



ARTS NEWS

Vol. 1, No. 1

A TRI-WEEKLY TABLOID COMPILED AND PAID FOR BY
THE FACULTY A OF ARTS STUDENT CAUCUS FOR ARTS STUDENTS

Dean's Message

Congratulations to the Student Caucus of the Faculty of Arts for taking the initiative in launching a newsletter. The periodic appearance of Arts News will provide an important channel of communication for faculty, students, and the various services and administrative departments within Arts. I believe that it can do a great deal to bring us closer together as a community.

The Faculty is dedicated above all to excellence in learning. It is equally committed to creating a humane and healthy environment in which learning can take place. Students and faculty alike have an important contribution to make in creating such an environment. Arts students can be justly proud of the role they have played over the years in Faculty committees and in Faculty Council. But only a small percentage of students have been actively involved. Recently, there has been renewed interest on the part of students in strengthening the Student Caucus and in participating in the life of the Faculty. I support and applaud these efforts.

On behalf of the Associate Deans and myself, I wish the Caucus every success in this new venture and to express the hope that Arts News will be greeted with a warm response by both faculty and students.

Sid Eisen
Dean, Faculty of Arts

York politics is alive and well, but not best model of ideology

One need only stroll through Central Square in order to be confronted by an entire selection of political associations from which to pick and choose. In true democratic style each political party, complete with slogans, pamphlets and banners, indulges the discriminating palate of one and all.

However, is this sufficient to deal with the immediate problems confronting the student in making sure he obtains an adequate education? For it is certainly hopeful that we have not forgotten entirely the central purpose of the university as an educational institution. And thus, the policies and the decision making processes of this institution are issues with

which we, as students, should be particularly concerned; not only because they are of immediate relevance to us but also because it is within this area that we have the greatest opportunity to be effective in the decision making process.

True, we already have a student association on campus that is in a position to give students a voice in university policy. However, the CYSF, no matter how useful it may be in other areas, has not shown a great deal of interest towards the more academic needs of the student population.

Politics is alive and well at York University, but it is doubtful that either the various proponents of political ideology or the CYSF are viable forms of it as far as their ability to cope with the academic problems of the university is concerned.

In view of this, it is unfortunate that organizations within the university that are in a position to give students the opportunity to effectively participate in administrative policy are receiving so little support, either through CYSF funding or student involvement. This is particularly true in the case of the course unions organizations that have been set up for the purpose of providing students with a say in the policies of the individual departments. The situation is similar for FASC.

On a micro level, the course unions allow students and faculty to come together in formal committee meetings and informal gatherings to discuss all aspects of concern within the various departments,

including the important areas of course structures, the setting of prerequisites and the hiring and promotion of professors. On a macro level, FASC represents the collective academic interests of all arts students.

Along with the course unions FASC attempts to fill the academic needs of students presently neglected by CYSF and the college councils, which are basically social organizations. Through direct input by the student delegates through the political channels available, the academic life of York students is best served by FASC and the course unions.

There is no doubt that FASC and the departmental course unions represent a large number of students, therefore, the success or failure of FASC and the course unions will be a matter affecting a sizeable proportion of the student body.

In order to function effectively these academic organizations need your support. Let apathy and dissemination of information, problems inherent in any large institution, be characteristics of the past. Make every effort to become involved in your course union and give your support to FASC.

Political Science Student Council
General Meeting: Wednesday
January 26, CLH-E, 3-5 p.m.

Wine and cheese: Wednesday
February 9 S869R 3-5 p.m.

Jenny Johnson
Tom Dallas

What is F.A.S.C. all about

F.A.S.C. is the official medium for student representation at the faculty level, and as such, is the strongest voice that Arts students have in administrative and policy decisions within the Faculty of Arts.

The Caucus is comprised of 55 members, or, ten per cent of the number of faculty members in the Faculty of Arts in a given year. F.A.S.C. represents approximately 7500 students, and voices their

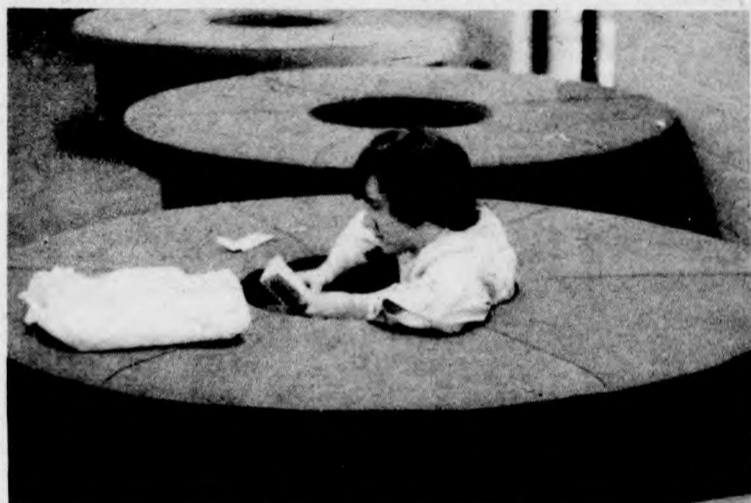
opinions at meetings of the Council of the Faculty of Arts, which generally occur twice each term.

