

# Excalibur

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

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## York students need a full-time president

Barely a week ago, York students let caution to the wind in giving the Edson Team the greatest mandate any coalition of candidates has yet received.

This week, president-elect Barry Edson has given York students a chance for re-appraisal.

His proposal for the creation of a new administrative post, executive assistant, to act as an assistant to the president, leaves us to wonder at both Edson's judgement and honesty.

Only two weeks ago, at the height of the campaigning, presidential candidate Izidore Musallam accused Edson and his campaign manager, Jay Bell, of offering a bribe to then presidential candidate Kevin Smith.

According to Musallam, Edson offered Smith a paid position in next year's CYSF if Smith withdrew from the campaign. While there exists little real evidence that such an offer was made. This latest development does nothing to dispell lingering doubts students may have.

Instead, Edson has rushed head-long into creating a new post which would carry with it a salary ranging from \$2,000 to \$3,000. Kevin Smith's name has not been mentioned as one of the people under consideration for the post, but Bell's has, and that has caused more than a few raised eyebrows on campus.

From the moment Edson decided to run for president, he has been thought of by many students as little more than Jay Bell's puppet. It is crucial for Edson to sever the strings connecting him to Bell.

This week's announcement and Bell's jocular statement that he is the best qualified for the position, have done little to silence Edson's critics.

Edson's other bombshell of the week, that he will be asking council for a cost of living increase on top of a full salary while taking three courses during the academic year, will do little to endear him to students.

No doubt Edson believes that his schoolwork will not interfere with the fulfillment of his CYSF duties, but can he really believe students will buy the story that the hiring of a presidential assistant has nothing to do with his carrying a three course load while serving as president?

No other president of the CYSF has had to hire an assistant. Why is there a need with this president?

If Edson needs an assistant because he cannot devote his full time to the post, he should not accept the full salary which comes with it. Five-thousand-seven hundred dollars is too prodigious a sum to be paid to a part-time student president.

The council should insist that whatever salary is paid to the president's assistant be subtracted from the president's salary. That way students would not be asked to foot the bill for a president who does not have time to do the entire job himself.



"Ian, who are all those people walking around down there?"

### EXCALIBUR

meet the editors

tonight 6 p.m.

room 111

Central Square

staff meeting

today 2 p.m.



The CYSF elections are over and done with for another year and we must admit we're just as glad. There were some exciting moments this time around but, on the whole and as usual, the ritual seemed slightly more trouble than it was worth.

We'd be happy to tuck the affair into an envelope and stuff it into a drawer along-side CYSF elections of the past, but this year's contest left a certain sourness in our mouths and we thought we'd very briefly mention it.

"Edson will make a very weak president," predicted Izidore Musallam shortly after he lost the CYSF presidential election last week. "I believe he will run the most corrupt administration of all and I will be there, next year, to prove it."

Grace in defeat. That's what we like to see.

ULS candidate Gael Silzer saw the announcement of her loss as a chance to warn the electorate that those who "had bought the Edsel in 56, had now bought Edson in 76".

Politicking even after the final results are counted seems to be carrying the campaign a trifle far. And, while we applaud these candidates for the gusto of their death rattles, we're somewhat skeptical about the goodness of their hearts.

For his part, the triumphant Barry Edson seized his victory as an opportunity to remark that "I've lost a lot of respect for Izidore Musallam. He ran a negative campaign and students didn't like that."

A lot of beer was consumed at last week's victory and defeat parties; it's a shame that more disappointment and rancor weren't swallowed as well.

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