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excalibur

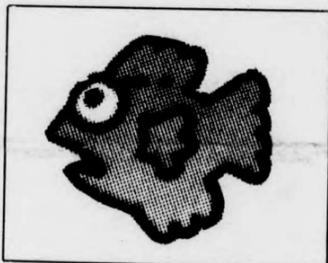
MASCOT ELECTION QUESTIONS

- 1) What is the biggest issue on campus?
- 2) Do you think Excalibur should be involved in broader political issues that aren't specifically related to students, for example, hibernation?
- 3) What qualities and experiences will you bring to the job that will make you an effective mascot?



MOUSE

- 1) The biggest issue is the lack of available cheese on campus. What's most disturbing is what they try to pass off as cheese in the cafeterias.
- 2) Hibernation is such a personal issue for most mammals that I don't think a paper has the right to take a stand and influence its readers, or, I should say, its nesters.
- 3) In terms of being a mascot, I fit the requirements. I'm very well read. I'm cute and fuzzy and have big brown eyes. I'm ferocious when backed into a corner, but a fair judge. I can chew my way through a cardboard box and am excellent at cracking open sunflower seeds. And, I never get sick.



FISH

- 1) I believe the populous population of peckish Pelicans on campus is perturbing, personally.
- 2) Hibernation, no. Alliteration, always. *Excalibur* needs to extensively expand its excellent editions to include all-encompassing alliteration in its presently tiresome text and heavy headlines. I believe the fabulous features editor, Happenin' Howard Kaman, almost attempted to incorporate intelligent alliteration in his feisty features, but, unfortunately, his innovations were completely quashed.
- 3) I have excellent *Excalibur* experience from the perilous past. I am able to alliterate with the best of the best, I can cliché at a moment's notice and I look good in blue.



PELICAN

- 1) The lack of large salt-water ponds. And, may I just say that if my fellow candidate the fish is not careful, and it isn't against election rules, I may eat him for lunch.
- 2) Absolutely. Although, as a pelican, I do not hibernate, I believe my friends the mammals have a right to control their own bodies, and so *Excalibur* has to lobby for warmer and fuzzier hibernation facilities.
- 3) I stand up on one leg for what I believe in, and only sit down in water. I am honest, straightforward, and my cousin is a stork.



PEREZOSA

- 1) *Excalibur* has the biggest (and best) issues.
- 2) One political debate often overlooked by the mainstream media is the cultural differences between three-toed and four-toed sloths. I have advisors on my election team from both camps. Also, I am not a sexist; I believe in equal food rations for male and female sloths alike.
- 3) Numero uno yo soy una perezosa bilingual. Si! Es muy importante en este universidad. I can hang upside down from a clothesline and I am not carnivorous. I also was the director of York's "Just Say No to Nancy Reagan" campaign. I have never posed for a photograph with Prince Charles. I never eat until I throw up, so I would not be an embarrassment at official dinners.



BEAR

- 1) Aside from the lack of honey, I'd have to say that the most important issue on campus is the lack of cave space in Central Square. I'm going to have a sleep-in with all my bear friends to protest.
- 2) Hibernation is an issue very close to my heart. Although it has been covered thoroughly on Gerardo, there still seems to be a lot of misunderstanding on the subject. Hibernation is a very personal thing. Although some bears believe in a straight six month snooze, others prefer to cat nap in class. I personally can sleep anywhere. I believe that *Excalibur* should respect the individuality of the average bear.
- 3) I am warm, gentle, soft and loyal. I've worked on an extensive anti-forest fire campaign and I can tie my own shoelaces.



CHIPMUNK

- 1) For me, the biggest issue on campus is hibernation. Hibernation is an issue which affects us all. Although I am obviously not a . . . well, you know, I don't . . . what I don't do, I believe that what an animal does in the privacy of its own cave is its own business. In fact, some of my best friends are . . . what we're talking about, and I don't hold it against them. In fact, it has given me a greater insight into the problems of hibernatorial species. I mean, think about it: because the government is cutting back on unemployment insurance benefits, seasonally awake species are being discriminated against. It makes you think, doesn't it?
- 2) Haven't you been paying attention to what I said? Alright . . . alright, forget I said that. I don't want to give anybody the idea I'm arrogant or obnoxious or anything. Other issues? Sure. I also like baby seals, Easter seals and airtight seals. Is that good enough?
- 3) I've had years of experience burying nuts in the ground. And, I'm not arrogant or obnoxious or anything. Well, I'm not! I don't have much experience with *Excalibur*, but I like to think that the experience I do have has taught me a lot . . . well, actually, I don't have any experience with *Excalibur*, but I like to think that that experience has taught me a lot. Umm . . . I think my lack of experience means I can bring a breath of fresh air — you know, new perspectives . . . umm, did I mention that I've had years of experience burying nuts in the ground?

For more information, see **Quadrupeditorial**, page 4

OFFICIAL EXCALIBUR MASCOT ELECTIONS

- BEAR
- CHIPMUNK
- FISH
- MOUSE
- PELICAN
- PEREZOSA

RULES FOR VOTING

1. Put a check or "x" in the box next to the name of the candidate of your choice. Ballots with more than one mark will be disqualified unless they are very amusing.
2. Mail your ballot or drop it off at the Excalibur office, 111 Central Square, by 12:01 am, April 1, 1990. Results will be printed in the April 5 edition of Excalibur.
3. All decisions of the Chief Rodent Officer are final.



Vote early! Vote often!

Task force to assess status of graduate women

by Tania Hewett

How good is graduate education for women? A new York task force has been set up to find some answers.

In 1987, a report was released by the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) entitled "Women in the Universities of Ontario." The report outlined areas that require investigation which could result in an improvement in the climate of Ontario universities for women, especially in graduate studies. The release of this report resulted in the formation of a task force to study the York community and find out ways to enhance the quality of women's education at York.

The task force was formed last fall and is composed of representatives from various disciplines. Faculty members on the committee include Art Forer (biology), Barbara Godard (English), Pat Rogers (mathematics), Rusty

Shtier (English/Atkinson), Marta Sokolowski (biology) and Cui Visarias (sociology).

The committee also includes representatives from two graduate departments with women's courses: Susan Snelling from psychology and Lee Wiggins of the Graduate Students' Association. Greg Jacobs acts as a liaison for the faculty of graduate studies.

Prior to the formation of York's task force, several other universities had already taken steps to address the status of women in graduate programmes. Some studies involved the examination of completion rates in the graduate studies programme while others looked at how many people dropped out.

In addition to the areas already taken on by other universities, the task force will most likely be looking at recruitment and admission procedures, granting structures, how a discipline is constructed and how women are positioned as producers or non-producers of knowledge.

The university's general attitude towards women will also be looked at, and a focus will be on whether there are biases against women's research. In addition, the committee will examine how much sexism there is at York and how its practice is manifested.

The COU report isolates non-academic issues for the task force to address, which include a review of personnel policies and promotion procedures encouraging the hiring of more women faculty as well as ways of encouraging more women to apply to graduate school.

One area of particular interest is why women have stayed away from graduate studies in science. Godard believes the reason may not be a lack of interest but "the way women see the work force," she said. "Many women believe they couldn't get a job in the science field."

Another question the task force would like to address is how people view graduate education and why women often feel they shouldn't work towards it.

While the COU report is the foundation for the task force's study, it will also be asking for the input of the York community. The task force hopes the community input will give directives as to what people feel are the major issues. This way, a systematic investigation can be carried out.

According to Godard, "If people tell us a particular issue is something they noticed happening, or feel [it] has been a problem for them, we can set up a means of investigating this across the university. We want to know if it is an isolated incidence or a problem created by the structures of York and experienced by a great number of people."

Godard believes the task force will most likely focus its efforts on graduate students, especially people who feel there are barriers to becoming successful graduates. The most common problem, Godard believes, is that women in graduate studies face financial problems, lack of family support and lack of support in the

community, all of which she hopes to address.

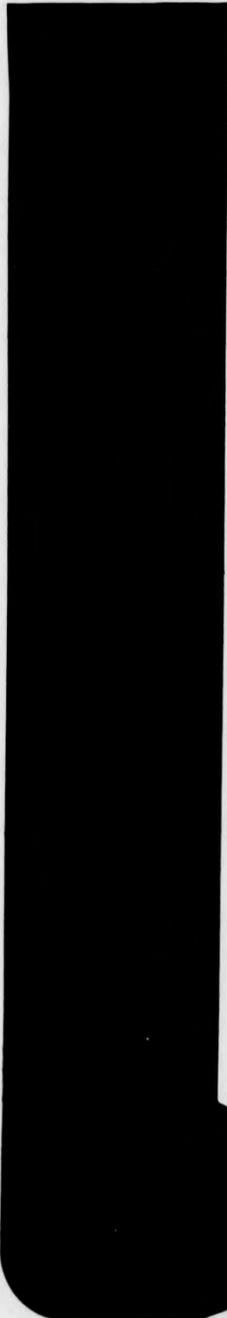
Other sources of input may come from women's groups on campus as well as directors of graduate programmes who will be contacted to find the problems in their departments.

Once the research has been completed, a report will be put together detailing the situation of women in the graduate programmes and recommendations for changes.

The document should be completed by September, when it will be presented to the dean of graduate studies. Although the main focus of the task force is to identify the problems female graduate students are facing, it also wants to provide incentives to encourage women to apply. Once they are in, the task force wants to enforce an attitude that makes it conducive for them to stay in.

