

Editorial

CYSF must act on New Model or else...

After several months of planning and six drafts, the proposed constitution for the New Model of York student government has been derailed by petty in-house fighting among members of CYSF.

It would be a shame if the new constitution is not implemented because of the squabbling between the CYSF Executive and Speaker over a minor legal technicality. But with only six weeks remaining in the 1985-86 academic year, and next year's CYSF elections just around the corner, the possibility exists that come September, York students could be faced with another year of inefficient government.

What makes this situation particularly galling is that a great deal of the stalling can be blamed on President Reya Ali, who has been diligently piecing the New Model together since last summer.

Ali had been warned by Speaker Marshall Golden at the beginning of February that failure to provide each Council rep with a copy of the proposed by-laws seven days in advance of their reading would be ruled unconstitutional. Ali had plenty of time to correct the situation but chose instead to lock horns with Golden in a futile debate over an interpretation of the CYSF constitution.

As Speaker, Golden has the power to interpret the constitution, and Ali should have immediately provided the necessary copies of the by-laws to individual Council reps.

Also, a great deal of blame must be placed on the Council Presidents themselves. Week after week they have praised Ali's efforts in trying to implement the New Model but at the same time their reps have not been showing up at the meetings. Two recent CYSF meetings barely made quorum while a third had to be cancelled due to lack of attendance.

The consequences of this lack of foresight on all sides could prove to be self-defeating. There are many in the Administration who would like to do away with the College system altogether, and the failure of this year's Council to get the New Model off the ground is just fuel for the fire for those interested in abolishing the present system of student government.

It's just as well that a review of York's student government by the Provost of the University of Guelph is scheduled to begin this week. It appears that our student politicians themselves are unable to overcome the perennial woes paralyzing effective student government at York.



Letters

Bookstore director sets record straight

Editor:

Re: Douglas Stewart's "Weak dollar and uncompetitive publishers blamed for York Bookstore's textbook prices" (*Excalibur*, February 13).

We were pleased to see the question of book prices set in a larger, even international, perspective. There are, however, three points on which our recollection differs from your reporter's.

First, close to 85%—not 80%—of the York University Bookstores' operating income is derived from the sale of textbooks. Second, the University has requested that a surplus of 1½% of total sales (reasonable enough), not 2% be generated from the Bookstore's operations. Third, although we might wish to earn the infinitesimal 1½% surplus from the sale of items other than textbooks, the fact that close to 85% of our operating income is derived from the sale of textbooks, our *raison d'être*, makes of this not an altogether desirable goal.

—R. Barreto-Rivera,
Director

Reader calls *Excal* a grocery store rag

Editor:

After reading the article *Glendon VP's signature matches phony letter praising own council* and reviewing the cartoon in the editorial section (both of the February twenty-seventh edition), I am compelled to comment on the blatant lack of professionalism in our newspaper!

Clearly, the entire article was a composition of sensationalism. To drag such a petty issue on superfluously is ludicrous. In light of this, I would like to propose that the name *Excalibur* be changed to *Enquirers*, and that the paper apply for sisterhood with the informative grocery store rag. The *low-calibre* of a few *Excalibur* staff members would probably defeat such an application, however.

Nevertheless, please don't misunderstand my negativity. I do not know the origin of the 'culprit' letter; and frankly, I do not care. The fact is that the letter could have been written by any of us here at Glendon. Many of the sentiments expressed in the letter are universal at this college. What is so disturbing is that a newspaper which represents me would carry on in such a

'simple-minded' fashion. I am ashamed. This kind of irresponsible reporting will only serve to give our colleagues at other universities a false image of us, the members of the community at York.

Our paper has much talent to offer, and with more professional management, could become a respectable and true representation of all members of the 'community' at York University. I close with one pressing question: "Is there intelligent life in the office of the editor?"

—Jeff Broadbent, yr. 1

P.S. Yes Gary Symons, this is my signature!

Drunk prof shocks student

Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to share a recent experience I had with other York students. Several weeks ago I attended my first year Nat Sci lecture on a typical Tuesday afternoon. I, along with a room full of other students who can verify this experience was shocked and disgusted as the professor proceeded to stumble into the lecture hall drunk and offered to tell jokes. He continued to run around, tell jokes and even engaged in a verbal as well as physical display of aggression with another, what appeared to be-accomplice. This display continued for approximately fifteen minutes in which time the lecture hall was emptying. A group of York security guards then escorted this professor out of the room and as a result no lecture occurred. The following Thursday, the professor returned apologizing saying that "these things happen sometime" and that he had been warned by the Dean. I, upon hearing this decided to do some investigating. I discovered this professor is known to have a drinking problem, has given lectures under the influence of alcohol, and is not alone among some of his York colleagues.

I am sick and tired of hearing the endless appeals to cut down alcohol consumption among York students when this type of incident is a common occurrence. Before looking at students' alcohol consumption, let's stop and take a look at the so-called "role-models" that we as students supposedly respect and admire. There is very little to admire about a drunken professor who must return to his class the following day with his tail between his legs asking his students' forgiveness. Furthermore, I can understand the Dean's warning if this type of incident

had not occurred before. However, this is not the case. How many times must it occur before it is taken seriously enough that the job of an individual is threatened? Considering the amount of money a student pays for his education today, I don't feel it is too much to ask that a professor is at least sober during the hours of the week that he/she must lecture.

I offer very little sympathy towards this professor. There are very few jobs today outside of teaching, where this type of conduct would be tolerated. True, drunkenness in this case does not endanger the lives of a group of people, yet it is affecting the lives and the high quality of education that York students have every right to expect.

It's about time "alcohol awareness" starts looking at alcohol consumption among the leaders of the York community—the teaching staff, as I, as well as many other York students, are here to learn and not the type of learning that occurred on a Tuesday afternoon in a first year Nat Sci class.

—P. Hubbard
A disgusted and enlightened
Nat Sci student

'Individual's choice to embrace spirit'

Editor:

Jesus Christ was a Jew. His message is a spiritual one, ultimately discernable only by the spirit.

It is a function of the individual will whether or not to embrace that spirit, and no-one ever need fear learning of it, whatever the source.

—Norman D. Crandles

Burnett reads Zone with interest

Editor:

I read with interest the "Zarnett Zone" of February 27, 1986. While I try not to get overly involved in items found in *Excalibur*, the gravity of this issue strikes me as deserving of a letter.

The issue that Zarnett raises is one that crosses racial and religious lines, as he suggests. However, both he, as writer of the article, and the Provost and the President, should they make a decision to deny this group recognition (assuming that they meet all other criteria), are, I believe, morally bound to answer other

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