

EDITORIAL

The consequences of irresponsibility

The legacy of Drew McCreadie, last year's CYSF President, lives on.

His name has surfaced once again as a major source of the controversy now surrounding the Pages Plus affair. True to his style, McCreadie made promises without properly informing other members of the Executive, let alone this year's president about an agreement which would affect their budget.

The whole situation is a perfect example of the ridiculous way which McCreadie viewed Council and his position. He always referred to CYSF as a "corporation," and thus believed himself to be the great leader of this financial giant, vested with extensive power. Unfortunately, McCreadie's Wall-Street thinking often resulted in Council's failing to abide by proper democratic procedure, and this time left CYSF with a huge mess on its hands.

True to York politics, there are as many versions to this story as there are players. Last year, Calumet College came up with a proposal to open a desktop publishing service for the entire community, seeing a demand for such a service on campus.

First Calumet approached the Provost who offered the Master a seed grant in order to help launch the project. Then the matter was dealt with in the trust fund negotiations, the time when CYSF and non-member colleges decided how to split up the sum of money that was supposed to go to central student government.

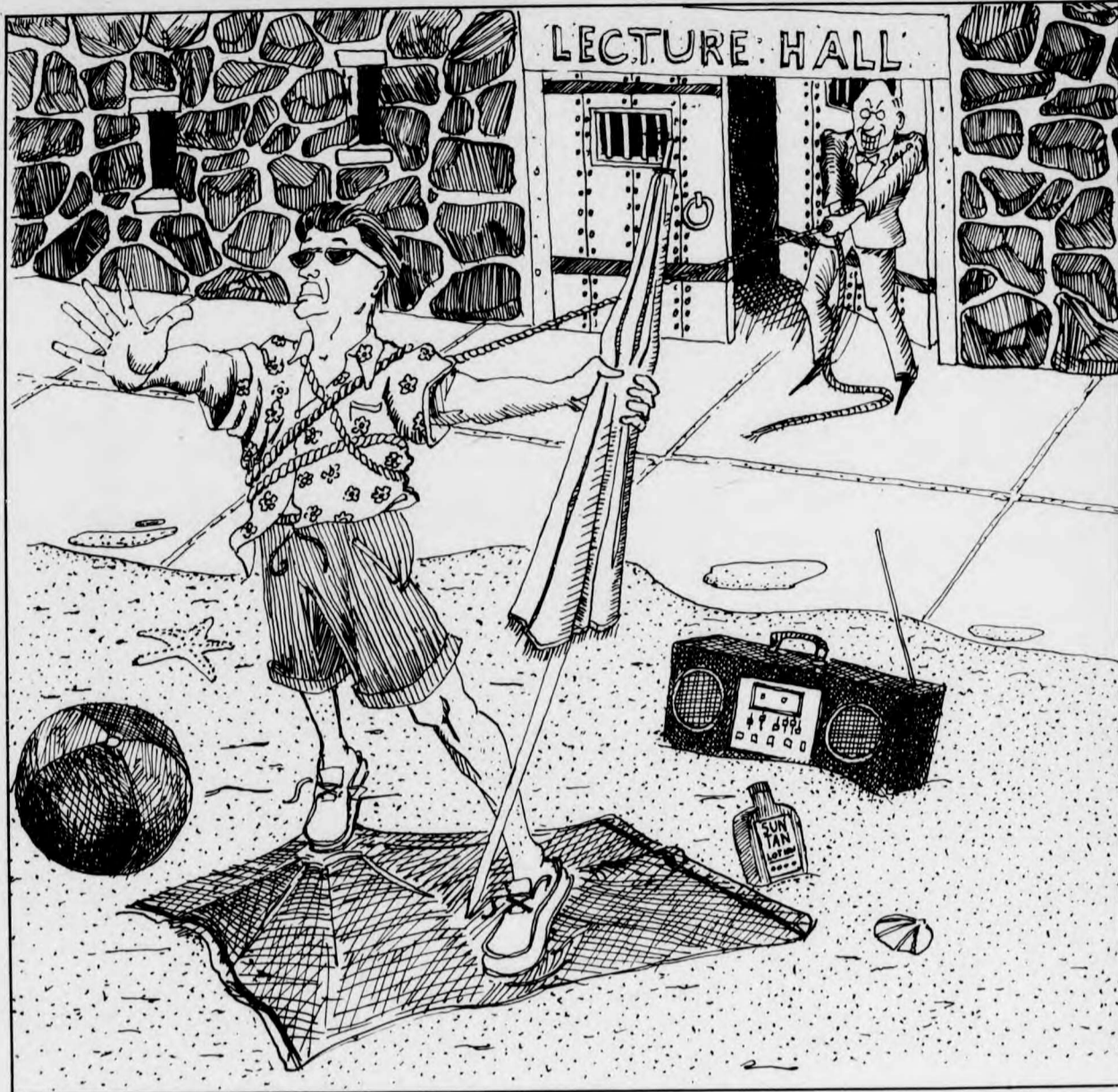
McCreadie says he was opposed to the amount being requested by Calumet's proposal. But Calumet Master Peggy Keall says that while a figure had not been agreed upon, there was an understanding between the two parties that once CYSF committed to the first year, Pages Plus could expect two more financial installments.