The task force has a very large and comprehensive job ahead of it; one that will no doubt improve the quality of education at York.

This could be you or this could be you.



see correction on p. 5 for details

Photo of the Week:



Patricia Hutahajan's "Starr Mountain."



by Ann Barry

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Vanier residents dissatisfied with quality of life

"mildew in the shower stalls is so thick that steam from the shower makes an unpleasant smell"

by Robert Walsh

A recent questionnaire conducted by the Vanier Residence Improvement Committee has found that a majority of respondents are dissatisfied with the quality of undergraduate residence life.

The annual questionnaire received 206 responses out of a total of 257 residents. Marshall Biere, chair of the committee now for two years, explained that the high response rate indicates a desire on behalf of residents to affect change.

The complaints ranged from those involving matters of security (poor to adequate) to the quality of residence rooms (the majority of responses ranged from 'not satisfied' to 'satisfied').

Vast amounts of discontent were reserved for such things as the lack of enough washers and dryers (75.5 per cent and 87.7 per cent respectively), with the biggest majority — 95.5 per cent — stating they are not in favour of the meal-card system.

A majority of 57.1 per cent were not satisfied with the cleanliness

of bathrooms. One of the "most frequent responses" was that "mildew in the shower stalls is so thick that steam from the shower makes an unpleasant smell."

Norman Crandles, director of housing and food services, said he was "philosophically" in favour of giving the students what they needed, however he declined to answer on questions of funding.

Despite Crandles' financial reticence, Biere does not believe that housing operations is the committee's greatest obstacle in affecting change.

"Crandles is caught between a rock and a hard place," said Biere. "I wouldn't want Norm Crandles job. I think it would be extremely frustrating."

According to Biere, the real problem lies with the York administration, which uses Vanier residents as a "cash-cow."

Biere cited the example of Hospitality York which he claims is

subsidized by students. Hospitality York rents out residences during the summer, yet pays no operating costs to housing operations. As a result, Hospitality York gets for free what residents must pay for. Moreover, it is residents who must pay for Hospitality York's free ride.

In addition, there is the ongoing loan (now 20 years old) that housing operations took out with an interest rate of prime plus 1 per cent. The administration refuses to allow housing operations to retire the loan.

Compounded with these considerations is the administration's holding "in trust" of profits earned by housing operations in other years. The money is to be allocated to housing whenever the administration sees fit. In the meantime, no interest is being paid on what amounts to a loan to York.

Ultimately, "(resident) students pay twice," said Biere. In addition to regular tuition fees, Vanier residents must also cover these hidden expenses in resident fees, which are expected to reach the \$4,000 mark come September.

Biere will meet with Crandles and manager of housing operations Peter Ridout to go over the questionnaire's findings "line by line." Biere has said that he will ask for housing's loan to be retired. To do this, it is necessary for York to free up the money it holds in trust.

But Biere has "mixed feelings" about the chance of either of these things happening. "It's up to [vice-president (finance and administration) Bill] Farr," he said, as Crandles' gets his mandate from him.

In the meantime, Vanier residence remains as is, with major improvements unlikely in the near future.

CYSF funding policy gets mixed reaction from clubs

by Michele Greene

York clubs are giving the CYSF's club funding policy for 1989-90 mixed reviews.

Generally in the fall, each club receives a base allotment of \$200, said CYSF vice-president (internal) Caroline Winship. For special events not covered by this amount, clubs can apply to the CYSF's \$10,000 pool for club special event funding for more money. Other years, the clubs received a large sum of money in the fall to fund them throughout the year, added Winship.

Joe DeMatteis, York's Italian-Canadian Association president, and Shahzod Amjad, Pakistan Students Association president, have no problems with the current policy. DeMatteis finds the CYSF "reasonable" and "nurture[s] [the clubs'] needs" when it comes to funding.

However, Bethune clubs expressed their concerns about the policy in an open letter to CYSF president Peter Donato published in the November 9, 1989 edition of *Excalibur*.

The base allotment of \$200 is one concern. Raf Magar, Chemistry Club president, wants the

amount allotted to each club to be based on its size. Magar said it is "not very fair" that a club as large as his (300 members) receives the same as a club of 50 members.

Bethune College president Chia-Yi Chua also questioned the fairness in granting what he calls "non-existent" clubs, who are hardly active, the same amount of money as very active clubs.

Chua also said the \$200 allotment is not fair because it is not enough to cover costs that are not eligible for the special event funding but are of equal importance. For example, he said, club newsletters "establish important links among members" but do not fall into the special event funding category. The CYSF seems to indicate, by this per-activity funding, that it thinks a "party is more important than newsletters," said Chua.

Cyrus Osen, Filipino Students Association president, also thinks the \$200 allotment is insufficient. His club would prefer to receive a lump sum in the fall rather than apply for special event funding. Osen said his club is "feeling the blow" financially.

The clubs page in *Excalibur* is another issue. The CYSF has budgeted \$16,000 for advertising

club events. Magar said the science clubs did not agree with this proposal. Chua said the three-week deadline the CYSF requires is no good. Also, he notices the page gets used to advertise CYSF events. To encourage clubs to use the page more, the CYSF used a slogan, "Use it or lose it." Chua said the CYSF has its answer in the poor participation. "We want to lose it," he added.

CYSF vice-president (finance) Franco LoFranco said the base allotment of \$200 will increase next year. The figure of \$200 was chosen, he said, because that is all the CYSF could afford this year. The delay in distributing the money to the clubs was a result of the CYSF's grant from the administration being late, said LoFranco. After bills from the first months of the fall/winter term were paid, the clubs were issued their cheques, said LoFranco.

LoFranco said the clubs page idea was agreed upon at meetings held during the summer on club funding, with the largest attendance being 23 people. Magar considers the summer meetings unprofessional since the majority of concerned parties were out of town and their feelings were not heard.

LoFranco said the CYSF adver-

tisements for CYSF events such as the "Reel and Screen" appeared only when there were not enough advertisements from the clubs and they did not want to submit a blank page.

The CYSF asked for two pages throughout the year to be dedicated strictly to CYSF events — the health referendum and the CYSF March elections, said LoFranco. He added that there was no opposition to the motion.

Also, LoFranco said the deadline for the clubs page will change next year so it will be more workable for the clubs.

Atkinson dean overruled; courses reinstated

by Nancy Phillips

A decision to cut close to 70 full and half of the almost 250 Atkinson summer courses this year has been overturned.

"Atkinson decided inappropriately to reduce the number of courses. I regarded that as unacceptable and I've arranged for Atkinson to reinstate them," said vice-president (academic affairs) Ken Davey.

On March 2, dean of Atkinson Stephen Griew announced in a letter to "students" that the courses were to be cut because of "grossly inadequate provincial grants to universities . . . [which] will hit Atkinson College particularly hard because of the central administration's decision to allocate to the College a much smaller share of total university growth than had been earlier planned . . ."

Davey said this is "not a factual letter," and that Atkinson's funding has not been cut more than other faculties at York. Davey explained that there was a 1.78 per cent reduction in the budget for all faculties this year and that "the amount of income to the university for growth was less than expected for this year (ending in April)." He also said the Ontario government budget cuts that will take effect next year that will further hurt universities.

Davey said he understands that Atkinson was moving to protect itself, but said the action to can-

cel courses came too late in the year and was done "without the appropriate consultation and planning."

He said, most, but not all of the courses will be reinstated, and that "we've made arrangements for Atkinson to grow a little more." He said the college is already in debt and that the debt will now take longer to work out.

Jane Skinner, front office supervisor for the office of student programmes (arts), said Monday morning that she had not been informed of the course reinstatements yet. "I'm stunned," she said. "It's going to be crazy trying to inform all the students again because they've all picked up their documents already and been informed of the course cancellations." Students who wished to enrol in summer courses at Atkinson had to pick up the proper documents last week.

As she had not been officially informed of this by the proper administrative channels at press time, however, her department will go on as if the courses are still cancelled.

Griew was not available for comment, and Atkinson's registrar Jessie Paquette said, "I've been told by the dean's office not to talk." Paquette said she had not been informed, as of Monday, that the courses had been reinstated.

Davey said he hopes an announcement of which courses are to be reinstated should be made available this afternoon.

York student remembered



The following was submitted by a York Student

It is with sorrow that we say good-bye to a fellow York student. Tragically, Andrew (Drew) Mann, who attended Dr. Norman Bethune Collegiate Institute in Scarborough, was killed in a car accident Sunday March 4, 1990. As a fellow Bethune student and casual acquaintance of Drew, I want to let his family know that he will be missed by many friends. Donations may be sent to an athletic fund set up by Dr. Norman Bethune Collegiate, which can be reached at 491-6000.



Tuition Hikes in B.C.

Simon Fraser University's Board of Governors has decided to increase tuition by 5.8 per cent. After the decision to increase the fees, about 55 students occupied the Administration Building and locked out the faculty and staff. The sit-in lasted two days.

The students' only demand was a meeting between them and the B.C. Education Minister. On the second day of the sit-in, 2,000 more students surrounded the building. One student said the event was peaceful and that there was little confrontation with security.

Two nights later, the students met with the minister. At the University of British Columbia, the students are demanding that tuition fees be frozen at their present level, and that a royal commission be set up to map out a long range plan for post-secondary education in the province.

from *The Ontarion*, University of Guelph

editorial

What next?

