

OFS a rest home for aging student politicians

By MICHAEL MOURITSEN
President of CYSF

With the mid-term holiday week approaching (Feb. 18-22), some people will be looking for out-of-town rides. The student federation operates a travel pool registry from its offices (N111 Ross) for members of the university who commute to and from campus. We also offer a registry for drivers and passenger making special or regular trips outside the Toronto area.

Many people post small notices (seeking rides or passengers) on bulletin boards or walls all over the campus. It would be to everyone's benefit if such notices could be posted at a single location. The CYSF will be posting out-of-town rides (and requests for them) on a bulletin board outside the council office. Faculty, students and staff are encouraged to use this service.

Registration forms for drivers and passengers commuting to the campus are available at the CYSF office or the Information York booth opposite the Post Office.

In an October column, I questioned the need for the National Union of Students (NUS), suggesting that the only way it was able to solve the problem of student unemployment was by hiring ex-student politicians to work as full-time NUS employees in Ottawa.

Well, now the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) announces its new retirement plan for student council presidents. The OFS (a federation of all but four Ontario university student councils) held a meeting in Peterborough Jan. 26 and 27, at which members adopted the report of a committee

to study a new structure for the Ontario federation. The report recommends that the OFS full-time office staff be increased from three people (a secretary, a fieldworker and a researcher) to ten (three researchers, an executive assistant, a secretary, four fieldworkers, and an information officer). In addition, the report recommends that the seven members of the OFS executive committee be hired at \$400 a month during the summer.

When student politicians graduate, they know exactly where to go for their next job. It is interesting to note, though, that the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA), which supposedly works to better the professional careers of its members, employs a full-time staff of only five. It is difficult enough for me to understand what exactly is the "Ontario student

movement" let alone why it requires ten full-time employees. The only professional careers which the OFS employees will have to protect will be their own.

Students at each university will be asked to support a referendum to increase tuition fees by \$1.50, in order to pay the salaries of the expanded OFS staff. This request comes from an organisation which, at the same Jan. 26 meeting, adopted a motion declaring "that OFS stands opposed to any increase in tuition fees levied on post-secondary students" and that it "intends to organize students in forceful opposition to any such fee increases."

I hope that York students have enough sense to vote no in this referendum, which will be held during the annual student elections in March. I will comment further on this subject in a future column.

Opinion

Founders wants concerned leadership

Discerning readers of Excalibur over the last 3 weeks will have noticed that the announcement about events during Winter Carnival shows Founders College offering only one event: an entertainment arranged by the College pub, The Cock and Bull, in the JCR. Doubtless this comes as no surprise to non-Founders members who see Founders as the poor relation (in its facilities and decor), and who think the name Cock and Bull synonymous with Founders.

Prepare yourselves for a two-fold revelation:

(1) A large number of Founders students are dissatisfied that Founders is known only by the Cock and Bull, particularly as many of them find the atmosphere of other college pubs/coffee-shops infinitely more pleasant.

(2) The Founders student council is, by many thousand dollars, the wealthiest council on campus. How come? because, since 1969 at least, each council has seen fit to 'conserve' its funds rather than use them to provide a better college life for its students. (Its latest venture is to disperse some of its surplus funds by investing in property mortgages.) Here are the facts.

In the 1969 audit, Founders student council had a surplus of \$9,916.69, which in 1970 had increased to \$15,619. In that year, many of its projected spending figures, although hardly generous, were not reached.

For example, it budgeted \$2,500 were set aside for cultural affairs and athletics respectively, but only \$2,137.31 and \$1,161.15 were paid out.

In 1971, no real audit or account was submitted, although \$7,000 was stated to have gone for administrative costs.

By August 1972, however, (when the last audit was taken), a surplus of \$20,215 had accumulated. The chief single expense was administration (\$3,749) followed by social events (\$3,472). The total received by all clubs was \$630, and by athletics \$692. The Fountain received \$352, orientation \$2,171, and the Reading Room \$2,962.

The result of all this is that this year the council has a working budget of \$44,000, which means the surplus at the beginning of the year was \$22,000, since some \$22,000 comes annually from the university. While it is clear that the rate of surplus-hoarding is decreasing, it is also clear that the financial resources available for the enhancement of college life had not, up until August 1972, been anywhere near fully utilised.

The burning question now is: How are the students benefiting from their \$44,000 affluence this year? Well, there is the Reading Room (which re-opened some 3 weeks after the beginning of the term and is only open from 11-5 on weekdays). Then, there is the Foundations programme, the concept of which we applaud; but we draw attention to its being half-financed by the master's budget; and, of course, there is the Cock and Bull. Well, you lucky Founders students, what more could you want? Answer: considerably more for our \$44,000. Although colleges like Stong and McLaughlin have budget deficits, they manage to offer varied and imaginative non-academic programmes.

Don't get us wrong. We are not accusing the Founders student councils since 1969 of corruption — just of not using their monies for the benefit of Founders students. This indicates, at the very best, a lack of imagination on the councils' part and at worst, a contentment that the Cock and Bull provides the chief 'enhancement' of Founders College life. The freshmen of 1973 had a very sad and monotonous time at their orientation, if they did not like beer and bands — unless, of course, they went to the other colleges.

Liberationists, here is a new cause for you: the reason why the Cock and Bull does not attract many women students (and even many men are put off) is because it is the nearest thing to a Bunny Club on campus. Only girls with the 'right kind' of looks get jobs there, and the very

name, Cock and Bull, gives a pretty accurate idea to its atmosphere. Is that really the kind of image Founders wants to perpetrate? Clearly not, since the new un-Cock-and-Bull coffee place in the JCR is attracting many patrons. Something is amiss somewhere when it is necessary to open a second coffee-place because of dissatisfaction with the official one.

