

Editorial

Rash college councils threaten CYSF

This week, because of the rash and ill-advised actions of two college presidents, CYSF is facing the most serious threat yet to its existence as a credible, broadly representative student government.

In fact, if Paul Hammond and Steve Morrell get their way, York's central student government could conceivably cease to exist. That would leave us, the students, without any effective student voice on or off this campus.

Even if CYSF survives this current threat, as it likely will, the credibility of student government has already been lowered another notch.

Presently, CYSF represents five colleges, the Graduate Students' Association, the Graduate Business Council, and the Environmental Studies Students' Association. These groups comprise only 54 percent of York's students, and the current bids by Hammond and Morrell to pull their respective colleges out of CYSF, combined with the possibility of a GSA withdrawal would reduce that figure substantially.

Needless to say, if CYSF's representation drops significantly below 50 percent, student governments at York can kiss their credibility goodbye.

Ironically, this latest silly development in the silly history of York student politics comes at a crucial time, as CYSF President Reya Ali is currently working towards centralizing the political structure and increasing the colleges' representation on CYSF.

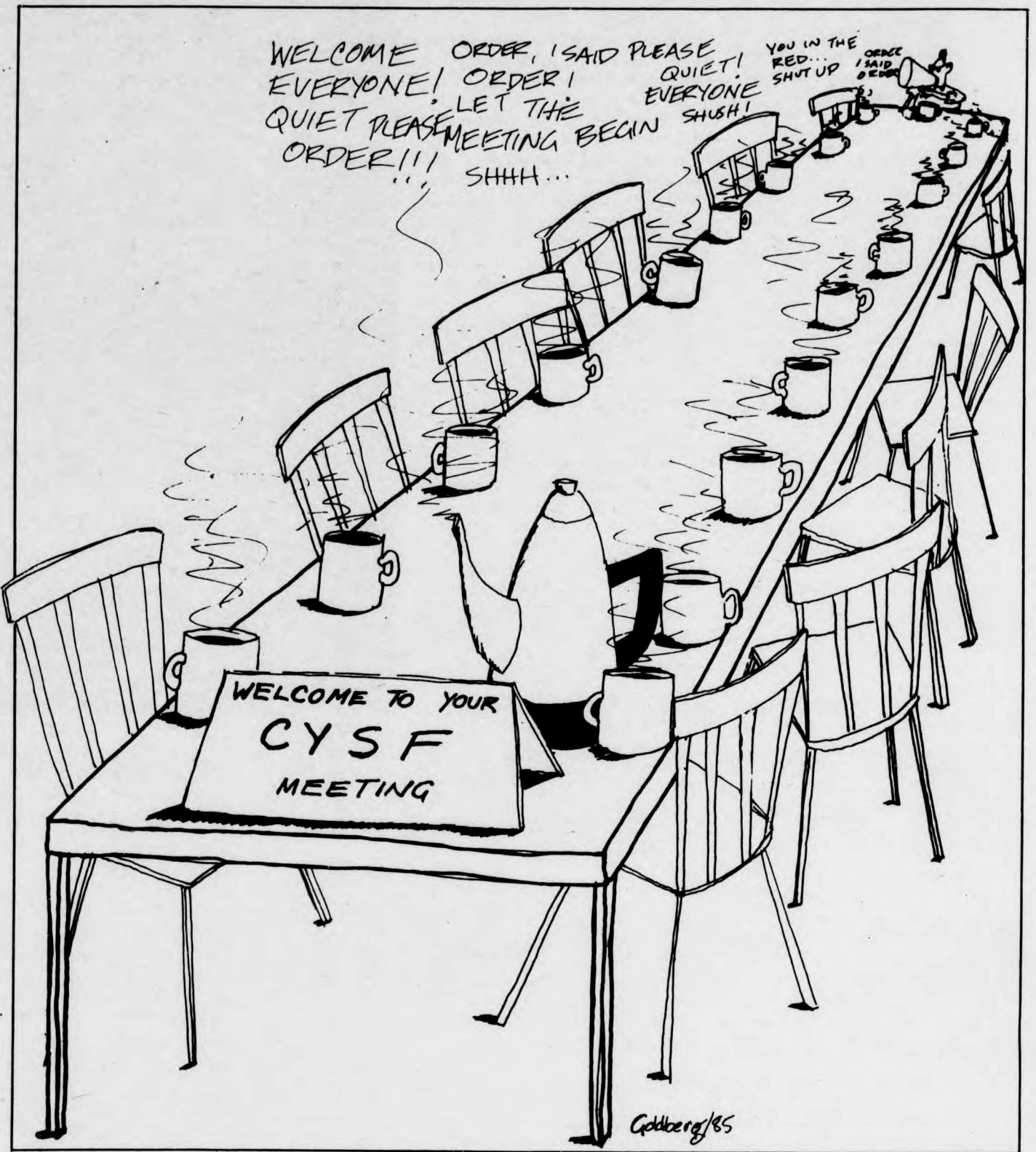
No one is denying there are problems with the current political structure of CYSF, but these problems aren't helped any by stupidity and short sightedness on the part of our representatives.