An announcement was made last week that about 70 summer courses at Atkinson were to be cut. Angry students feared they would not be able to graduate on schedule and they began requesting permission to take courses at other universities. Yesterday, however, vice-president (academic affairs) Ken Davey said most of the courses will be reinstated because the cuts came too late in the year and were made "without the appropriate consultation and planning."

The incident illustrates some of the fundamental problems this university is having.

One problem is communication. Dean of Atkinson Stephen Griew would not make himself available for comment, and he instructed everyone in his department not to talk to the press, except for Bruce Lowe, who works in outreach services. Lowe, however, has not been in his office to accept or return phone calls.

As another example of the poor communication at this university, neither the office of student programmes (arts) nor Atkinson's registrar had been informed of the reinstatements before the press was.

The word disorganization also comes to mind. The announcement to cut classes should have been made weeks ago, well before the summer enrolment process began. This would have still led to a lot of angry students, but at least they would have had a chance to deal with it, protest and make alternate plans. And then, to reinstate the courses after the fact creates a yo-yo effect. What will happen next at Atkinson?

The last, most obvious problem this fiasco underscores is, of course, underfunding. Overcrowded classrooms and book shortages in the libraries are bad enough, but an overcrowded class is better than no class at all.

Certainly not security!

One of the perennial problems at York is security, which is being ignored on the new construction sites, in particular around the new academic building. Directly in front of the Ross Building is a large wooden structure surrounding one construction site, which seriously impedes vision. It has no windows cut so you can't see through it or around it. You're never quite sure what's going to happen when you walk around the corner.

There is also a new wooden bus shelter that is causing problems. It has only a few holes at the front to see through, and none at the back or the sides. It's a virtual trap. And, the closest emergency phone is at a parking lot attendant booth a fair distance away. Especially if you have to run to it in the dark. Why isn't there an emergency phone near the bus shelters? People in cars aren't the only ones who need to be safe.

The construction on campus will eventually benefit students, but do we have to suffer in the meantime?

quadrupeditorial

Apathy: who cares?

At the beginning of the year, we made two resolutions: no jokes about leg-hold traps and no editorials about student apathy. We were pretty good about the leg-hold trap jokes: we managed to get through most of the first term without one. As for apathy, well, it's time.

In last year's election for *Excalibur* mascot, three people voted. That's one one hundred thousandth of one per cent of the student population of York. The student body is not apathetic. This goes beyond apathetic. It's comatose.

The results were inevitable: a cow won the mascot position. And, not just any cow: a cow who, it should be noted, attended only one staff meeting all year, and whose acceptance of the status quo at that meeting can only be described as bovine. It seems the cow was more interested in partying with visiting heads of state than taking its duties as mascot seriously.

Not only that, but the cow's choice of vice-mascot, the cat, showed, in retrospect, extremely poor judgement. The cat seemed to take over; how else to explain the litter boxes in every office?

This promises to be an election of issues. Hibernation, for one. The quality of bird seed and segmented fishie yummys in Founders' cafeteria, for another. It is an election which could change the face of journalism at York University for days to come.

Excalibur intends to do its part. We plan on having full coverage of the mascot elections, from nominations to last minute pull-outs, from name-calling at debates to crank phone calling late at night. From fin to gill, we will be there.

But, it all comes down to you. *Excalibur* has run the candidates' platforms in this issue. Read them. Study them. Worship them. Then, cast your ballot for the *Excalibur* mascot which you feel will best represent the newspaper in the future.

VOTE EARLY; VOTE OFTEN.

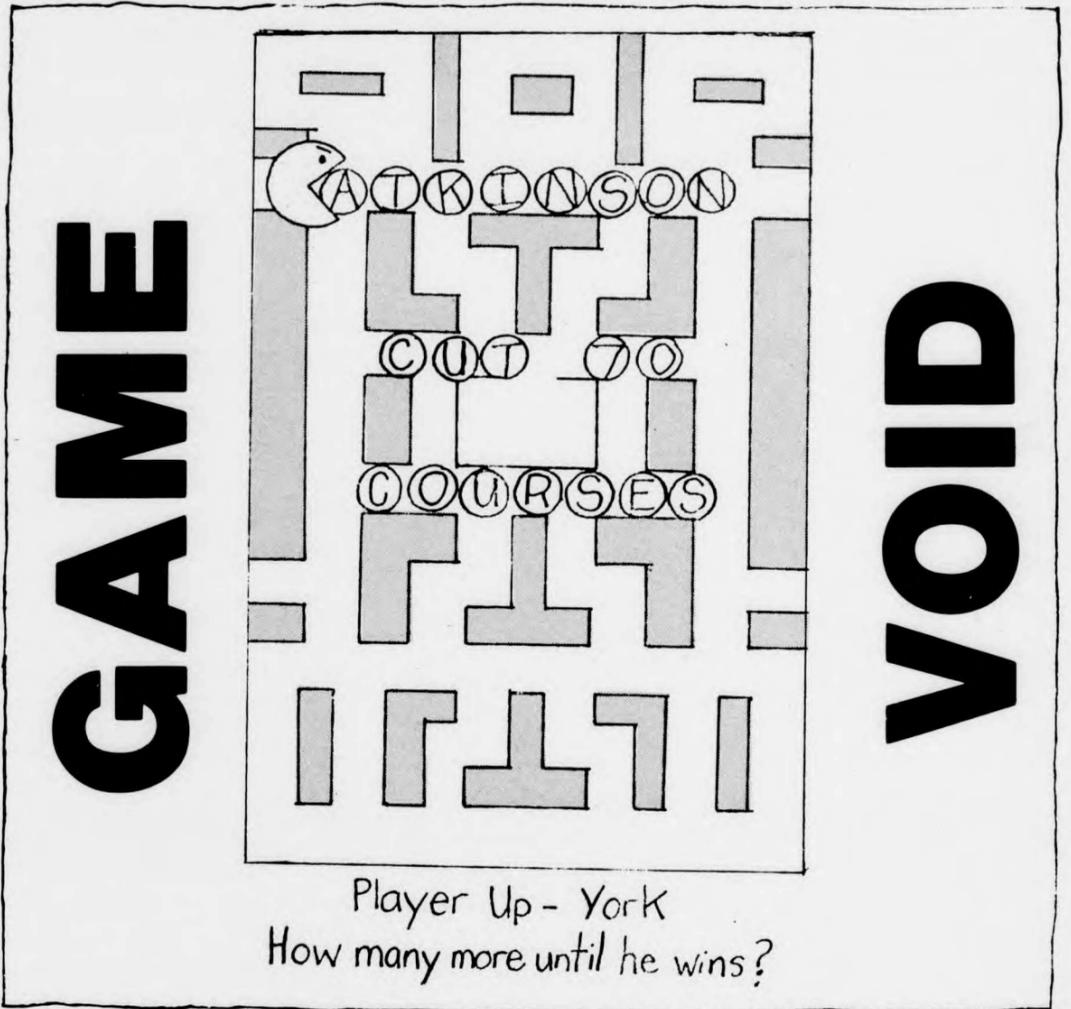
Ira Nayman
CRO (Chief Rodent Officer)
Excalibur mascot elections

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letters

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.

Election posters a waste of paper

Dear Editor:

In these days of dwindling natural resources and major budget cuts, why can't the CYSF enforce some anti-waste laws? I am referring to the massive waste of paper associated with advertising for this week's elections. The walls in Central Square were, in many places, totally papered with signs for the election. A lot of the signs were printed on glossy paper, which is not recyclable, and I have serious doubts as to whether the signs printed on flat paper were recycled.

Even if there were plans to recycle the paper, why were so many signs put up in the first place? I think that a few large posters placed in Central Square would have been adequate. No doubt this huge waste of paper was warranted because it probably resulted in another massive turnout at the polls. Nice going CYSF; you have just added to Toronto's escalating garbage problem, killed a few trees, and wasted a lot of money.

Lalita Archarya
Department of Biology

Editor's Note: We have been assured by presidential candidate Jean Ghomeshi that the glossy paper used in this election was recyclable.

Posters contribute to York's problem of waste

Dear Editor:

The recent campaign for the CYSF elections has resulted in an unnecessary contribution to the increasing problem of excess waste and garbage in Toronto. The candidates showed little concern for our environment by printing posters on shiny non-recyclable paper and covering entire walls with hundreds of the same poster. Posters lined every empty space in Central Square. The night before the elections, all the posters, even the ones that could have been recycled (and those of candidates who assured me that they would recycle them), were ripped down and thrown into the garbage in large plastic bags.

The current members of the CYSF seemed equally unconcerned for our environment by advertising on election day with the same distribution of posters. Entire walls were plastered with the same poster. I realize that campaigning requires the candidates to make themselves known, and one poster would go unnoticed.

The barrage of waste during this campaign however, went far beyond efficient advertising. As students, we use much paper, but many departments and members of the university try to reduce our contribution to Toronto's waste by using and reusing paper which is recyclable and then making sure this paper does go to the recycling bin.

I am angered and very disappointed by the actions of the CYSF. I hope that other members

of this university will express their outrage so that this type of blatant disregard for the environment will not be repeated.

Sincerely,
Alison Neilson

CYSF needs solution for poster mess

Dear Editor:

By the time this letter is published, we will just have made it through another CYSF election, and perhaps this is a good time to consider a solution to one of the more embarrassing aspects of the campaigns we see here at York.

