

# Reformed student government in new year?



Excalibur's roving reporter outside a meeting of college politicians

By Greg Saville

A new central student government which could replace or transform CYSF might be in store for York University as students come back from the Christmas holidays. Most of the student council heads of York's colleges, unofficially calling themselves the Constituent Councils of York, (CCOY), met last Friday, for the second time in a closed, informal conference with this idea in mind.

The chairman of Friday's meeting, Founders council President Ian Brennan, said the meetings of late are basically designed to construct some type of model for a new central student government. Since Calumet college's withdrawal from the CYSF, central student government at York represents about half the student population. There are now five colleges in CYSF and five, including Osgoode, out.

Bethune council chairperson, Bob Speller, says other groups such as the Environmental Studies and Graduate Students are also part of CCOY.

Why these meetings, (there's another one on Friday) have been under a cloak of secrecy isn't clear; most council presidents won't say.

Murray Miskin, president of Osgoode's Legal and Literary Society, described some content of past meetings: "Primarily we discuss the student government fees paid to student governments by the university from student tuition fees. Most councils this year found a great deal of difficulty meeting the financial requirements of the colleges."

Miskin explained that the conferences are an attempt to develop a strong approach to create a new formula for funding college councils from student dollars. "Basically we talk about different models of CYSF and come to some tentative agreements about CYSF structure and funding."

Why then has the present CYSF not invited to these informal meetings?

According to Miskin the meetings consist of an informal group of president's who feel they can better look into what their own problems

are. "This gives us an opportunity to develop our strategy and analysis independent of CYSF."

"The colleges and CYSF meet regularly in meetings sponsored by the CYSF," he said. "The next one will be held on the weekend of January 12. We (CCOY) are preparing a strategy for this weekend."

If a new model appears on that day it could become the new form for student government at York.

Stong college's council president, Bill Petrie, says that it's possible this model may not be brought before York students for a referendum. In that case the decision would rest with the Board of Governors and the administration, namely John Becker, ass't vice-pres. in charge of student services and W. Farr of employee and student relations. Petrie said he doubted they would decide on a new model at York without a referendum. But the possibility is definitely there.

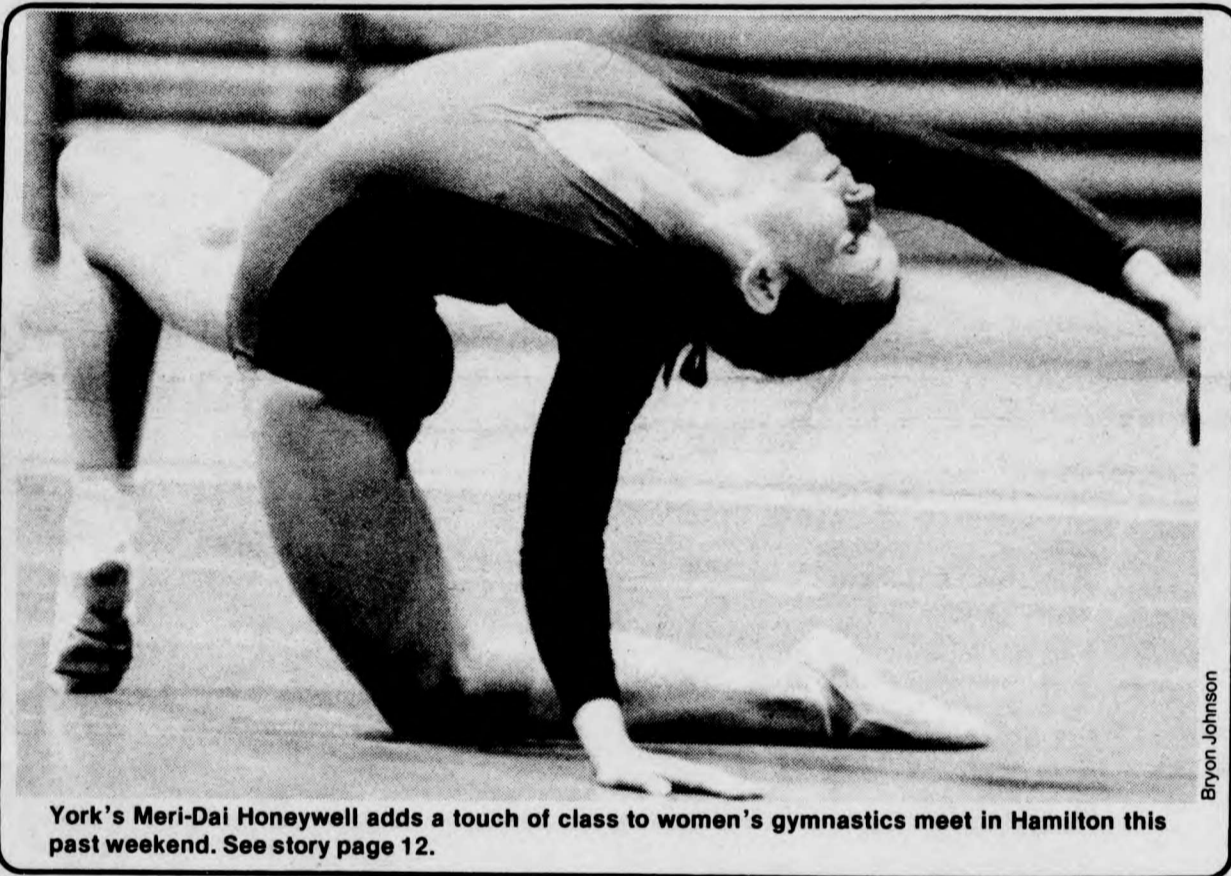
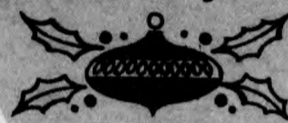
# Excalibur