We strongly urge Hammond and Morrell to back down on this foolish and dangerous move, and content themselves to operate within the system until it can be changed.

To pull out of CYSF, the withdrawing constituency must have solicited at least a 25 percent turnout in a referendum. If the issue does go to a referendum, we just as strongly urge Vanier and McLaughlin students to put their ballots where they will do the most good; in the nearest trash can.

They are neither man nor woman—
They are neither brute nor human,
They are Ghouls.

—Edgar Allan Poe



Letters

Excalibur violates artists' rights

Editor:

We could have been quite flattered by the publication of the photographs of our art works in the October 23 *Excalibur* issue. But the inferior quality of the photos, the omission of any proper identification and above all the lack of any artist credits raise an old and thorny debate that should not be reduced to a mere printing mistake. Through this very unprofessional behaviour the *Excalibur* art section 'illustrates' perfectly the violation of basic artists' rights and the subsequent appropriation of their work by the media.

We hope that in their efforts to increase their art coverage, *Excalibur* collaborators will take consideration of this matter in order to avoid abusing the discipline they try to encourage.

—Ginette Legare
Margaret Lawther
Alex De Cosson
Ron Sandor
Michael Tait

Excalibur "shallow and misleading"

Editor:

The treatment of McCarthyism by Paulette Peirol and Stephen Milton in the October 24 *Excalibur* was both shallow and misleading. To paint McCarthyism as purely a product of "xenophobia" and "serving no other purpose than bolstering the careers of aspiring politicians" misrepresents completely the tenor of this painful time in American history. Those possessing even peripheral familiarity with the history of this period well

realize that there were a number of indications that America was facing a threat from within: To whit, the Hiss Trial, the Rosenberg Trial, and the startling revelations of Soviet defector Igor Gouzenko. Of course, the response of Senator McCarthy and HUAC to this perceived threat was hyperbolic and inexcusable; but, the refusal of Peirol and Milton to admit that there were "witches to hunt" in America is no less so.

What I find even more distressing than the aforementioned is the insistence of Peirol and Milton that "fellow travellers" are somehow heroic given their activities during the Depression. To present the "Hollywood Ten"—and especially Reid Larson, who was a member of the Communist Party for a number of years—as patriots and democrats in the Jeffersonian tradition does a great disservice to those who fought for the rights of the working class in America without supporting the violent overthrow of the United States Government.

—Cal Bricker

History Dep't above sexism

Editor:

I read with interest the article of October 24, "History Department Comes of Age." As a fifth-year history student in the Faculty of Education I would find it hard to disagree that York's History Department is anything less than excellent. However, the opening remarks that "there are men, and it is men that history seeks to grasp" is not only false, it is also sexist, offensive, and anachronistic. It is because, hopefully, that York's History Department has progressed beyond such antiquated male-dominated ideology that it is great, if in fact, it is.

—David Neelin

OFS defends stand on Bovey

Editor:

As the Chairperson of the Ontario Federation of Students I find myself once again in the position of having to respond to an Editorial in the *Excalibur*. This time it is about the suggestion that OFS "lobbied against York's interests in its response to the Bovey Commission... by supporting the present government funding formula."

I draw your attention to page 66 of our 300-page submission to the Bovey Commission. We specifically used the York example to point out the glaring inadequacies in the mechanism presently used to disperse provincial and federal funds for post-secondary education.

"Underfunding is the ultimate source of the failure of the current funding formula... In York University's case, the institution receives funding for only 80 per cent of the BIUS serviced, below the system average of 91 per cent, or some \$700 per capita less. The York administration has estimated that if it was funded at the system average, it would receive \$19 million more per year."

We called for a funding formula that was "predictable and stable" and a "block funding" model to provide a "first step... to update the historical base of the formula to current enrolment levels."

The OFS is also concerned about accessibility to post-secondary education, not just the quality of that education. For that reason we urged that the Government "devise a positive strategy for attracting more stu-

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