

Board of Governors Reps

From the Government Benches is a weekly column in which a student representative from the Board of Governors, or the Council of the York Student Federation reports to the York community on the activity of her or his organization. The views expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect those of Excalibur.

John Weston & Pamela Fruitman

We are the two students who represent you on York's Board of Governors, the University's central decision-making body. The Board is responsible for the financial administration of the University; because all programmes need funding, the Board's mandate is virtually all-inclusive. The Board, therefore, sits at the top of a hierarchy of student councils and university administrative bodies.

Though elected by the whole of the York student body, the students may have only a weak voice on the Board of Governors. Only two of the thirty seats are occupied by

students (two others are held by representatives of the Senate, two by representatives of the Alumni Association, and twenty-four seats are held by members who are for the most part from Toronto's business and legal community). Furthermore, the students' terms are for only two years whereas members appointed from outside the University serve for at least four years. Short-term members lack depth of Board experience, and the accompanying trust that other members bestow only with the passage of time. Finally, the Board itself meets for only two hours once a month. Debate is often cursory, and the Board is forced to rely heavily on the recommendations of appointed University officials. Students may find it difficult to contribute to discussion if they are not briefed elaborately before Board meetings.

For the above reasons, we shall be relying on you to assist us in representing the student body and the Univer-

sity community-at-large at the Board of Governors. We cannot ourselves ferret out all the issues that should be addressed by the University's executive. Nor can we alone handle all the research that should accompany our presentations. Finally, whatever impact we have will be weak if we are mere voices crying in the wilderness. We shall occasionally be seeking your support in the form of opinions, much as we did in composing last semester's report on University Food Services. The legitimacy of our submissions depends largely on the degree to which they reflect the desires of those whom we represent, i.e. YOU.

By this introduction you will know that we are relying on all members of the York community to approach us when we can be of service, and to contact us when our performance has disappointed justifiable expectations. In the meantime, we intend to keep

you posted on our activity through regular articles in all campus newspapers. You can contact us through the CYSF office in Central Square (667-2515).

The following is an outline of projects which we intend to undertake this year:

- follow-up of the consideration and, hopefully, implementation of recommendations made in the Report on University Food Services submitted by John Weston to the Board last spring (the Report is presently under consideration by the University Food and Beverage Services Committee).

- analysis of the relationship between the Board and student governments with respect to funding

- study of the relationship between the University and businesses in Central Square,

- assistance of Security Chief George Dunn in the implementation of his May, 1982 proposals on the improvement of campus security

- study of course registration and exam scheduling procedures in hopes of helping the Administration improve both in order to assist campus consumers who feel that Central Square outlets should provide better services

- whatever initiatives that may assist in improving campus labour relations

Finally, in case you would like to know more about us personally, John is a third-year student at Osgoode Hall Law School, and will be articling at a Vancouver firm next summer. Pam is in the first year of the joint MBA/LLB Programme and is a native of Toronto. We both welcome you back to York, and we look forward to serving you this year.



Pamela Fruitman



John Weston



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