

Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity — Lord Acton

Big decision Tuesday

McLaughlin students have the opportunity to make a monumental decision on Tuesday. By virtue of the fact that the Mac college council is the silliest group of people of comparable size on the campus, Mac students will be subjected to yet another referendum on CYSF.

Forgive us if we can't take the whole thing too seriously but we're getting a little tired of uninformed people making uninformed decisions which make life harder for all of us.

If they had substantiated any of their charges then maybe it would be worth arguing with the McLaughlin councillors.

It's enough to say that many of the members of the present CYSF were elected on the platform of trying to deal

with some of the social and political issues which make York University a pretty unpleasant place to live and work. As far as we can see that's what they have been trying to do for the last ten months. This is the first council which has been attacked for trying to fulfill their campaign promises.

CYSF has never pretended to be an unqualified success. What they have done is address themselves to some of the real issues around here. That they haven't concerned themselves too much with dances is to their credit no matter what the Mac council wants to believe.

On Tuesday the students of McLaughlin College get to choose between honest effort and a silly joke. Is there any doubt?

Letters to the Editor

Charge inconsistent

Adrian Hill's and Jim Cameron's letters in last week's EXCALIBUR imply that one of the main reasons for McLaughlin student council calling the referendum on CYSF was its "allotment of funds within CYSF to outside organizations and the priorities involved therein." CARM, the Committee to Aid Refugees from Militarism, was one of the organizations referred to specifically.

I find this complaint rather inconsistent as McLaughlin college council last year gave a grant of \$250 to the Toronto American Deserters Committee, CARM's forerunner. This grant to the TADC, which was also endorsed by last year's Winters College Council, was actually larger than that given by last year's CYSF (\$250 to \$200) and matched this year's CYSF grant to CARM (\$250).

If such outside support was deemed proper last year by both the central and individual college councils, what can be so inappropriate about it this year as to warrant withdrawal from CYSF?

Questioningly yours,
Roger Verdoux.

Student politics

Although I have amateur status in student politics I find myself deeply caught up in McLaughlin College's move to withdraw from the Council of York Student Federation. As a member of the McLaughlin Council, but more, as an individual who is interested in what is happening at York, along with "why?" and "who is responsible?" I would like to expound some of my views on the CYSF and student politics in general.

First, I would like to make clear the fact that I do believe in some form of central student government. However, I do doubt the appropriateness of the present CYSF for this role.

Personally, when I consider the fact that, taken together, the CYSF and the various College Councils are spending roughly \$200,000 per year (of which over \$90,000 is the CYSF's) my head swims. That is a lot of money! Herein lies the main complaint which I and many other students share: what does the CYSF give us for our money? Admittedly, no Council could ever please everyone but there is a wide-spread wish that the CYSF obtain some big, first-rate entertainment rather than budgeting most of its money to services and organizations. i.e. CYSF devotes only 2.7% of its budget to social affairs.

Juvenal, an ancient Roman philosopher,

could have been talking about York students when he wrote "Duas tantum res anxius optat, panem et circenses". . . (the Roman people) limits its longings to two things only — bread, and the games of the circus. Conceding that there is more than "bread and games" to life, I still feel that if the majority at York want more entertainment of a better quality than they should have it. After all, where does the money come from?

Speaking this time, I believe, for the McLaughlin Council as a whole, I don't like the way the CYSF has foisted non-college oriented individuals and groups off on the individual colleges when they (CYSF) haven't wanted to fund these projects. The CYSF could at least have had the decency to make their answer a firm "no".

Earlier tonight (November 30) I sat through a McLaughlin College Council meeting which was attended by, among others, Paul Axelrod, president CYSF; Karen Hood, vice-president CYSF; John Laskin, treasurer CYSF and Bob Roth, EXCALIBUR Editor. "Dreadful" is one of the adjectives that springs to mind to describe that meeting. I regret that the CYSF — McLaughlin question is, and was, an issue of extremes. The McLaughlin Council has now voted unanimously to hold a referendum to ask the students of McLaughlin if they wish to remain within CYSF.

In all fairness to Paul Axelrod, his case for the existence and policies of CYSF was far better presented tonight than I would have thought it could have been. Perhaps, as was stated by Mike Fletcher, one of McLaughlin's CYSF representatives, the problem is "simply one of communication" (between CYSF, the College Councils and the Students).

To repeat my earlier statement, I feel that York should have a campus-wide student government of some sort (if not the CYSF then one of a different design). In my opinion, such a central student government should tie together the colleges, hopefully preventing duplication of efforts. Perhaps this could be accomplished by having the College Councils appoint some of their members to a central council. I also favour the form of council which McLaughlin has — elected members with voting rights and an appointed chairman, but no president.

Without doubt the future of the CYSF hinges on the McLaughlin referendum — a withdrawal by McLaughlin could signal the collapse of CYSF if other colleges follow suit. It is my hope that, however the vote goes, things will have turned out for the best.

Robert Dearborn
Atudent Affairs Officer
McLaughlin College Council.



kewpie doll

Hurrah! Give the McLaughlin College Student Council the kewpie doll (with one black eye), for winning the 1970-71 version of the CYSF referendum game.

Once again the basically incompetent college councils are getting upset that the CYSF is incompetent. So what do they do? They demand from the CYSF the \$10.00 that each student has contributed so that they will have \$27.00 from each student — but doesn't that mean that now the incompetency is simply centralized? (And if one is incompetent with \$10.00 and \$17.00 respectively, could you imagine what will happen with \$27.00?)

Somehow the logic doesn't work. Maybe the councils in question and especially the CYSF should take a cold, hard look at why this "game" must be played each year at York instead of bothering students, who really don't give a shit anyway, with referenda.

Alan Shefman,
McLaughlin College.

Grave misconceptions

It is the intention of this letter to clear some grave misconceptions that were presented in an article about the Sociology Students' Union in the December 3, 1970 issue of EXCALIBUR. The sociology department has not granted the union any seats, unlike Barry Lerner's article which states, "agreed to give . . . 15 seats on faculty council. . ." The Union was going to ask for that number of seats in the future, as a matter of fact, the union has yet to meet with faculty to discuss more relevant issues. Professor O'Neill has not formally recognized the formation of the Union and has only said that he does not oppose student involvement within the department.

The implications of such misrepresentations carry severe consequences for a Union that is not trying to dictate policy, merely attempting to discuss the issues.

Mel Goldstein.

Editor's note: At an interview concerning the formation of the union, Mel Goldstein, a union organizer, said that seats on the faculty council had been discussed with the department. When sociology chairman John O'Neill was telephoned to get his reaction to the formation of the union, he said seats had been granted, in principle, to the student union and confirmed that the number would be about 15.

Barry Lerner, news editor.

Very
important
Excalibur
staff
meeting
Thursday
2 pm

Excalibur

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