I strongly encourage the CYSF as its first act as a new council — and what for many would be an act of contrition — to pass a resolution banning the display of any sign within 25 feet of any other sign promoting that same candidate. And while they're at it, why not broaden the policy to cover any CYSF-sponsored club or event?

The kind of MacLuhanesque nightmare we see here at York every year at election time makes any talk of environmental concern among the candidates a ludicrous hypocrisy; it escalates the minimum economic means necessary for someone to run a successful campaign; and heaven knows it's the last thing an aesthetically starved campus like York needs.

I will not, absolutely not, vote for any candidate who is pretentious enough to paper the walls with dozens of identical posters of themselves. I'm outraged that my mind should be trampled by this barrage of junk every year.

cont'd on p. 5

cont'd from p. 4

and if the CYSF can't see the value and necessity of making such a policy — even though it's directed at themselves and those who come after them — then I'd like to know what they're good for!

Sincerely,
Ed Nyman

Election candidates should only have one poster

Dear *Excalibur*,

We are writing this letter as concerned students of York University. We found it disconcerting to see the amount of paper wasted by the election candidates in order to promote themselves. In view of the environmental situation the world finds itself in today, the amount of paper wasted by the candidates is disgraceful.

Do 50 posters represent the candidates better than one? Wouldn't it be much simpler and more economical for the candidates to have one large poster each, placed in a central area, where all students could see them?

We feel this should be taken into consideration for future elections. Thank You.

Yours sincerely,
Stephanie Muise
and Sarah Armstrong

Mac residents angry over Excal cover

Dear Editor:

Upon reviewing the March 6 issue of *Excalibur* we were OUTRAGED! As we're sure you are aware, the cover depicts the entire McLaughlin Residence in the trash can. This is a total misrepresentation of the building as a whole.

On page two (not three as the cover states) there is a story written about the intimidation and

vandalism occurring on the second and third floors *only!* Therefore there is no justification by means of the editorial or the events that take place in this residence for the cover illustration.

As fellow McLaughlin Residence students we can assure you that the entire building is not a heap of refuse! You have thoroughly offended most of the residents here in this building by this depiction.

Many of us are proud of ourselves, our achievements and our building! We should not be marred by the unruly events that occur in First House, they can stand in judgement for their own actions, they're 'Big Boys' now.

None of us condone what they have done, but unfortunately we are limited in the steps that we can take to prevent them. There are those who have filed complaints and taken rather risky actions against First House in an attempt to right their wrongs, but we cannot control them.

We can only hope that you will take this into consideration the next time you pick on a majority because of the actions of a few, who we might add are bumbling, vindictive idiots, to say the least.

We totally support the view you presented of the First House, but for the rest of us please limit your pictorial exaggerations. We're sure you will take this into full consideration for the future. Thank-you!

A Group of Concerned Mac Res Students

Editor's Note: The cover illustration was not intended to represent McLaughlin, but the general problems with residence at York, from the ceasing of weekend clean-up to the letter to the editor complaining about vomit that was not cleaned up for four days.



DON'T FORGET
TO VOTE
FOR A NEW MASCOT!
- MOO -

Mass communications students form own federation



Acting chairman of the Mass Communications Student Federation, Stephen Wise. Where are our 4 AA batteries?

by Salman A. Nensi

Mass communication students are joining together to help all York's mass communication grads — past, present and future — benefit from their degree.

Earlier this year, a group of mass communication majors got together to form the Mass Communication Student Federation (MCSF). It is affiliated with the CYSF and is sponsored by the social-science department.

The MCSF's primary goal is to help students who are majoring in mass communications benefit from their chosen major. The students have elected an acting chairman and will hold executive elections during a general meeting Thursday, March 15 at 5 p.m. in the Senate Chamber.

Acting chairman Stephen Wise, who was instrumental in the formation of the MCSF, says there is a great need for this type of organization.

"The communications field is experiencing tremendous growth says Wise. "Technological advances in all areas of mass communications are changing

the complete global structure of this field. All areas, from research to industry, are experiencing change."

It is because of these changes that Wise sees the need for an organization to aid students entering this field.

The MCSF is planning to provide members with the opportunity to talk with professionals in the field. Possibilities include Moses Znaimer, Barbara Frum and Keith Spicer.

Wise says many other people will attend MCSF functions. "We are not planning on only getting those persons who have a public profile. We want to arrange for people from all areas of industry, government and research to come and talk to our members."

Many of these events are to be off campus and in an informal setting so members can approach any of the guests with their questions. Wise says the MCSF is there to provide opportunities for the members.

"Our guests will be able to answer in depth questions about the future directions of their industry, and how we can use our mass communications degrees to aspire to their positions."

Wise foresees a great demand for York mass communication grads. To that end the MCSF is forming a mass communication directory. The directory will contain up-to-date resumes of all present mass communication majors and York's mass communication alumni.

In addition, it will list various areas of the government that require people with a mass communications background, a listing of industry contacts and personnel managers, a detailed listing of university undergraduate programmes and an international listing of masters and doctoral programmes. The directory will be available to government, industry, professors and students. It will be used as a tool for locating the right person for the right positions.

The MCSF also plans to hold a career day at the end of the next school year. Consisting of a series of seminars given by career professionals from all areas, the career day will provide members with a taste of what they can do when they graduate.

Membership in the MCSF is open only to those York students who have already, or are going to, declare mass communications as one of their majors.

But, anyone can benefit from its functions. It is the MCSF's intention to allow all interested York students to participate. "Students involved in Radio York, *Excalibur*, the other college newspapers, students involved in political science, administrative studies, law and many other programmes can benefit from our plans," says Wise.

All students who want to know more about the MCSF and its functions are invited to the March 15 meeting.

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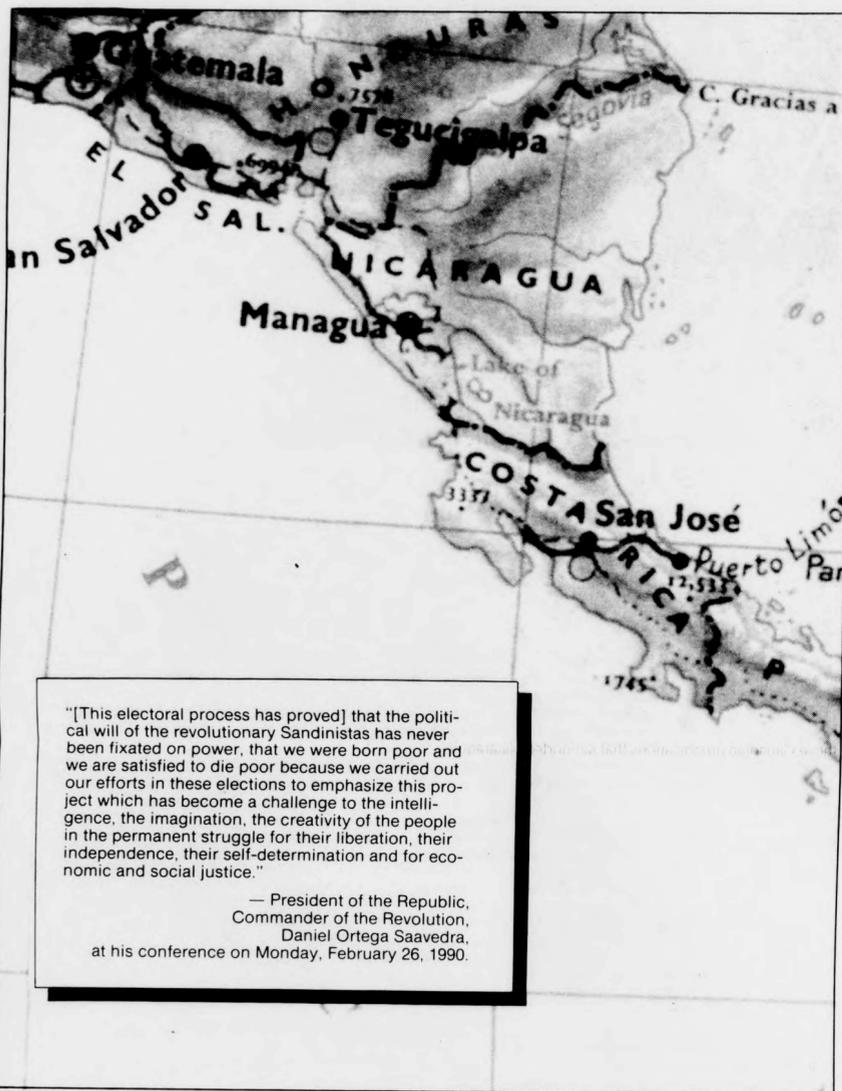
correction

Excalibur is accepting applications from the York community for the full-time position of editor-in-chief for the 1990-91 publishing year.

The deadline for editorial applications is March 22, 1990. The election is March 29, 1990.

excalibur

Nicaragua: chaos will be the result of the UNO's win



by Maximilian C. Forte

Although the National Opposition Union (UNO) of Violeta de Chamorro won 55 per cent of the vote against Daniel Ortega's Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) in the Nicaraguan elections of February 25, there have been far worse setbacks that the Sandinismo have overcome.

