

Excalibur

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

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CYSF fumbling while colleges grumbling

Astute observers can find sure signs of autumn in the nooks and crannies of various colleges and student associations.

Colleges are grumbling about the Council of the York Student Federation. They do every year, but this time the complaints may not all go up in smoke.

In fact, if the sentiments expressed by student leaders in Stong college are any indication, CYSF may find one of its members gone with the wind.

The federation is extremely vulnerable to such discontent. Until—and unless—it's incorporated, CYSF really is in a precarious position. If member colleges like Stong decide a central body isn't doing them any good, they can and will go their own way. Once incorporated, CYSF would maintain a legal position which would make it more difficult, in the long run, for colleges to pull out.

So far, Bethune and, most recently, Atkinson, have chosen to do without federation membership. Now, Stong is hinting strongly that it doesn't need CYSF under the present terms. Stong students claim they are being shortchanged due to their position in college complex two. Their argument has merit.

Most of CYSF's attention is directed to the more financially fertile complex one. Vanier, Winters, Founders and McLaughlin provide Council with most of

its money and serve as a power base for its most influential politicians.

One way to calm the storm is a redistribution of student fees, with a fixed portion going directly to organizations like Radio York or projects like course evaluations which benefit the whole student body. Then, if Stong and the others still felt neglected, CYSF would be forced to put up or shut up—to prove, in fact, just why York can't do without it. So far, that proof has not been forthcoming.

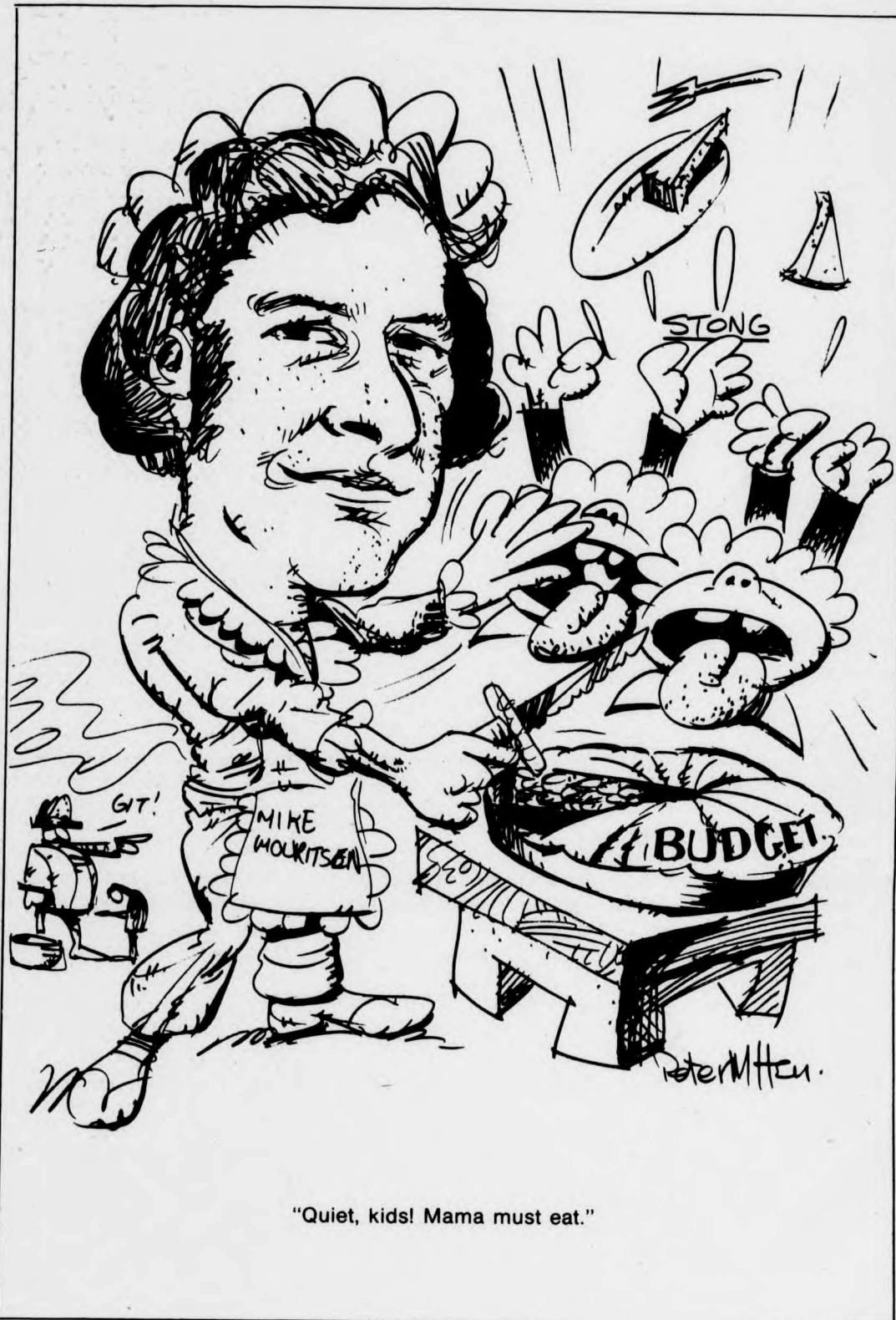
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While the colleges let fall their seasonal complaints, however, some students are grumbling even more about giving \$17 to the colleges.

