

Council couldn't determine feasibility

Plebiscite will rule on CYSF incorporation

By BONNIE SANDISON

Incorporation, a ghost from the past, was finally confronted (in a manner of speaking) by York's student council at its monthly meeting last Thursday.

While no final decision was reached concerning the feasibility of incorporation, it was decided that the students should vote in a spring plebiscite to settle the issue.

The suggestion that CYSF incorporate was first considered seriously 18 months ago by John Theobald and Michael Mouritsen, both past presidents of CYSF, and a feasibility study was com-

missioned. According to a statement by Dale Ritch, York Socialist League organizer, incorporation is "an attempt to create a bureaucratic council, with the president having too great a veto power." He added that "the Ontario government has expressed its disapproval of the incorporation of student councils".

Bill Bain, speaker of the council, asked CYSF president Anne Scotton to occupy the chair while he explained why there should be no incorporation.

"It has never been established that it will be of value to York

students," began Bain. "In the feasibility study, a lot of things are stated as fact, but the study also leaves items out."

He explained that incorporation would involve limited liability, which would mean that personal assets could not be taken in cases where negligence or criminal charges were laid; the corporation, however, could be sued.

According to Bain, the council would be liable for payment for 20 years. Theoretically, the university could sue to get money from the council.

"There is no reason to try to protect individual members anyway," said Bain. "How many students on the council have a house or large amount of money that could be taken away from them?"

Bain also asked who the shareholders of the company (council) would be, and how conflicts of interest would be overcome. None of the council members attempted to respond.

"(Incorporation) is not of immediate importance," said Scotton, "but may be in the near future."

She believed incorporation would give the council a stronger front if it were to enter into any contractual agreements with the university. There was some uncertainty concerning the collection of student fees, however, since a corporation would have no legal right to demand membership fees from

students, and since the university, which currently classifies the fees as grants, might decide to withhold the funds.

Incorporation would also involve a legal stationery head and official seal, and additional legal fees running from \$300 to \$500.

Communications vice-president Bill Osmars finally suggested taking the question of incorporation to the larger student body in the form of a plebiscite during the spring elections.

After the meeting had been adjourned, some members remarked that Scotton had been the only person to speak in favour of incorporation. And one of the newer members asked how the council could expect the student body to make such a decision, when the council, after 18 months and an expenditure of thousands of dollars on a study and lawyers' fees, could not.

Finance chairman given the boot

• (continued from p. 1)

vending (which submitted a recommendation to increase cigarette prices in vending machine from 65 cents to 70 cents), and as far as I know there was never a meeting called," he later explained.

At one point Charness joined in the criticism of Montgomerie until he was reminded that as chairman, he should remain neutral.

"There's a tremendous smoke-screen going on here, and we each meeting after December 6 was said Montgomerie. "The date of each meeting after December 6 was decided on during the previous meeting, and I was never notified about the existence or dates of these meetings.

"I think it's a rotten, cheap trick," he said.

CYSF president Anne Scotton chastised the committee for its handling of the matter, corroborating Montgomerie's statement that no notices of meetings had been sent since October 21.

"I also resent the fact that my attendance at each of the meetings may be monitored," she said. "Chairmen are not elected for their attendance. I don't think you should treat a committee member in this way."

A hurried vote was called; eight votes were cast against Montgomerie's chairmanship, to five in favour. Ken Lindsay, whose name had been mentioned as early as December 6 by the executive sub-committee as a possible successor to Montgomerie, also voted for Montgomerie's dismissal.

Following the meeting, Montgomerie accused both Mike Hennessy and Peter Jarvis of leading a conspiracy to have him removed in favour of Ken Lindsay,

who had sought the position earlier this year and who was favoured by the chairman and assistant chairman of the food services committee.

"If you want to go on attendance, I attended more meetings than Ken (Lindsay); if you want to go on work, the report was submitted on time," he emphasized.

"I submitted a written report to Peter Jarvis on November 29 for typing. He typed it and signed it using his own name."

Jarvis strongly denied that he plagiarized the report.

"That is a total fabrication. He did not hand in a written report to me. If he says he did, it's a lie.

"We kicked the financial report around on very general terms, but at no time did he hand in a report to me. It was written by me and Mike Hennessy."

Much like the controversy surrounding the report, the case of the non-answering service may also go unresolved, because no effort was made during the committee meeting to distinguish fact from fiction.

"Hennessy just lied, that's all," said Montgomerie. "There hasn't been a recording system working at my office since July.

"Hennessy said he heard two beeps on the phone; there have never been two beeps on my phone. And the only reason he got the story about the phone is because it's working now. He said it was an unpleasant task, bringing up my dismissal, but if it was so unpleasant for him, why did he have to lie?"

"Phone calls were either made or attempted to be made," said Hennessy.

As well as responding to the accusations brought against him by the executive committee, Mon-

tomerie mentioned several other difficulties he has had with the food committee — such as minutes of meetings mailed to others at Atkinson, but not to Montgomerie — as evidence to support his contentions...

He referred to disagreements between himself and Peter Jarvis concerning the role of the food service committee as a possible cause of his troubles.

"Jarvis is just waging an out and out war against Versafood. I pointed out to him that the committee was not there to destroy Versafood but to find the best food service for students.

"I think that was the beginning of the end of John Montgomerie," he said.

The beginning of the end became clearer last Thursday to everyone who could read between the lines, as an advertisement sponsored by Food Services in Excalibur listed Ken Lindsay as the acting finance sub-committee chairman.

But when asked if Ken Lindsay had been appointed acting sub-committee chairman on December 6, when it was decided to request Montgomerie's resignation, Hennessy vehemently denied the matter, adding, "Ken Lindsay was never made acting chairman."

Jarvis denied that a conspiracy to get Montgomerie was in operation.

"In this particular case, Montgomerie did bugger-all, and Hennessy just busted that," he said.

But although the truth may never be found, possibly Scotton best summed up the feelings of the uncommittee at the meeting, when she said, "I don't know whether John (Montgomerie) was right or wrong, but I did think the way the thing was handled looked conspiratorial."



The man with his feet on the desk is not asleep. He is merely being casual. His name is Bill Bain and he does an almost life-like impersonation of the speaker for CYSF.

"Profound" implications of budget wasted on sleeping student council

York's budgetary problems stimulated very little deliberation from members of the York Student Federation at last Thursday's meeting.

Alan Cox, student senator and member of the senate budgetary committee, told the council that the crisis would create "profound changes within the university".

"To cut down on part-time faculty while increasing graduate student teaching assistants appears to be one of the alternatives

open to President Macdonald," he said, adding that students would also feel changes in food prices and similar auxiliary services.

After the meeting, Cox said he felt the members had "fallen asleep", and speaker Bill Bain said "the members appeared uninformed."

He later corrected this statement by saying the members received information, but never bothered to familiarize themselves with it.

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