On February 21, 1934, Augusto Cesar Sandino, leader of the Army for the Defence of National Sovereignty (EDSN) was assassinated by General Anastasio Somoza Garcia. This put an end to Sandino's agrarian nationalists rule until the 1960s when Sandino's heirs, the founders of today's FSLN, began the hard and heroic struggle to remake Nicaragua. The Sandinistas have proven themselves over and over to be strong, committed, relentless and highly motivated combatants. Anyone who thinks these elections spell the end of the FSLN is seriously deluding himself. Unlike Sandino, the FSLN is not dead and buried; 41 per cent of the population, suffering unimaginable hardships, have decided to stick with it.

The Sandinistas, once and for all, have proven to the whole world they are devout democrats. On February 26, Ortega said, "Since we are committed to democracy, we will accept the will of the voters. The best victory is the pride that I feel; the vote on February 25 has opened up a new road in Nicaragua — the road that we promised the people on July 19, 1979."

In the last 10 years, Nicaragua has instituted a process of "popular power" which has seen the emergence of new mechanisms through which the people have determined

their own destiny. The FSLN has constantly proved that it pursued purely democratic goals, namely, in their own words, "The substitution of the traditional paternalistic principles of government . . . with government actions that stimulate the participation, both individual and collective, of all Nicaraguans in the solutions to their problems."

The Sandinista Revolution sought to empower workers and peasants and, as in the distribution of rifles to 250,000 peasants, it also gave them the means to defend their rights and benefits. This is what Chamorro will be forced to bear in mind.

Nicaragua's mass organizations were central to its people's democracy and they will also prove to be central in holding the UNO regime at bay. The Sandinista mass organizations consisted of several hundred unions and were comprised of 900,000 members (in a country of 3 million) — more people than there were in the workforce. These organizations were not defeated in any elections and will be a tremendous obstacle to any UNO plans of undoing the revolution.

Why did the FSLN lose the election? The only valid explanation, the one most commonly agreed to, is that no incumbent could win with an economy as shattered as Nicaragua's. The UNO had built its campaign around popular unhappiness over years of hyperinflation, falling wages and scarcity of basic goods. In a country where the buying power of wages dropped more than 70 per cent during the past decade and where inflation was over 33,000 per cent in 1988, it's quite logical that Nicaraguans

chose the party with the "special relationship" with the U.S. There is hope the UNO will now bring a windfall in U.S. aid.

Fear and misery drove people to vote for the UNO. Attacks by the U.S.-backed Contras have destroyed or damaged huge segments of Nicaragua's social and economic infrastructure.

In addition to the economic destruction wrought by war, Nicaragua, like other Third World countries, was hit by deteriorating terms of trade, inflated international lending rates and debt troubles. Nicaragua's terms of trade gravely suffered as a result of a steep fall in commodity prices and the soaring cost of imported manufactured goods. Reagan managed to cut all credit lines to Nicaragua.

Nicaragua was forced to ration oil and such staples as sugar, flour and meat. Moreover, there were food lineups, hoarding, speculation, pay freezes and moves to end government subsidies on electricity and other services in 1982. In February 1984, food subsidies on basic goods for the poor majority had to be removed to curb the black market. Defence spending reached 50 per cent of the gross domestic product.

On May 8, 1985, a U.S. trade, transport and general economic embargo went into effect cutting off Nicaragua's major source of imports and primary destination for its exports. The war diverted labour and resources from the productive sector and destroyed irreplaceable means of production.

One cannot even begin to imagine the numerous obstacles the UNO government will face. It has to be recognized that amongst all the political parties in Nicaragua, the FSLN received the most votes. It took a coalition of 14 parties and a totally collapsed economy to defeat the Sandinistas. Yet, the FSLN, with over 40 per cent of the vote, will be a strong enough force in the National Assembly to block any constitutional amendments (which require a two-thirds majority). Should any of the UNO parties break away, Chamorro may find her hands tied in an assembly controlled by the opposition.

The Sandinista mass organizations, labour unions, the army and the armed peasants are not going to stand idly by, in the event that the UNO should engage in a counterrevolution.

Xavier Gorostiaga, a Nicaraguan political analyst, said on February 27 that "[Chamorro] has to make a social pact with the real power of the Sandinistas — the labour force, the popular organizations, and the army. Otherwise, there will not be peace in this country." As if to underline this basic reality, at a large and militant Sandinista rally the same day, Ortega loudly declared that the election results " . . . do not mean, in any way, the end of the revolution." Should the Contras not disarm and disarm, Ortega promised the FSLN would not release control over the Interior Ministry and the Defence Ministry.

There are problems within the UNO. Now that it is in power, all the conflicting aims and demands within the UNO may cause an implosion. The parties within the UNO range from the Democratic Conservative Party to the Marxist-Leninist Popular Action Movement. Moreover, if people thought these elections would remove socialists from power, they should realize the Nicaraguan people, by voting the UNO into power, also voted four parties into power that are further to the left than the FSLN.

The FSLN may benefit from a limited absence from power. As John B. Oakes, a former editor of *The New York Times* noted, "A Chamorro victory would . . . relieve the Sandinistas of the impossible task of reviving the economy by themselves or with whatever help they could still squeeze out of the European democracies. It would shift a major part of the burden to the U.S., which would be morally bound to shoulder it. The Sandinistas could relax while watching the bitterly divided Chamorro coalition fall apart between now and the next election. Nothing more than U.S. support and the hope of ousting the Sandinistas holds it together."

The UNO's programme, based on close ties to the U.S. along with capitalist development, is not a suitable option. Nor is it an alternative. Nicaragua has been through the capitalist phase which resulted in a revolution. Peripheral capitalism, U.S. aid and investment, the Alliance for Progress in the 1960s and the Caribbean Basin Initiative in the 1980s have all failed to eradicate illiteracy, massive poverty, homelessness, unemployment, disease and powerlessness. If anything, a century of ties to capitalism have either created or worsened those conditions.

Nicaragua will go through some very ugly moments before the 1996 elections. One can easily foresee Sandinista-led general strikes, spontaneous riots and grassroots uprisings, army mutinies, daily protests and the disintegration of the UNO. It may be that the UNO's only alternatives to Sandinismo are chaos and the loss of national sovereignty.

The following is an interview with York language professor Pastor Valle-Garay, the former Consul-General of Nicaragua and a long-standing member of the FSLN.

Excalibur: What is your personal reaction to the election? Is this the end of Sandinismo?

Valle-Garay: I believe a lot of good can come out of these elections. Our defeat at the polls is one of the unique ironies of the Nicaraguan revolution. We have seen the people go to the polls; the people desired change and they now have the means to effect that change. The people I've spoken with in Managua this morning — people in the party — are not in such a bad or defeated mood as the press would indicate.

These elections mean more than just the loss of the FSLN — they are an intrinsic part of the democratization process in a country that has not known democracy [until the Sandinistas came to power]. This is a new style of government that Nicaragua has never experienced before. Yet, the legacy and power of Sandinista institutions remain; Sandinismo's power base and all its political machinery are there and are not going to change.

The people of Nicaragua have not so much expressed their discontent with the FSLN or with Daniel Ortega. Rather, their's was a vote of desperation — a hope for change, for economic aid, a hope for the lifting of the U.S. embargo and all the other mechanisms used by the U.S. and its allies to devastate the Nicaraguan economy.

Excalibur: Does the defeat of the Sandinistas mean that the FSLN will simply become a mere party, one of many?

Valle-Garay: The FSLN is a tremendous force to contend with. The Nicaraguan people, under the leadership and guidance of the FSLN, have become politically more mature — and that is what has devastated us today — that same maturity was used by the opposition to express discontent with the FSLN.

If the president-elect is wise, she will continue with that process, established by the FSLN. Under Sandinista direction, the people's rights — gained and earned at tremendous loss and sacrifice — all form part of an irreversible process. That process cannot be destroyed by a party or a group of parties.

Under the FSLN there had been great improvements and advances in the fields of health, education, agrarian reform and the breaking of monopolies, so as to have a redistribution of wealth. The realization that the people have earned those rights is irreversible. Not a single Nicaraguan is willing to give up any of those benefits, or go back 10 or 15 years or back to the feudalism that existed in Nicaragua, precisely under the Chamorros, 50 or 60 years ago when Nicaragua was run by a handful of aristocrats and oligarchs — of which the Chamorros were an intrinsic part.

The revolutionary process is irreversible. The Nicaraguan people have gained a new perspective of what they can do as individuals and as a group. This is the best tribute to Sandinismo. When the people can vote out of power those people [the FSLN] that created those very conditions, then this is something which is astonishingly unique to the Sandinista revolution. Our loss at the polls has nothing to do with what is going on in Eastern Europe, because we haven't copied anybody. We have never copied anybody. These elections are a continuation of the process of institutionalizing democracy which began with the 1984 elections — a process which is, anywhere in the world, the highest form of democratic socialism.

Excalibur: Don't you think that Chamorro will come under intense pressure by the U.S. to dismantle the revolution brick by brick?

Valle-Garay: There will be U.S. pressure; there is no question. The U.S. will try to point out to the rest of the people of Latin America that those are the consequences that they should be prepared to expect. That is, the U.S. will and can undo a revolution.

The U.S. will try to destroy the revolution — but they underestimate the people of Nicaragua, and the people of Latin America in general. This revolution was not won by the U.S. and these elections were not won by the U.S.

Excalibur: Why did the FSLN lose?

Valle-Garay: These elections were lost by the economic conditions, which have been particularly disastrous in the last five years, due to this immoral and cruel war by the United States. U.S. intervention was a contributing factor by backing the Contras, killing and wounding 60,000 civilians [and] isolating Nicaragua from most other Latin American and Central American countries through economic blackmail and military actions.

