

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. 4 p.m.

Reader condemns Edson for promoting OFS withdrawal

So we are going to have a referendum on continuing membership in the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS), and the National Union of Students (NUS). Barry Edson, Paul Hayden, and Stan White, champions of students' rights, along with their minions in the CYSF, have decided that we of York University no longer have need for the OFS and NUS. This is a sad commentary on the part of those members of the CYSF who want to get rid of the only voices we have at the provincial and federal levels.

At this critical juncture in the history of post-secondary education in this province, (and indeed the entire country), the need for increasing vigilance and stronger student ties is becoming more and more evident. This, coupled with the fact that Edson and his faction have no reason to complain over the performance of OFS and NUS, makes the move to scuttle OFS and NUS, suspect. I submit that Edson and Co. are attempting to get rid of OFS and NUS, in order to cover up for their lamentable impotence in discharging their responsibilities as our elected leaders. They are embarrassed over the fact that OFS and NUS have represented our interests better than they have done.

TOTAL IGNOMINY

Now that their term of office is coming to an end, there is a sudden flurry of activity to provide us with service and entertainment, to save their regime from total ignominy. Even the most politically naive student can see through the hollowness of these moves. What has Edson and Co. done for us this past year? Very little if anything. Stan White was asked to resign as External Affairs Commissioner for failing to carry out his functions. He begged for a chance to make up for his lapses and was allowed to remain. Edson has been a source of considerable embarrassment and shame to those of us who attend this University. For example, when Harry Parrott announced the phenomenal increase in tuition fees for foreign students, Edson was the ONLY student leader in the Province to commend the minister for his great move to exclude foreigners from our post-secondary institutions. Later, when saw the stand taken by the other student councils, Edson reversed his position. He asked the OFS to help him prepare a case for presentation to the York Senate. The OFS did so, and the Senate decided to ask the Board of Governors NOT to pass the higher fees on to foreign students.

What is the ONTARIO FEDERATION OF STUDENTS? It is a body comprised of us at York and our counterparts throughout the Province. YES! OFS is us. Getting out of OFS and NUS is like breaking up our own house. Edson says that OFS and NUS operate in the 60's fashion. The reverse is true. OFS and NUS hold extensive discussions, present briefs, write letters, lobby politicians and cabinet ministers before adopting more militant positions. Whatever positions OFS and NUS adopt, are arrived at after considerable discussion and debate at the conferences that OFS and NUS hold on a regular basis. These conferences are attended by students like ourselves from universities and

colleges throughout the Province, and in the case of NUS, the country. Like any democratic organization, the majority decision prevails after a vote is taken.

What has OFS done for us at York? It has helped CYSF in its fight with the administration over our activity fee. When the administration refused to hand over fees for Edson and Co. to spend, OFS representatives were here to argue with John Becker and others for us to get our student organization (CYSF), to spend our money. The OFS threatened to call on the resources of student unions across the province.

The administration backed down and the CYSF was able to collect our fees. The OFS assisted our Graduate Assistants Association in their fight for recognition and a fair wage. In case you do not know, not one student - yes, not one of us has ever paid his or her \$1.50 to the OFS. When we voted to join the OFS, the membership fee was forty cents per student. Later, when the fee was raised to \$1.50 we had to vote again to determine whether we were willing to remain members of OFS at the \$1.50 fee. The vote was an overwhelming "yes". The new fee, however, was not paid to the OFS owing to our fight with the administration over our fees. The CYSF has NOT paid our fees to OFS and NUS for this year, although they have collected such fees from us since the Fall. The OFS fiscal year starts from July 1, and ends on June 30; we have been members for this Fiscal for eight months year now and our fees have not been paid.

TOP NOTCH RESEARCH

The OFS and NUS provide top-notch research. Edson phones the OFS and requests information in a hurry and asks the OFS to send it by courier service. The OFS has secured for us, three increases in the weekly living allowance of OSAP over the past few years. It has stayed the Government's hand on tuition fee increases - we have had NO fee increase since the OFS was formed five years ago. OFS has had successes for us at York and in the entire province, on other issues such as student pubs, housing, employment, women's rights and foreign student fees. OFS has put out numerous leaflets, pamphlets, posters and briefs to keep us informed of the issues. If we at York do not know what OFS and NUS are doing for us it is because of the failure of Edson and Co. to tell us.

The Excalibur has tried to get the CYSF to do so. Recall last term when the Excalibur criticized the CYSF for not distributing the OFS newspaper, "THE STUDENT". Edson made some feeble excuse and promptly distributed the paper.

A particularly disgusting aspect of the whole affair is the CYSF's decision to spend \$500.00 on its anti-OFS-NUS campaign without providing even a cent to those of us who support OFS and NUS. Common decency dictates that both the pro and con sides be provided with equal funding. By refusing to grant any money to the pro-OFS-NUS group, Edson and Co. are denying students their democratic right to fund their campaign. No other student unions has ever done such a shameful act.

