

# CYSF cuts back political clubs

By Laura Brown

The student council's Monday night budget meeting was disrupted by a heated two hour discussion, ending with an 8-6 vote in favour of cutting off all financial support for on-campus political groups.

The 77-78 budget was never discussed.

Steven Muchnik, Founders' College newly-elected representative, proposed a motion that the CYSF stop all financial support for any political clubs as of that day. The funds in question are the yearly twenty dollar allotment for printing and organizational costs, as well as extra money which can be granted to individual groups for guest speakers.

The motion was seconded by CYSF president Paul Hayden who also proposed an amendment that only those political groups who have representatives in the House of Commons be recognized by the council. He later withdrew this proposal.

The debate centered around the inability of any member to clearly define the term 'political club.' Contention arose because no definite distinction could be made between political, social, and cultural groups.

Muchnik said many Founders' students had told him they wanted their money used for 'concrete things' such as better food for residence students and higher quality bands at college dances. Muchnik later stated, "It's about time CYSF members start to represent the students of this university and be aware of their wants and needs rather than be concerned with special interest groups which have an insignificant input into everyday lives of the students".

Hayden said that not only does the strict budget of this year warrant the cutting of political funds, but that council should also take into consideration the "haven for political clubs who can't get funds anywhere else," CYSF has become.

Hayden said the refusal for funds is not intended as a measure to wipe out the clubs, but should encourage them to become self-sufficient.

The student members who opposed the motion said Hayden's claim that the Liberals, NDP and Conservatives don't require CYSF aid, didn't apply to the smaller groups.

They maintained the true aim of the motion was to wipe out specific political groups. Dan Daniels, representative from Environmental

Studies later told *Excalibur*, "to refuse groups money because their political affiliation is outside the establishment, makes student democratic government a farce".

Leon Mitchell, a Stong representative, agreed that the student council's duty is to represent the majority of students, however, they "can't forget the minorities; their interests must also be taken into consideration."

In answer to Hayden's claim that the NDP, Liberals and Conservatives, don't need CYSF funds, Mary Marrone, ULS (United Left Slate) representative from Calumet College, said that only leaves the left-groups unsupported. Marrone claims, "the only people the motion hurts are left political groups."

The finance vice-president, Tom Siverhart told *Excalibur* that since the budget was under constraint, funds could not go to clubs that do serve a purpose but are not representative of the student body. Silverhart abstained in the vote because, he said "to cut off funding is a morally unjust thing to do."

The budget plan which was pre-empted by the debate on political funding was never discussed. After

the debate over political clubs, CYSF had lost the required quorum. A meeting will be held on Monday, November 7 at 5 p.m. to vote on the budget for this year.

Highlighting the new budget is a proposal which would severely cut Harbinger's funds. The CYSF executive has called the usefulness of the centre into question and will consider incorporating Harbinger into the Women's centre.

Harbinger is a centre which provides birth control, drug, abortion,

pregnancy and health information and counselling on personal and sexual problems.

According to its only full time employee, Sue Kaiser, Harbinger dealt with over 2,500 people last year.

Last year Harbinger received \$8,000 from council. This year's budget recommends a \$4,000 grant. However some CYSF executive members said at the meeting that if the centre is not found useful, they will move it be allocated \$1,500.

## GAA strike vote Tuesday

By Agnes Kruchio

The Graduate Assistants Association will vote next Tuesday afternoon whether or not to go on a strike, the executive committee of the union decided early this week.

While a tentative meeting with the mediator was set for November 16, the executive decided the university should know what "kind of sentiment there is among the GAA membership," said Ilene Crawford executive coordinator of the union. The voting will take place in three separate meetings; for York day faculties, the vote will be held at 4

pm in Curtis Lecture Hall I; for Gendon college it will be held at 4:30 pm in the senate chamber; and for Atkinson part-time faculty the vote will be at 6 pm in CLHI.

The association is also sending the first of its letters to other universities, warning students not to come to York to graduate school. Their letter, first to be sent to the *Gazette* at Dalhousie University in Halifax states, in part, "After four months of bargaining, negotiations between the graduate teaching assistants and the York University administration have reached a stalemate...While it is unusual for a union in our

situation to communicate its difficulties to outside parties, we believe our problems are so serious that potential York graduate students should seriously reconsider any plans to attend the university in the coming academic year....

"This letter, then, which is being sent to graduate students at other universities as well, is to inform you that for graduate students at York salaries, benefits and working conditions leave a great deal to be desired. We hope you will pass this information on to students at your university..."



Bryson Johnson photo

With no one on campus to celebrate Christmas and New Year's, Hallowe'en may have become the main fête of the year on campus. Although the day is not yet a York Holiday, these two Yorkites were out trick or treating Monday night.

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