In essence, F.A.S.C. serves a very necessary function within the largest faculty at York, sometimes acting as a thorn in the side of the administration, often aiding in the decision-making process through student participation on faculty committees, and always ensuring that the student voice is heard within the increasingly com-

plicated bureaucracy of the Faculty.

The fact that F.A.S.C., like many other campus organizations, is feeling the effects of the current apathy epidemic is an unfortunate reality, but nevertheless one which must be coped with if we are to prevent the growth of a powerful, albeit benevolent administrative autocracy. Therefore, F.A.S.C. will continue to present these newsletters once every three weeks in order to keep students informed as to our progress, and in the hope that some of the interest generated during the days of Bob Dylan, Abby Hoffman, or Janis Joplin (remember them?) may develop once again.

Brad Meslin



Don't let apathy get you down.

Who cares, anyway?

We do. We happen to be the executive of the Computer Science Student Association. This article is devoted to those of you who are sinking in a computer science course and feel all alone. Well you're not! However, in order to fend off frustration, boredom, and mass genocide the CSSA was born. Joining it was painless. Thursdays, at room 325 Bethune College is the place to be. All important decisions (and not so important decisions) are made by all members present between the hours of 12 and 2.

The purpose of the CSSA organization is to provide the services above and beyond those offered by the Department of Computer Science and the Computer Centre. Our task has been divided into two categories, social and educational. Social activities for this year include our semi annual professor-student volleyball game.

Other events for the past year have included a Christmas wine and cheese party, and a premier

volleyball game.

In the educational field, our major task of the year has been the compilation and publication of the CSSA Anti-Calendar. The Anti-Calendar is a student view of courses and professors. The purpose of this Anti-Calendar is to aid the student in choosing courses for next year.

Other educational functions include speakers and films. Upon request, we also provide advising (and consoling) services to students which has proved beneficial in the past. In a field separate unto itself lies the topic of professor student liaison. Is there a problem that you have with a certain professor, but you just can't face him yourself? We have an offer they can't refuse. And of course, by mid February, the official Computer Science Student tee-shirt will be available.

We can make this your best year at York but only with your continued and active support.

Here at York, we as students are endowed with a marvellous privilege - that of "petitioning".

Petitioning is that process whereby a student is provided with a mode of recourse to any action considered unjust, arbitrary, or just plain mistaken.

Having initiated this discussion we should perhaps explain the basis behind this article. At the October 21, 1976 meeting of the Faculty of Arts Council, The Executive Committee presented new legislation concerning the petitioning process.

This new legislation will not appear elsewhere in printed form until next year's calendar and as such necessitates an exposition at this time. The following is a summary of the procedure regarding petitioning as it now exists:

(a) Prior to filing a petition a student must discuss his/her case with the Office of Student Programmes which will then advise as to the means of proceeding;

(b) In cases where the student receives a negative reply he/she is advised to discuss the "decision and prospects for appeal" with either the Office of Student Programmes or an Associate Dean; and

(c) Dependant upon the content of the appeal, it may follow one of two directions as decided by the Office of Student Programmes and an Associate Dean;

(i) in cases where the student presents new information or, if the student wishes to clarify or present

a reinterpretation of the original petition, the case is referred back to the original committee, or

(ii) should there be "allegations of prejudice, bias, or procedural irregularity by a student in the handling of the original petition the appeal will go before a subcommittee of the Executive Committee."

The purpose underlying the new legislation may be stated as follows:

It "will provide an equitable means for dealing with appeals, and will" extend to the student two

avenues for "direct explanation and advising (OSP and Associate Dean)" and; it provides the concerned student or faculty member to appear on his - her behalf before the Committee and argue his/her case.

We hope that this summary will prove beneficial to you.

Should you have any enquiries please contact the Office of Student Programmes, the Advising Center, or your advisor.

George Manios
Tony Varriano

New ruling modifies petitions

Course Unions

This is a listing of all the course unions at York University. This list was compiled for your information and records. Should you at anytime wish to contact any of the unions feel free to call or visit their office or the departmental office.

Association of Economic Students c-o Economics Department, S845 Ross.

Computer Science Student Association c-o Computer Science Department, N619 Ross.

Faculty of Arts Student Caucus, S319 Ross.

Faculty of Education Student Association, N828 Ross, Phone 667-6304.

Faculty of Science Student Association C017X Steacie Library.

History Students Association, 225 Vanier College.

Political Science Student Council, S615 Ross, Phone 667-3516.

Synapse (Psychology), 294 Behavioural Science Building.

Theater Students Association, 210 Administrative Studies Building, Phone 667-6266.

Undergraduate Business Students Association, Room 019 Administrative Studies Building, Phone 667-6385.