This economic disaster, the fear and desperation, induced the people to opt for change.

There are some areas where we exercise real political

control. What we lost was, essentially, the presidency. As a party, we control a number of other institutions. It is almost impossible to visualize Violeta Chamorro trying to run Nicaragua without the FSLN institutions when these institutions and processes are now part and parcel of the make up of Nicaraguan political life.

Excalibur: Is Ortega to blame for his defeat?

Valle-Garay: Nobody likes to lose, especially the Sandinistas. But one cannot really place the blame on the Sandinista leadership. There exists a set of circumstances which made the people of Nicaragua vote against the FSLN. And these circumstances, disastrous social and economic consequences of a war, were beyond the control of our people.

There are 150,000 people around the country with one leg, one arm, no legs, no arms, no sight, other wounds — all of which are a sombre reminder of a criminal war that was fought against us. The people have become afraid. Once you create those conditions for change, those that are scared and hungry want somebody else. But in the process, they have elected perhaps the most incompetent person in the history of Nicaragua.

The significance of these elections and our revolution is that people can live with a sense of dignity and hope. The Nicaraguan people will not stand for old ways. The people are now empowered and realize, "If we can vote the Sandinistas out of power then we can vote this woman out of power." Fifteen years ago you never would have seen 90 per cent of the country going to the polls to vote and to determine their destiny.

In the end, this whole process was encouraged and brought about by the FSLN and this is the beauty of the Sandinista revolution.

Excalibur: What would you like to say to Latin Americans?

Valle-Garay: Latin Americans should not despair. I would like to tell all our comrades and friends in the region to take a few days to reflect but not to just give up.

Excalibur: What is the message you would like to send to people here in Canada?

P. Valle-Garay: What we would like to see as a party, more importantly as Nicaraguans, is that the international community that supported Nicaragua, and particularly those Canadian organizations that supported Nicaragua — Oxfam, Tools for Peace, Canadian Save the Children Fund, and all the churches that supported Nicaragua, that they continue to do so. These were the organizations that kept Nicaraguans from floundering in absolute despair when faced with the enormous destruction by the U.S.

Ultimately, the government of the people is not that important. What is important is the well-being of the Nicaraguan people, which was the sole aim of the FSLN.



York professor Pastor Valle-Garay

Arts

clowning around with shakespeare

by Laura Martins

The idea of a clown-based theatre company performing Shakespeare may sound a tad ambitious.

Yet, Theatre Columbus' production of *Twelfth Night*, currently playing at the Poor Alex Theatre, is an appropriate piece for a company accustomed to "clowning around." To date, Theatre Columbus has produced original work, drawing on the elements of commedia dell'arte, clown, buffoon, melodrama, tragedy and burlesque. Their present venture into classical territory has proved a success.

It revolves around a group of lively characters, most of whom are mistaken for someone else. Orsino, the duke of the mythical land of Illyria is head-over-heels over Olivia, a proud countess. Olivia couldn't care less for Orsino. Viola enters the scene, disguises herself as Orsino's messenger and inadvertently charms Olivia instead. The plot is further complicated by a group of revellers living in Olivia's palace.

What makes this production so interesting is that the actors interpret their characters through a wide repertoire of physical gestures, fully exploiting the comic possibilities made explicit and implicit in Shakespeare's text.

Gestures are cleverly exaggerated without becoming excessive. A simple bow is transformed into an elaborate gesture, rendering the act itself absurd.



Kevin Bundy (l), Marthe Ross (c) and Maggie Huculak (r) star in Theatre Columbus' *Twelfth Night*.

Conventional props are sometimes abandoned as well. The duel scenes are expertly mimed, where jabbing fingers effectively replace the need for swords.

The primary revellers and pranksters in the play, Maria (Ann-Marie MacDonald), Sir Toby Belch (Michael Simpson) and Sir Andrew Aguecheek (Oliver Dennis) deliver the funniest perfor-

mances. MacDonald handles two roles, Maria and Antonio. Her colourful portrayal of Maria is accentuated by her animated facial expressions and hip-swaying demeanour. Despite her slight figure, she succeeds in the role of Antonio as well.

Despite the fact that the court jester Feste (Patricia Hamilton), was intended by Shakespeare to

be the real jester in the play, the other characters also reveal themselves as clowns. Simpson plays the boisterous Sir Toby with swaggering ease. Dennis is charming as Sir Toby's dim-witted, yet adorable drinking pal Andrew Aguecheek. Fortunately, both these performances outweigh Hamilton's rather uninspiring portrayal.

The revellers are counter-balanced by Malvolio, played by Diego Matamoros (who also co-directs), who is very effective as Olivia's vain attendant. It is particularly hilarious when Matamoros struts about in his cross-gartered yellow stockings, sporting shimmering bikini underwear.

A crucial point in the play is Malvolio's imprisonment. Malvolio, like most Puritans, has the sneaking suspicion that somewhere, somehow, someone is enjoying themselves and threatens to have Sir Toby and Sir Andrew ousted from Olivia's palace. In turn, Sir Toby and Maria plot Malvolio's humiliation and punishment.

It would have been a more thoughtful production if directors Leah Cherniak and Matamoros explored the tragic potential implicit in the prank played on Malvolio. But considering how Cherniak and Matamoros focus on the comedy aspects throughout, a disturbing conclusion was probably not desirable.

The set consisted of an imposing concrete facial sculpture situated at the far end of the stage and two concrete lounge seats occupying opposite sides of the stage. This minimalist set allowed ample space for the actors' physical comedy without detracting from the play as a whole. The music, provided by guitarist Larry Louis, is a satisfying addition to an innovative and humorous production.

Twelfth Night runs until March 25 at the Poor Alex Theatre.

breaking free from male ideals

"... Historically, women were, and in many instances still are, bound to the peripheral regions of an art world and society built upon exclusion and male ideals."

by Nancy Bevan

Crayola bursts of paper drapery draw the eye across the room and scribble on the wall, while supervised by two Scottish grandmothers. Explorations of personal, feminine and artistic identities form the *Ties That Bind: A Common Thread*, an exhibition of installations presented by the Atkinson Festival of Fine Arts (Founders Gallery, March 1-15, 1990). Carol Laing, Jean Maddison and Yvonne Singer, colleagues in the visual arts faculty of Atkinson College,

each provide a unique perspective of their experiences as children, daughters, mothers — women.

Quick. Name 10 famous male artists from the last century to the present. Okay, now name 10 famous female artists. Tough, huh?

According to the exhibition curator, Cliff Ladwos, "Historically, women were, and in many instances still are, bound to the peripheral regions of an art world and society built upon exclusion and male ideals." These three women artists work in a media which challenges and investigates

this tradition, using childhood and historical images within a modern, adult context.

Remember how deliciously overwhelming it was to step into a large, ornate theatre for the first

The illusions of light and shadow created on the paper forms reflect the illusionary elements of the children's pantomime theatre in England from which the artist took her inspiration.

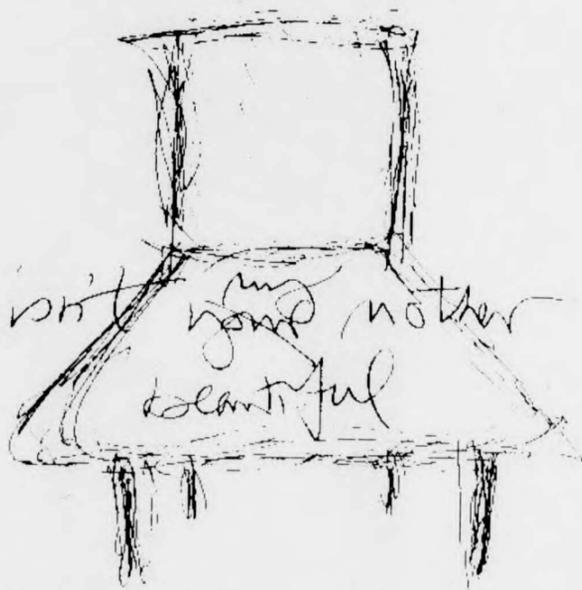
experiences, the artist prefers to let the symbolic elements of the piece suggest many possible stories, like a vignette.

Laing's *Conversation piece: Proof Prints for Five of Them Demasked* (1989) has an interesting story of its own. Canadian history majors not included, raise your hand if you have ever heard of the "home children" phenomenon from the turn of the century? Recent research and an old trunk led to Laing's discovery that both her Scottish grandmothers were orphans, exiled to Canada from Great Britain along with many others to begin a new life.

Their portraits are cut up or blotted over and presented with those of three contemporaries — avant-garde but little-known Russian artists — and bordered by period wallpaper and Victorian stencils.

As the artist explains, these "revolutionaries and refugees" represent the struggle towards establishing her identity as a woman artist "talking back to a dominant and patriarchal (art) history."

While "the common thread" of this exhibition links these women personally as faculty members, artistically as creators and historically and socially in terms of subject matter, the weave is loose enough to allow for each artist's individuality. Their contributions may also prove that, although male dominance in the world of art has had women in a bind for a long time, women artists today have all the talent it will take to break free.



time: the lights, the hush and the glorious sweep of curtain wrapped themselves around the promise that something wonderful and magical was about to unfold in front of you.

The dynamic shapes and colours these memories evoke are successfully captured in Maddison's paper, canvas and acrylic construction, "Theatre I" (1985). Crimson swags and aqua pleats frame towering blue crayons rendered in an almost primitive, style.

