department is not very accurate. Granted, our behaviour may not be perfect, but have you ever stopped to observe the actions of some of your fellow students? Everyday we get to clean up the mess after several individuals have had some "fun."

Perhaps the next time you think about those dumb manual labourers, you should consider what this campus would be like without us.

Multiply that pop can you threw on the ground by the approximately 50,000 other people on this campus to begin to imagine the litter (most of which has been picked up by the time you have gotten in up in the morning). Think about who came in at 4:00 am to shovel snow so that you could go to class. The list is endless.

We are people too and simply

expect to be treated with some respect.

Tim Haagsma
Groundskeeper
Grounds & Vehicles,
Dept. Physical Plant

Juvenile behaviour

To the editor,

I respect the right of individuals to voice their concern or rejection of government policies. We, as students, have a lot to be concerned about.

I also believe that everyone has the right to demonstrate their beliefs as this is sometimes the only means to gain attention to your cause.

However, with regards to the visit of Prime Minister Mulroney at the Faculty of Administrative Studies on November 5, I was in total disbelief at the juvenile behaviour exhibited by some of the protesters.

Throwing macaroni and paper balls at any person does not convey a message that this is an institution of higher learning and a forum beyond such childish forms of attention.

To me, yelling slogans when someone else is trying to speak is just plain rude.

There was ample opportunity to listen to what the PM had to say on the closed-monitor TVs in the surrounding classrooms and still demonstrate your concerns afterward.

We could all do with a lot less of these immature forms of behav-

iour for more constructive ways to critique government policies.

Throwing objects at a person will not change any decision-maker's mind but it will create a greater disrespect for the opposition.

For the idiot that thought the PM was visiting Osgoode Hall and telephoned a bomb threat for the law school, nice try! Practice your own form of censorship somewhere else.

Rick Moeskops
MBA II

Money wasted on propaganda

To Jean Ghomeshi,
President, YFS/FEY

I was pleased, but a bit surprised to read your November 5 letter to president Arthurs in the Excalibur, expressing your concerns for persons with disabilities on the York campus.

I am certain that the members of ABE will be pleased, as we were, to learn of your interest in disability-related issues, since YFS has never taken a leadership role on this issue to date.

In fact, an excellent model for a campus advocacy is the University of Toronto student body, which voted to have an additional \$30 tacked onto their ancillary fees for the next three years, in order to develop an accessibility and renovations fund for their fellow U of T students. This referendum during the March elections, enjoyed nearly a 75 per cent

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