J. Freedman

U of T Blues the best team, says Yeoman hockey fan

As a partial observer at the OUAA final game at Varsity Arena, between the York Yeomen and the Varsity Blues last weekend, I came away with mixed feelings, positive and negative. Positively, an excellent hockey game was played. The Varsity Blues displayed without doubt, that they are deserving of the championship. They are a well-coached, disciplined, determined hockey team, and if ever a team literally willed itself to victory, it is this club. Truly magnificent! Congratulations to them and good luck in the final. They will, in all likelihood, distinguish themselves.

The York Yeomen fell just short of that lofty plateau, again. Yet, anyone who says that they choked is about as accurate as a shot to the moon with an air rifle. Often, comparisons are made with the very good York teams of past seasons, and that this year's squad is the culmination of those teams. Of course, this is nonsense. There is a transient nature to college hockey, where teams differ in style and personality from year to year. It is inaccurate and unfair to impose any such comparisons. York's past hockey teams are mere apparitions today.

What about the premature departure of the 1976-1977 York Yeomen hockey team? Well, there are the old crutches to lean upon: the most prevalent excuse being the home ice advantage afforded the Blues in final games, or the Blues scored a couple of lucky goals which made the difference in a 3-2 score, etc. Of course, that's all a crock of horsefeathers.

I take it championship teams are strong-willed and united, able to endure and overcome any disadvantage which attempts to impede its progress. It shows complete disregard for adverse conditions, and in all cases, is somehow able to take advantage of the situation. Take the University of Guelph last year as an example. They were the least likely to succeed, but it was they, unheralded as they

were, who captured the laurels at Western. And, how does they saying go, 'the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have'? Well, to be sure, the Yeomen worked damn hard, but the Blues worked damn harder, and were luckier. There are no excuses.

The Yeomen are not a championship team. It's that simple. They probably have the best individual talent in the country, and when integrated, create an awesome power, potentially. However, potential does not win a championship. In this context, their achievements this season, however remarkable, are nullified when it is realized that they lost to the Blues three straight times. Why that happened is another question, and certainly not for me to criticize. Few people are qualified to authoritatively criticize the hockey organization. Based on strict, objective honest observation, however most of the spectators at Saturday's game could easily tell you why the Blues are alive today, and the Yeomen are dead. The Blues simply made them look ordinary.

I say most spectators, because on the negative side, there were obviously some non-entities who insisted on performing their own aerial circus, seemingly intent on competing with the players. Too bad.

Finally, it may be said, on the whole, this hockey season has been an exciting and successful one, for the York Yeomen, and for those who cared. It has been an incredible achievement for them when you look at their record. The organization deserves plaudits and recognition for that, and I stand first in line to do so. Whether they, themselves, are satisfied, is indeed, another matter.

I cheered hard for the Yeomen and I am disappointed that they lost; but most important, the best team won.

John Benton

OLANG programme not as serious as "sensational" headline suggested

It is simply inaccurate to say that the "majority of students may lose grant option in the new aid scheme". (Excalibur, Feb. 24). Under the OSAP program, most students from families with incomes over \$11,000 (net) receive no grants now. So the new program, if implemented would take nothing away from them. (It would, however, entitle them to loans for which many are now ineligible). Furthermore your article confuses net with gross income categories. The gross income of a family whose net income is \$11,000 is well above \$15,000 (depending on the exact exemptions for that family). The net income of a family whose gross income is \$11,000 would probably be

between \$6-7,000 and the student(s) from that family would be eligible for grants. Your article does not make this distinction.

A major change proposed in the program (which you correctly identify) is the ending of independent status for unmarried students in extended programs (graduate students, law students and medical students etc.) For the latter two groups, their potential earning power is high enough to enable them to repay loans if they need to incur them. If the students are poor and in law school, and if they declare their family income, then they will receive grants, not loans. For single graduate students receiving no other aid, the situation

is more serious given poor job prospects. In my view a special subsidy should have been extended to students in this category.

In general, the proposed OLANG program is not as generous to middle income students as I would have preferred, and I said so in a statement of reservations to the committee. But the effect on such students is by no means as serious as your report implied. You do not serve the interests of informed discussion by writing the program off with a sensational (and inaccurate) headline.

Paul Axelrod
member, Interim Committee
on Student Financial
Assistance.

How much \$ to print signs

I request a response from the President of our worthy student federation, which is "supposed to be" representative of the York student body (we shall find out on March 9 and 10 when voting for the continued support of OFS and NUS), as to the cost of making and distributing the above-mentioned items of propaganda against repression of the democratically legitimate organizations, namely, the Ontario Federation of Students and the National Union of Students.

I have a right to know as I am a (I am almost embarrassed to say!) financial contributor to our student's union. I wish to know the cost in dollars and time wasted on such a venture.

I look forward to an honest reply in the next issue of this newspaper.

B. Cowley