The theme of childhood is continued in Singer's "isn't your mother beautiful" (1990). Scrawled across one wall, this phrase provides the trigger for a rich variety of interpretation on the viewer's part. A little red chair is echoed on the floor by a chair designed in broken glass — or is it a dress? A falling orange extension cord is witness to the 'charged' emotions in some fragile mother/daughter relationships. Although created from personal

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sex, lies and trash

by Alix Williams

Trash is brutally frank. Playwrights Kelly Clipperton and Deanna Wilkins even expect some audience members to walk out.

Controversial and risqué, *Trash* is a play that bluntly examines society's attitudes towards sex and sexuality in the '80s and '90s. While its heavy subject matter may be disturbing to some, *Trash* is filled with the personal experiences and feelings of its authors and cast members.

Seven years in the making, two months in rehearsal, the production makes its theatrical debut March 15 in Burton Theatre.

"I hope that people have an open mind when they come to see it," Clipperton said. "And for them to be as understanding as they possibly can."

Sex is no longer the behind-closed-doors subject it once was. Today's youth are asked to deal with a much broader sexual spectrum. *Trash* is an attempt to explain and communicate the wide range of confusion and feelings which surround these troubling topics. An experimental production, *Trash* features an ensemble cast, something which Clipperton sees as a dramatic euphemism for society at large, and how its morality and mores affect everyone.

His actors are no "Barbie and Ken stereotypes" but represent "a healthy variety" of the population. Much of *Trash* has been created through the two-month rehearsal process. While Clipperton and co-directors Christine Mattiuzzi and Tamara Hudgins mapped out

each scene in the play, its structure and content are developed by using the experiences and emotions of the cast.

Avoiding stereotypes became

of paramount importance — even to the point where the onstage development may be hard for the audience to swallow. Once the play was cast, workshops were

held allowing cast members to provide their own input.

Keeping with the tone of the production, many of the ensemble pieces have been staged to mod-

ern music — tunes such as the Eurythmics' "Brand New Day" and Berlin's "Trash" illustrate the conflicts young people must deal with, ranging from sexual abuse to homosexuality to parent-child relationships.

When asked if *Trash* presents parents or adult figures as the 'bad guys,' Mattiuzzi said, "It may seem that way, but that isn't our intention. This is a production based on personal feelings though, so blame is going to be laid somewhere at certain points."

Clipperton stresses that *Trash* deals more with the thoughts and feelings of a generation than with the search to establish right and wrong.

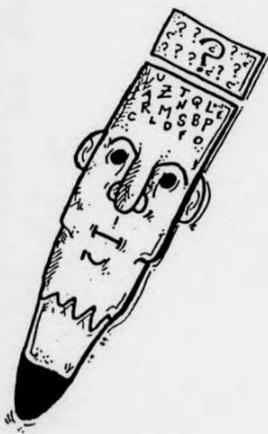
"These are our personal experiences. We aren't going to change them in order to remain neutral; let the audience decide where the blame lies," Clipperton said.

Although the cast of 14 found the topics difficult to deal with at first, Clipperton and Mattiuzzi said that things are going very well. The ensemble, which consists of all theatre students, has "gelled" and although no one expects perfection, the cast is confident the performances will be a worthwhile experience for both the audience and themselves.

The Anxious Company, putting on *Trash*, is comprised of student performance and production members, and has been financially assisted by Vanier College and YUTSA. *Trash* plays March 15-17 in Burton Theatre at 8 pm. Tickets are available at the door or (March 6-16) in the Fine Arts Lobby. Recommended for mature audiences only. Subject matter may be offensive to some.

joel trojanowski

the writer's block



Ira Nayman is a York student with vast experience as a writer. Ira has written numerous newspaper columns as well as dabbling with CBC television and radio.

by Ira Nayman

THINGS THEY DON'T TEACH YOU AT JOURNALISM SCHOOL, #2:

Some people don't do windows. I don't do news.

This is not to knock news writing. It takes talent to write anything well. It's just that my interest has always been in storytelling and the creative use of language and newswriting doesn't allow for either of these qualities.

(Most newswriting is based on the concept of the "inverted pyramid," in which facts are assembled in decreasing order of importance. The style is based on two considerations: that people will read an article until the information in it stops interesting them; and, if a story needs to be shortened due to space limitations, the last few paragraphs can be removed because they contain the least important information. I find this kind of writing formulaic; it also frequently disrupts the logic of the story it is trying to tell.)

I haven't written news in years, and even then, I wrote it only because the newspaper was desperate. It was the second year of *Imprint*, at the University of Waterloo. Almost all of the people who founded the newspaper and felt they had done their job,

disappeared. *The Chevron*, the paper *Imprint* replaced as the official student newspaper, was still being distributed on campus; most students probably didn't want to get involved in the war until a clear winner had been declared.

If a lizard had crawled through the door, the editor would have sat it behind a typewriter. And, I haven't looked like a lizard since I got out of diapers.

My finest moment (or worst, depending upon your point of view) came during a visit to UW by Bette Stephenson, then-Minister of Education. I had covered a number of her talks at institutions around the province, so I had a good idea of what to expect. Or, I thought I did; UW had a way of confounding one's expectations.

The campus Communists picketed outside the auditorium where Stephenson was to speak. No surprise there. Because they all worked for the *Chevron*, one of them (Brigid, I believe) was designated "reporter": it was her job to report on the speech, mainly by getting the reactions of

the others. If you're familiar with Marxist-Leninists, there's no surprise there, either.

The Engineering Society marching band played nearby. Engineers and Communists traditionally do not get along; at UW this conflict often erupted in snowball fights and vulgarity. This particular afternoon, the band had its desired effect: the protesters were all but drowned out.

A couple of minutes into her chat, Battleship Bette, as the Minister was affectionately referred to, was hit with a pie. If I had been a real journalist, I would have found out what flavour it was. Regardless, it was hard to miss the three or four people distributing pamphlets declaring the provincial government null and void, with a tombstone and the caption: "REST IN PIE."

The pie-petrator, Sam Wagar, was arrested on assault charges. He was released two or three hours later when the Minister, in an unusual burst of common sense, refused to press charges.

It was a circus, and I wrote it as such. I described the protesters

and the circumstances of the Minister's visit, then her introduction, and only then, the actual pie incident (much like I have here). It was a great short story, but it was lousy journalism. (The story was accompanied by a photo of the Minister, post-pie, which suggests that it was, in fact, custard.)

The story was picked up by the *Varsity*, at the University of Toronto, where it landed on the front page. They immediately took out all the local references on the not unreasonable assumption that Toronto readers wouldn't be interested in the loonies in Waterloo. While this is probably true, it did remove a lot of the colour from the article.

The Varsity then put the story into inverted pyramid style. Their version was pretty good journalism, but it was a lousy short story. It was probably when I got over appearing in *The Varsity* that I decided to stick to columns, reviews and features.

Some people don't do windows. I don't do news.

You have to know your limitations.

Arts cont'd

sweet jones is in pursuit

by Jeannine Amber

Last week I put aside the scepticism that has recently kept me from venturing into a club to hear a new band for the better part of a year, and found myself at a sold out Lee's Palace listening to Toronto's own Sweet Jones.

Sweet Jones is five extremely proficient young musicians. They deliver a blend of r&b and blues with a very funky groove. They have strong vocal presence, and lyrics infused with a positive-humanist idealism.

Lead singer, lyricist and second-year York student, Charles Kotliar, delivers his 'let's all be good to one another and be happy' message while managing to stay mercifully clear of irritating optimism (this, of course, is a highly subjective comment — I realize not every one finds optimism irritating). Think of a very happy Jim Morrison meeting half of James Brown's rhythm section.

Although the band has been around less than a year, they are extremely tight. There is none of the hesitance and sloppiness sometimes plaguing new bands. Sweet Jones exudes confidence and a dedication to their craft.

According to drummer Jason Kravice (also a second-year York student), "This is what we want to do with our lives — this is our love."

But so what? Kravice is merely echoing the sentiments of every member of every band practising in every basement all over the world. That's why they all do what they do. What makes these guys any better?

The reason this band may have what it takes only partially has to do with their talent — which is undeniable. Music is (unfortunately) a business and, except in the most rare cases, talent is not enough to get a record deal. To be a success you have to hustle. But,

hustling is (unfortunately) an art. And like other arts, the success of the enterprise often resides in the practitioners ability to get his or her message across with subtlety.

This all brings me back to why I was in Lee's Palace in the first place. Kravice the drummer, also the public relations guy, is very smooth. He phoned me up and told me how much he liked *Excalibur* and what a nice telephone voice I had. And I actually fell for it. How could I resist? The man absolutely reeked of sincerity.

This is what I like about Sweet Jones. The sincerity in the delivery of their music and the sense of purpose in their pursuit of the audience is refreshing. Kravice said that all the band wants is to "play their music to the world." These are fairly lofty ambitions, hardly in the same vein as the usual 'all we want is a record deal.'

With their combination of charming business savvy, focus, motivation and definite talent, Sweet Jones has the potential to rise to the top of the Toronto club scene. All they really need is time to develop an individual sound. Given the talent, they should be capable of far more diversity and originality than I witnessed.

