

The Stalkyard

CYSF gambles and wins

by Salman A. Nensi

On April 27, just before the end of term, last year's CYSF, (now YFS) executive held a meeting and voted themselves each a \$1000 bonus. In attendance were President Peter Donato, VPs Peter Merrick, George Dipede, and Caroline Winship (a VP again this year). VP Franco LoFranco denies attending the meeting, but reliable sources say he was there and participated fully.

Commenting on the meeting, YFS President Jean Ghomeshi said, "No minutes were taken. It was a closed door, elitist decision made by the executive with no Council involvement. I am outraged! The loss of \$5000 from the Council's treasury has left this year's Council in big financial trouble."

According to Ghomeshi, the move by last year's executive is technically correct. The CYSF's constitution states that the executive can participate in the "... appropriation, execution or transferring of funds not in excess of one thousand dollars or some other figure set by Council, **provided that such action is reported to Council at the next meeting of Council.**" Five separate votes were taken, each awarding \$1000 to a different executive member.

Ghomeshi, although outraged, doesn't feel that he can do anything about this matter. He said, "The cheques have been written. The matter is no longer in my jurisdiction. But, even if this move was technically correct, it deals with these people's ethics. They say they deserved the raise, but I challenge their assumptions."

Winship said that the reason the bonuses were passed in such a manner is that some executive members were afraid they wouldn't get the bonuses if the matter, as she urged, went before Council. She agrees that the whole thing was done in a "shoddy, unprofessional manner."

"I went along with them because I worked very hard that year. The others were going to give themselves the bonus whether I voted or not, and I really deserved the money," said Winship, noting that she incurred personal debt while working for the CYSF. In addition, the proper execution of her responsibilities left her with little time for anything else, even though it was only a part-time position. The other VPs stated that they too deserved the bonus.

The CYSF's constitution states that the executive must report their actions to the next Council meeting. The executive meeting occurred after the last Council meeting, therefore they **could not** report their actions. That makes the motions for bonuses constitutionally illegal. "I'm still not sure what I can do," Ghomeshi responded to this new information, "short of filing a law suit. These guys [the old executive] are not going to willingly give the money back."

Last year's executive manipulated the constitution to suit their own immoral purposes, stealing \$5000 from the York student body. We elected them to look out for our best interests, not so they could line their pockets with our money. **Whether or not the old executive deserved the money is inconsequential.** The manner in which they acquired it shows that a majority of them were positive they didn't deserve it.

If you think it is wrong for our elected officials to pilfer money from us, go to the YFS' office, at 105 Central Square (736-5324), and let President Ghomeshi know. Call your college representatives, write letters to *Excalibur*, call Student Affairs if you have to. Think about how long it would take you to earn \$5000 and then act. If you don't, you're telling this year's Council you really don't mind if they rip you off.

If you still don't feel like acting, call me. I'll personally deliver your purse, wallet or bank-book to the YFS offices for you.

Swim-a-thon for a good cause



by Ira Nayman

A swim-a-thon will be held in the Tait McKenzie Swim Centre from 1pm to 4pm on Sunday June 24 to raise money for and public awareness of the Ontario Fibrositis Association.

According to a pamphlet put out by the Arthritis Foundation, fibrositis is a non-fatal rheumatic disorder that causes pain in ligaments, tendons and muscles. Although doctors are not certain what causes fibrositis, it seems related to some kind of sleep disturbance. Other symptoms may therefore include poor concentration and poor memory.

"I'm exhausted most of the time ... I'm in pain most of the time," said Rebecca Polak, a member of the Toronto Chapter Support Group of the Ontario Fibrositis Association. "[People with Fibrositis] wake up in the morning not feeling they've been asleep at night."

Polak said that being on a strict exercise programme had helped her get off medication, although most people with fibrositis

required medication to get through the day. There was a trade-off, though: the exercise programme left Polak with only enough time to take four courses a year, forcing her to spend an extra year studying.

Polak also said she found it difficult to concentrate on three hour lectures, and relied on somebody from the York Student Centre for Disabilities to take notes for her. "Homework is very hard for me ..." Polak added, "I've had to make many adjustments."

Approximately eight to 10 swimmers will be taking part in the swim-a-thon, and spectators are welcome; the emphasis is on raising public awareness. According to Polak, many people may have fibrositis and not know it because the symptoms are so vague.

"It took me about five years to find out what I had," she said. Some doctors dismiss the symptoms, Polak said, others blame it on psychological factors.

"Try to find a way of coping," Polak advised others who have, or feel they may have, fibrositis. "Don't give up."

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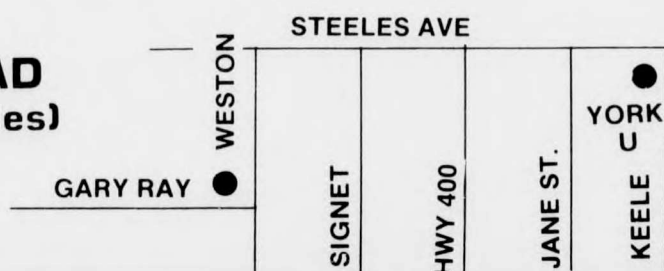
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