Whether or not there was this understanding is a contentious issue. According to McCreadie, all previous agreements made during negotiations with the Master dissolved during the Calumet College General Meeting (CCGM) which took place in February, where he was challenged to address this issue before CCGM. He not only discussed the issue, but secured an agreement with Calumet and demanded that they conduct a vote then and there. Keall, one of the key negotiators, was out of town during this meeting and was greeted on her return with a written contract which McCreadie drafted based on the agreement. There was no mention in the document of a three year understanding. On top of that, there was a new management board to be set up which would be made up of representatives from both CYSF and Calumet.

In reality, McCreadie covered himself well by drafting the document. As he said in a recent interview with *Excalibur*, if it's not written in the agreement then no understanding existed. That had better be the case. Whether McCreadie realizes it or not, he had no power to secure those kinds of funds (\$18,000 is being requested by Page Plus this year) without passing it in Council. Since the trust funds dissolved this year, such money would now come directly from the CYSF budget, thus requiring Council assent.

And then there's Calumet's naive belief that the understanding still existed when the written contract made no mention of such a commitment. It too was aware of the changing financial relationship between CYSF and Calumet and therefore should have known that McCreadie had no power to even make such a promise.

On the whole, Pages Plus is a good idea, but like any business it must be financially viable. Because of McCreadie's irresponsibility and Calumet's blind faith Pages Plus' financial viability is based on the false belief that it can rely on student government money to secure its future. If such large financial grants are required to launch this project, then it should have been abandoned in the first place. Student government has little funds to support such an initiative. In fact it should be self-supportive, and as a result Pages Plus should seek to secure a loan from the administration. Only then will Pages Plus be an organization independent of the whims of student politics, and free from the financial mess which it is now experiencing.



NO . . . NO . . . NOT YET! NOOOOO!!!

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LETTERS

O'Neil had "great ideas"

On 15 December 1988 the York community lost one of its most influential administrators. It was on this day that Mr. Michael O'Neil resigned from his position as Director of Security and Parking Services. The new of Mr. O'Neil's resignation was a surprise to most people. He had many great ideas and was always willing to discuss security concerns with anyone who came to see him.

One of Mr. O'Neil's future plans was to implement Special Constable Status for York security officers. In investigating this concern, I have come to realize that most members of the York community do not know what Special Constable Status actually involves. Both Glendon and York campuses are obviously concerned about security presence on campus, so let's do something!

Special Constable Status *does not* mean that the community wants York security officers to be armed, nor does it mean that the officers would be allowed to carry restraining devices. This status would be the most beneficial to the community by allowing York security officers to gain at least some powers over those of an ordinary citizen.

In order for any improvements to occur:

1. The university must first accept that there are security problems at both Glendon and York campuses. *The Jane/Finch corridor is not really in our backyard, now is it? Are we located in Metropolitan Toronto, too?*
2. Solutions need to be considered. *Are we really one of only four universities in Ontario without Special Constable Status for its security officers?*

Will the officers really receive additional training before being granted Special Constable Status?

It is evident that the answers to these questions are yes!!

I am very concerned about Glendon and York. What might really happen if security matters are not taken into serious consideration by the university? Hopefully something will be done before the security of students, faculty, and staff becomes an even more controversial issue.

Our population is still growing; we are the third largest university in Canada. Problems need to be remedied soon!

Sincerely,
Stephanie Infarnari
Equality Commissioner and Security
Advisor Committee Representative
for CYSF

O'Neil hard to replace

Dear Editor:

The powers that be at York University have let a good man go when they accepted the resignation of Security chief Michael O'Neil.

First of all, I am dismayed at the sudden resignation and wonder what prompted this decision. Perhaps it had to do with his controversial stand on Special Constable status, a move that has been supported by most student leaders.

Secondly, how could someone who was so integrated and concerned about security at York suddenly call it quits? There may have been outside pressure. All students should be concerned. On more than one occasion I was able to bombard Michael O'Neil with questions that I

had and students had asked me concerning security — anything from lighting on campus to fire routes. On each occasion Mike was able to give me more than satisfactory answers. He never made excuses, he just told it like it was and promised to rectify any shortfalls.

I truly believe it will be hard to replace Mr. O'Neil. Student leaders could at least deal effectively with him. But of course, as we try to make things better here at York, someone may have had an alternate plan. Mr. Farr, the ball is now in your court. Good luck, because you will certainly need it.

Joe Zammit
Vice-President External
CYSF

c.c. Bill Farr
Security Advisory Committee

A "racist" York club

Once again the racist elements in the Liberty Coalition are contaminating the intellectual environment here at York University. Since its arrival on this campus last year, this provocative group has been associated with the harassment of other progressive student groups and clubs. Not surprisingly, a particular target is York Against Apartheid, which continues to be the student group that is first and foremost in educating the York community about the South African situation as well as aiding in the struggle of black South Africans for their deserved freedom.

The Liberty Coalition is now circulating a pamphlet entitled "Freedom . . . Through Free Enterprise" in which they argue that the South

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