However, this is all excusable in a band young enough to still be



Sweet Jones played to a sold out crowd at Lee's Palace.

getting their bearings. A few of their songs did hint at a more eclectic approach to songwriting; encompassing elements of jazz and gospel. If Sweet Jones con-

tinues to explore musical terrain off the beaten path, and to encompass what they learn in their music, I am sure they will excel. Sweet Jones is a young band with

a good groove and yes, you can dance to it.

Sweet Jones will be playing at Lee's Palace April 13 and The Marquee April 27.



platter chatter

hippycore,
something for everyone

by Sid "Midnight" Tyson

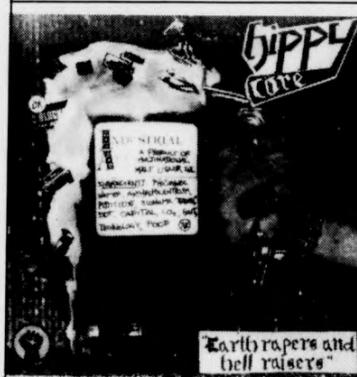
Various Artists
Earth Rapers, Hell Raisers
Hippycore Records

A 7"? In this day and age? That's right folks! Just when you thought 7" wax was dead and buried, it became the new currency for the underground. And *Earth Rapers, Hell Raisers* contains not one, but two of them documenting 12 bands from around the globe. But that's not all, you also get a 42-page information booklet. And to top it off, proceeds raised from sales go towards Earth First. Hippycore, this time you have really outdone yourself. So let's look more specifically at what is involved.

It's been two short years since 'Hippycore branched out to vinyl. This new release is the most comprehensive representation of what they are about. Originating as a fanzine publication, Hippycore operated on the principal of communication. So it's only natural for them to extend into music.

But, unlike many of their indie counterparts, Hippycore placed emphasis on the written word. This latest compilation stands as testament to their commitment. The accompanying book contains four solid articles ranging from short stories about civilization to fact-finding columns on extinction. These are broken up with information pages on the bands. It all makes for a lot of choice reading.

Musically speaking, this compilation documents the contemporary hardcore scene. But, it is more than that. *Earth Rapers, Hell Raisers* features the most current message-oriented bands of the genre (surprised?). The reason why I use message-oriented to describe the bands is because they share the aspect of having something to say.



Stylewise, on the other hand, there is something for everybody. Whether it be the cross-over appeal of *Sins of the Flesh*, the straightforward thrash of *Jesters of Chaos* or the folk-attack of *Pollution Circus*, it's all here. Some of the standouts to listen for are *Christ on a Crutch* and *Pissed Happy Children*; both equally established in the scene.

But the debut introductions of *Sam I Am* and *Conspiracy of Equals* to vinyl alone makes it worth getting. They represent what is up and coming.

However, aside from this being a fine introduction to contem-



any hardcore music, it is important to remember that the proceeds do go to Earth First. For those who don't know, Earth First is an environmental group based in Phoenix. Unlike their conservationist counterparts, Earth First promotes direct action strategies for rebuilding the wilderness. Their philosophy extends to the belief that humans are just another species and we need to find our niche on this Earth, equal in rights to every other species. It takes a very proactive animal rights stance that has developed out of the deep ecology movement; an uncompromising philosophy to match the urgency of our situation. Just what the doctor ordered.

I wouldn't recommend this for the weak at heart. There's no passive entertainment to be found here. Instead, what you get is a package that challenges the consumer with its every form. It is balanced with the right mixture of politics and music in that fine rock'n'roll tradition.

But the tradition being initiated here is one which concerns us all; the environment. Without it, everything else is just a luxury. So hopefully this record will change your mind as it has mine. It's the first step in becoming ECO-LOGICAL.

You can attain yours by sending \$6 postage paid to Hippycore c/o Jack Kahn, P.O. Box 195, Mesa, Arizona, 85211, USA.

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Wise decision?

by Josh Rubin

Will he or won't he? That's the question being asked by Yeomen hockey fans after it was reported that head coach Graham Wise applied for the vacant coaching position at Michigan Technical University.

Officials at the U.S. school wouldn't confirm Wise's application, saying only that there had been 25 to 30 applicants.

According to Tech's athletic director, Ted Kearly, the results of his school's search should be known March 28. Kearly would not say if he knew what Wise's chances were in terms of landing the Michigan position.

Wise confirmed that he has applied, saying that he was contacted by several alumni of Tech (located in Houghton, Michigan), which is also his alma mater.

Wise also said he would prefer to stay at York, and that his contract only runs out in September.

Wally Dyba, co-ordinator of men's athletics at York, said the phys. ed. department has not yet made any contingency plans in the event that Wise and wife Sue Summers, in charge of York's track and field programme, leave the university.

Dyba added that Wise's departure is by no means a sure thing, as he has not yet been notified whether Wise or Summers will be returning in the fall.

Dyba believes Wise's situation is simply one of someone "wanting to move up in the world. . . . I would not hold it against him if he got a better offer somewhere else."



CIAU gold for track and field Yeowomen

by Riccardo Sala

With apologies to Julius Caesar, the York track and field teams came, saw and conquered at the CIAU championships held at Winnipeg last weekend.

The Yeowomen struck CIAU gold, followed by the University of Manitoba and the University of Saskatchewan.

The Yeomen, on the other hand, tied for third with the University of Windsor. The men's standings were a logjam with Manitoba and UofT deadlocked in first.

The Yeomen were anchored by strong performances in the relay events: in the 4x200m run, York's team of Dwayne Roker, Vogner Castilho, Colin Inglis and Kevin Benner took gold, running a 1:28.53 second race. The same team, with Corey Burnett and Darren Gardner filling in for Inglis and Roker, set a CIAU record of 3:16.86 in the 4x400m relay.

The Yeomen 4x800m team

took fifth, shaving 10 seconds off their previous best time.

Yeoman Dwayne Roker won silver in the 60m sprint, while teammate Dexter John came in fourth.

Vogner Castilho took gold for York in the men's 300m with a 34 second run. Combined with his performances on the relay teams, Castilho's results earned him a nomination as male athlete of the CIAUs.

The Yeowomen were led by the double-gold performance of Nicole Sinn, who copped first place in both the 600m and 1000m races while also running with the 4 x 400m relay team.

Sinn's strong weekend led to her selection as the outstanding female athlete of the nationals.

In the 600m, Sinn won the gold with a 1:30.69 run, followed by teammate Lara Leitch in second. The 1000m race ended with Sinn and Leitch first and second. In the 4x400 m relay, Sinn and Leitch teamed up with Lesa Mayes and France Gareau to win the silver.

The women's 4 x200m relay saw Yeowomen Karyn Humber

and Andrea Hastick, along with Mayes and Gareau, win with a time of 1:40.85 seconds.

Gareau was second in both the 60m and 300m races. In the latter, she recorded a personal best time of 38.39 seconds.

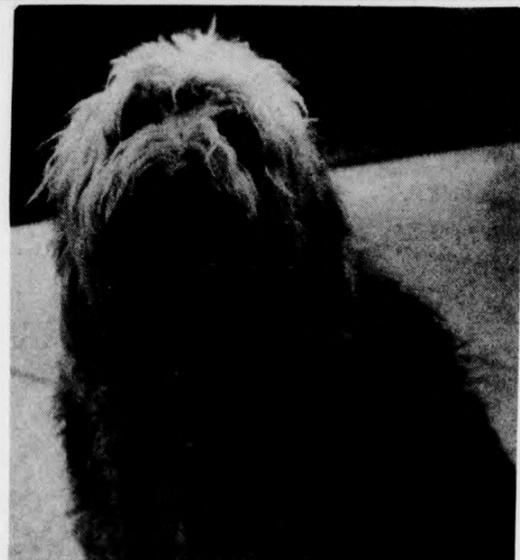
Yeowomen Leslie Tashlin and Lesa Mayes came in fourth and fifth respectively in the 60m hurdles.

Mayes took part in the shot put, winning the bronze with a 12.98m lob. Andrea Hastick finished fourth in the long-jump, with a personal best of 5.77 m. She finished fifth in the triple jump.

Kevin Lake took gold for the Yeomen in the pole vault, clearing five meters. In the long jump, York's Tim Moller was sixth, while teammate Vaughn Martin finished sixth in the triple jump.

York assistant coach Vickie Croley feels the two teams will have strong seasons next year despite the departure of some strong veterans.

With runners such as Commonwealth Games veteran France Gareau and Nicole Sinn, Croley feels that the women's team will be especially strong.



Help! We need sportswriters: lots of 'em. If you think you've got what it takes, come to 111 Central Square and ask for Josh or Jacob.

excalibur's

 FUJIFILM

COLOUR

PHOTO

CONTEST

Entry Rules:

1. Open to all York University Students, except *Excalibur* staff
(include name, York Student No., and phone number on back of photo)
2. Previously published photos are not eligible
3. You may submit up to 5 slides or prints
(Submissions should be no larger than 8" X 10")
4. Photos will not be returned without return address
(after April 6 any unclaimed photos will be destroyed)
5. Model releases (when applicable) must be available for winning photos
6. *Excalibur* reserves the right to withhold prizes if no submission meets standards
7. *Excalibur* and judges are not responsible for lost entries
8. Photos must be submitted NO LATER THAN March 16, 1990 at 3 p.m.
9. Winners will be required to submit an original colour negative or slide

*Photos can be dropped off in the box in the hallway marked PHOTO CONTEST,
Excalibur offices, 111 Central Square*

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Fuji "Grab The Excitement Trophy"
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Judges:

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