Vol 13 No.13

York University Community Newspaper

Thursday 7, December 1978

Happy Holidays



York's Meri-Dai Honeywell adds a touch of class to women's gymnastics meet in Hamilton this past weekend. See story page 12.

Bryon Johnson

## OSAP criticism is "well founded"

By Greg Saville

In the Ontario legislature last Thursday Bette Stephenson, the minister of Colleges and Universities, said she felt criticism of this year's OSAP program is "well founded".

Meanwhile her ministry, along with York's Awards office, are rushing to complete applications for OSAP before Christmas.

The ministry has made \$11 million available in advance payments to universities and colleges in Ontario for emergency loans; loans that are to make up for financial shortfalls faced by students who have not yet received aid via OSAP.

Jo Anne Albright, director of York's Student Awards office, has stated that some of York's 800 students who have not received processed OSAP applications might have been waiting up to six months for an answer.

Stephenson's address to the legislature suggested the late policy changes in the past year's program are at the bottom of this year's problems. "I have assured the Awards Officers that policy changes will be kept to a minimum next year," she said.

The Ontario Federation of Students met with Stephenson Monday to discuss next year's program. Al Golombek, one of the OFS representatives yesterday, said he was concerned Stephenson's comments in the legislature meant that the changes in next year's OSAP would be minor ones. Golombek felt if this was the case, the few administrative changes suggested by Stephenson may put next year's OSAP in jeopardy because they will limit possible improvements in OSAP's performance.

"Basically," said Golombek, "the students are being asked to pay for the mistakes of the past minister."

Albright said she was skeptical about what she's seen of Stephenson's plan to make minimal changes. She said, "I'd like to see a few facts."

"The university has given the Awards office extra funds for emergency loans," she said, "and we're still trying to be flexible as possible with students."

According to Albright the real "crunch" at York will come in January when students are faced with the next payments for university tuition.

### Drastic decline in book purchases

## High costs, cutbacks stifle library

By Hugh Westrup

The soaring cost of academic journals is threatening to reduce the incoming flow of new library books to a trickle.

A recent estimate by the library states that in order to maintain the current number of periodical subscriptions, funds will exist in 1982 to buy only 460 books, a drastic decline from the 26,269 bought this year.

To avoid such a sharp drop in

book buying, the library has begun cancelling subscriptions; two to three hundred titles are being struck from its list this year.

"It's a grim situation," says library director, Anne Woodworth. "What we need is a 30 per cent increase in our budget but what we can expect is only five per cent."

Until several years ago, subscription rates to periodicals generally kept pace with inflation. However, last year, periodicals were 23 per cent more costly than the previous year. According to Woodworth, the library is facing an even greater increase this year, perhaps as high as 30 per cent. The library can no longer afford to subscribe to every periodical without draining money from its book budget, so subscriptions are being terminated.

A library document showing the above figures predicts that prices will continue to rise dramatically in future years and states: "the cumulative effect of a fixed dollar budget, steeply rising prices and devaluation of the Canadian dollar has to date had a devastating effect on the ability of the library's collections to support the

University's academic and research programmes."

(See Inflation page 2)

## Beyond this page

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- A preview of the theatre department's student project week, page 8



### Back to school January 3

The first day of classes in the new year, will be Wednesday January 3. York will be closed New Year's Day, Monday January 1. The undergraduate calendar does not even mention Tuesday, January 2 — perhaps it's an extra hangover-recuperation day.

The next issue of Excalibur will appear Thursday January 11. Don't look for us the second day back — deadline problems made publication impossible the first week.