The \$27 student fee is collected by the university. CYSF gets \$10 for each student in the member colleges. A non-member like Bethune negotiates with the administration and the council to decide the fate of the \$10.

More than a few students find their colleges, and the college structure generally, a waste of time, and they resent giving them money. Some fine arts students, for example, believe they have more in common with each other than with their respective colleges. They'd like student fees diverted for their own use.

But, of course, it's ridiculous to expect students with special interests to benefit from their own fees, isn't it?



"Quiet, kids! Mama must eat."

Senate ignores candidates

Student apathy at York is often overwhelming, but one expects a better performance from the faculty who are supposedly more "concerned" and "aware".

Two weeks ago, the Search Committee for a New President presented a list of nominees to the Senate. Not one of the nominees was a York candidate. A hue and cry arose from some angry Senators who denounced the list and suggested that it be revised.

Yet when it comes down to the crunch, it seems that there is more talk than action from the faculty begwigs.

Tuesday afternoon, Owen Carrigan and

William Beckel, two of the nominees, arrived on campus. But only a handful of Senators turned out to meet them. After all the internal problems that threatened York during the Slater era, and despite the urgent need for a new president, the senators are still sitting on their butts.

It's about time the great intellectuals of this establishment stopped fanning their research papers and started worrying about administrative matters.

Michael Lawrence

Israeli supporters should reflect

For the second time in six years, war has broken out in the Middle East. Pleas for Israeli solidarity blanket the campus with some success. Perhaps it's time Jews admitted that the issue is not as clear-cut as some allow themselves to believe.

Conflict over the Palestinian question has been present since at least 1917 with the introduction of the Balfour Declaration. The issues are complex and yet they never seem to be discussed. Both Arab and Israeli leaders seem satisfied in convincing us that the conflict is a religious or ideological one, an explanation that is willingly swallowed, particularly during times of crisis.

Well, though loss of innocence may be painful, the Israeli supporters must sooner or later realize what they're supporting.

What seems basic to the Jewish argument is that Israel has always been and will always be an historical birthright. The fact that other semitic tribes have cohabitated the area for thousands of years seems to them a frivolous point. The validity of a nation-state based on aboriginal claim never becomes a question, but something taken for granted. I'm curious how these same people react to the question of Quebec separatism and its similar claim to nation-state status.

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What becomes clear is that in this particular

conflict few people are willing to examine the situation beyond its emotional pull. Divine right is not enough justification for Israeli support.

The Israeli state has major faults as most nations do. Economic discrimination against non-Jewish citizens is perpetuated through the present political and social institutions. Palestinian refugees are refused their own aboriginal claims, many living in controlled camps.

Minority right wing elements are slowly gaining strength in a nation that some already accuse of being too militaristic. Do the Israeli moral allies support all of this too? Or do they even know that such injustices exist?

I'm sure it never occurs to most of them.

At this point, let me state that I support the Israeli cause. But let me also state that my support goes beyond my sense of self-preservation.

This support is based on the analysis that the Jews have historically demonstrated that they are a nation, as opposed to just a race or religion. Their aboriginal claim to Israel is real, but in itself is not enough to demand a Jewish state. But this claim, combined with a legal and political system that spans centuries, validly demonstrates the justification for nationhood.

Still, if to support Israel means to do it blindly, then count me out. If to support Israel is to deny that the Arabs have some real causes for complaint, I want no part of it.

To reduce a complex conflict to an emotional barrage of white knights and black sorcerers is naive and dangerous. Yet many continue to do just that. A quick tour through Central Square will suffice as a demonstration.

The danger of such rampant religious nationalism by both sides is twofold.

The immediate danger is that it lets such conflicts as the present one continue. If both the Arab and Israeli leaders are allowed to reduce such friction to simple ideological terms, the hope for some resolution to the situation is slim. Military men like to play with guns and the simpler the justification demanded of them, the better.

The second and by far greater of the two dangers is one that goes beyond this latest battle. If supposedly intelligent people, like university students, are so easily satisfied with only emotional dogma, what might be the consequences?

A short reminder of German behaviour in the 1930's seems relevant. When people refuse to examine issues beyond emotional impact, it becomes possible to guide their actions in almost any chosen direction.

Though some Israeli supporters might be shocked at this connection, I contend it is not so far-fetched. They owe it to themselves as well as the side they support to examine their cause more deeply.

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