

New handbook is a good evolution, non-committal, non-offensive but attractive

By DENISE BEATTIE

Does this year's manus, the CYSF student handbook, represent the tone and directions of the CYSF? If so, we can certainly look forward to a more relaxed atmosphere this year, although perhaps lacking in the enthusiasm of last year.

The whole tone of the handbook is highly modified from last year's controversial "Take-It" and, in fact, appears to be a smooth blend of last year's provocative style and the Manus 74's thorough collection of useful memorandum. Take-It offended people with its extreme

political slant while it offered an attractive sense of comradeship and communalism. Manus 74, though lacking in any overt political implications, was in style stilted and univiting, especially as a friendly initiation to the more informal, daily aspects of York University. This year's editor, Ted Mumford, appears to have succeeded in fashioning a non-offensive, non-committal but attractive introduction to York.

The "melting pot" character of Manus 76 contrasts Manus 74's dry informative tone and the well written and explosively designed Take-It of last year. The Manus 76 appears to waver tastefully between two extremes, as seen in such as the Academic services section. Manus 74's section manages to seek out all of the essentials but makes for somewhat dull reading material. Mumford's Manus includes most of the same sections and facts (plus more) but offers it in a much more appealing layout and readable style. For example, when discussing library rules, Manus 74

states, "smoking, eating, dogs and loud conversation are not allowed in the stacks areas. A guard is employed by the library to enforce these regulations. If you have any problems please complain." (p. 9) This same section in Mumford's reads, "momma don't allow no dogs, eating, smoking and conversation in the stacks areas. Smoking and conversation areas are adjacent to the stacks on the third and fourth floors." (p. 25) It then goes on to give equally friendly and practical methods on how to lodge, "... suggestions, complaints or compliments." Take-It, although providing some thorough lessons in militancy, does not even include this pertinent information nor any of the general notes on York Libraries section found on page 25 of Manus 76.

AMUSING

Perhaps the most obvious and commendable aspect of this year's Manus is the layout design and the use of much art and photography. Using many relevant and amusing drawings, Manus is a pleasure to



Manus editor Ted Mumford reads issue hot off the press.

breeze through, also comprising many eye-catching and then informative selections. Creativity and good familiarity with handbook styles are combined to create a job professionally done. Mumford said

he collected over 20 handbooks from different schools in order to have a good background with which to approach the Manus. He seems to have achieved this purpose combining an inviting and very approachable layout with pertinent and thorough information. A glance through the table of contents is sufficient to allow one to quickly find what one is looking for, whether this be information on Off Campus Housing or the nearest pizza deliverer. The section heads are clear and attractive, the information within them, well-organized and relevant.

CONTROVERSIAL COVER

The most controversial aspect of this year's Manus is probably the cover. Mumford admits he has received complaints of sexism but contends it was beyond his control. Apparently, Jim Wilson, the artist, had to be given a free hand concerning subject and style and then, by the time the graphic was completed, it was too close to press time to change it. However, although the nurse's dress is rather tight and her breasts and nipples are certainly prominent, we must avoid being overly-sensitive. The graphic is a caricature of the doctor, student, props and nurse, therefore portrayed in extreme form. It is meant to be exaggerated and amusing and seems to be a long way from the traditional female exploitation on the Manus 74 cover. The typical preoccupation with breasts is a little tedious; but as a whole, the cover does not really seem offensive. Perhaps it is interesting to the extent that Wilson was most likely aware that the York community is sensitive to this issue and submitted it anyway but beyond this it does not seem particularly sexist or chauvinistic.

For students just arriving at York who are not familiar with Manus 74 and Take-It, you can relax; you've got a comprehensive and approachable handbook. To the rest of the more experienced York body, Manus 76 is not only helpful but an interesting evolution of past ventures in student handbooks. If Barry Edson and the rest of CYSF consider themselves represented by the Manus, we can consider them one step ahead and look forward to further endeavors.

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