We are told the reason no imaginative non-academic programmes get offered is that Founders students are apathetic. But which came first, the chicken or the egg? If the councils are apathetic and unimaginative over a number of years, is it any wonder the students seem so too?

A glance at the nearest thing Founders has to a college newspaper, The Fountain, would, in itself, reveal the state of things. While we are not dismissing the efforts of its sole (almost) contributor and editor, it is clear from the type of financial support it receives that the council does not take it seriously. (They budgeted a whole \$125 for it this year!)

A college newspaper, taken seriously, can be a major factor in creating and maintaining a college spirit, as well as being an obvious way of dispersing information.

We, the undersigned, are a few of the students who are not apathetic, who are concerned for our college, and who would have entered gladly into the spirit of the college — if there had been a spirit. What Founders College needs is leadership, imagination, and concern from its student council. We intend to take an energetic part to see that such a council is elected for 1974-75.

Les Takahashi
Michael Tarjan
Susan Rigby
Cheryl Shoji

John Martin
Brian Conrad
Elizabeth Waight
Bill Kamula

Lawrence Cresswell
Carol Gluppe
Caroline Forteach
Steve Parish

Letters To The Editor

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, c/o Excalibur, room 111 central Square. They must be double-spaced, typed and limited to 250 words. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for length and grammar. Name and address must be included for legal purposes but the name will be withheld upon request. Deadline: Mon. 5 p.m.

Bethune master protests coverage on three grounds

It was generous of you to devote a page to the official opening of Bethune College, but I must protest the item "Elaborate Meal Costs \$1000".

I protest on three grounds: your scant respect for facts, your lack of a sense of propriety, and your total ignorance of the life and personality of Norman Bethune. It is not possible to divorce the dinner from the whole of China Week. Most of the people taking part in the programme from Tuesday to Friday gave their services entirely free of charge; had they charged normal expenses and honoraria the bill would have far exceeded \$2,000. Instead they got a free meal.

The Chinese delegation came here at their own cost; they too got a free meal. No members of the Bethune family had their fare paid (one paid her own fare from England). To provide a meal was the least we could do. As for student participation, this was entirely up to Phil Razminsky who supplied me with a guest list, made up of those students who have taken a prominent part in college activities this year. We also invited alumni, but none replied, so we filled up with more students. That deals, I think, with most questions of fact and your sense of propriety.

As for your slurs on me personally, silence is the only treatment for a reporter who obviously has no sense of revolutionary theory, nor could be bothered to read the speech I gave him. I should add, however, that I do not have tenure. Bethune obviously still suffers from the

hands of Canadians. Where once he was ignored, now he is treated with unbelievable sycophancy and adoration. Excalibur should read Roderick Stewart's biography and decide for itself whether he was the puritan hermit they would like him, and presumably all of us, to be.

D. IOAN DAVIES
Master of Bethune College

Ed. note: All comment regarding Davies, including his having tenure, are in quotations which means someone other than the reporter said them. They are all attributed.

YUSA articles attacked for confusing the issues

Your editorial (January 24) recommends turning out the YUSA executive and immediately organizing for a legal union status. Perhaps you are right, but you fail to show why present negotiations are wrong, and how the staff association can do better for itself, given the timid, anti-union nature of many employees at York.

And beyond the over-worked Executive and Negotiating Committee members — who have brought YUSA to the present stage of at least inquiring about legal bargaining rights, improved salary settlements, and arbitration, on behalf of a staff who prefer to be lead rather than share the work of fighting for their rights — who will do this new organizing? Shall we call in CUPE? Shall we scrap the executive and Negotiating Committee efforts to this date, fire the lawyer,

hire your belaboured reporters Endres and Foreman and your editorial writer to advise us?

Your YUSA articles and editorials to date have been too much attempts to make news out of inadequate facts, and suggest your deepest interests are those of confusing the issues, encouraging splits in YUSA, and pulling unidentified YUSA members out of the air to make quotable statements to support your confusion. (Shades of the old Excalibure!) Who's side are you on? (You do take sides in your news coverage.) Lead us out of the wilderness, oh community newspaper!

ROSS HOWARD
YUSA member

Atkinson resident opposes daycare centre calls it "pain in ass"

I would like to express an opinion about the Daycare Centre which is lodged in my building, the Atkinson Residence.

The York Daycare Centre is the greatest imposition ever placed upon tenants of an apartment building. We, the tenants pay normal rents so why can't we have normal privileges such as peace and quiet and open access to main thoroughfares in our home?

Dirty diapers in the main hall, broken main door locks, children running loose in the halls are some of the problems. This is our home. Why do we have to put up with this kind of nonsense?

I know that I am not alone in wanting to get rid of this damn nuisance. I recently noticed that they've put up sign telling parents that if

they didn't pick up children by a certain time in the evening they'd have to dress them in the hallway. Our hall! Where do they obtain the right to do that?

Daycare has also taped the main door lock open or broken it outright several items, and is in the habit of propping open the north and south end doors of the building. I am one of many who resent this action. Those doors all have locks presumably for security, but the university still wonders about vandalism and unauthorized entry into the building. In the morning and evening, all the driveways and fire routes are plugged with cars for the daycare. Let them park elsewhere — the tenants themselves can't even get in at these times.

To sum up, the Daycare Centre is a large pain in the ass for most of us who live here. Why can't they leave us to our home and move into another building on campus? Or would the resultant disturbance prevent some file clerk from doing his job properly?

JIM CORBETT
Political Sci. III

