

# The YFS and OFS Stalkyard

The Stalkyard is a new column that will document and analyze the policies and initiatives of the YFS, York Federation of Students.

by Sal Nensi

The CYSF held an emergency meeting on Sunday, June 3 to discuss two major issues. President Jean Ghomeshi made both motions: first to make CYSF bilingual, second to hold a referendum on joining the OFS (Ontario Federation of Students).

CYSF has officially changed its name to the YFS (York Federation of Students). In addition, the new CYFS will become a bilingual corporation. In French, the name will be FEY (Federation des Etudiant(e)s de York).

There are numerous reasons for the name change. George Sanghera, VP (Programmes), feels that the change to bilingualism will help main campus' relations with Glendon, which is already bilingual. Caroline Winship, VP (Internal), also supports the name change. She said, "the old CYSF was seen in a bad light by the students. Changing the name to YFS/FEY takes away some of the elitist notions created by the old coucil."

Ghomeshi is concerned that this move will not be fully understood or accepted by the York community and that council will be accused of spending additional funds unnecessarily. But he feels that the name change makes an important statement and that the timing is especially significant.

Ghomeshi then addressed his election promise to fight for a reduction in tuition fees. In order to effect a change in the tuition fees paid by students at York, he said, "we must join with other students across the country to aggressively lobby the government to provide more funding."

To that end, Ghomeshi motioned that an agreement reached between the YFS' negotiating team and OFS be adopted. The details are as follows:

1. OFS waives membership fees owed for 1988/89 and 1989/90 by the YFS. (YFS was \$90,000 in arrears.)
2. YFS pays the \$30,000 yearly fee for 1990/91.
3. YFS holds a referendum in 1990/91 to determine if the students at York wish to become members of OFS in 1991/92.

Ghomeshi is optimistic that OFS membership is "the way forward to fight the dismal situation of tuition fees." He asserted that York students had to become united and involved and, together with their new executive, lobby for their rights. Asked to comment on an ideal situation, Ghomeshi responded: "a freeze on tuition hikes with a move towards the abolition of tuition fees altogether."



## I WRITE WITH AN AXE

### Frog legs and scam

by Brett Gellert

The death of Jim Henson brings up some interesting questions:

Who invented all the other frogs?

Does Jim Henson's estate own the patent on frogs?

Who would even come up with the concept of eating frogs' legs?

Are people in France totally insane? They eat snails too.

Anyway, Jim Henson brought something to everyone's childhood. Who can forget Kermit telling us in that almost hypnotic voice to memorize the alphabet and send vast quantities of our parents' money to Jim Henson Inc. They were fun times once we learned that Big Bird could not fly, leaving us safe to walk around without being bombed by flocks of slow-thinking yellow birds the size of Winabagos.

What I'm trying to get at is that the days of good characters for children are over. Now we are being over-run by hoardes of kids with crazed looks in their little eyes, sugar-coated cereal with the nutritional value of styrofoam pumping through their veins, pretending to be human-sized turtles who could easily make Bruce Lee look sick.

Now I will freely admit that talking turtles with ninja abilities is not a mind-boggling concept. In fact, I find it harder to believe that people in France (remember those wacky French people who charge you \$35 for garlic bread in a cafe) think that Jerry Lewis is a comic genius. If you can cope with that,

giant pizza-eating amphibians (that can talk and get away without paying massive amounts of income tax from toy and T-shirt sales) is as easy as breathing. The problem seems to be that dozens of children are now beating the living daylight out of each other; acting out their favourite bits of the movie, or cartoon, or back of Mutant Ninja cereal boxes. And, of course, there is the danger to the economy. Thousands of brain-damaged adolescents with artificial turtle noses and masks (only \$23.95 in most stores) will flock out into the streets looking for plastic to melt down to make more action figures (just \$125.98 each sold separately). Everything including the Prime Minister's expression will be melted down for more turtles.

As for the old days, all I can say is that you never saw Kermit the Frog pick up a fully automatic machine gun in one hand and a sword in the other and fight gang violence on Sesame Street. I can just see the movie promo now:

"Just when you thought it was safe to go back to the swamp, evil thugs took over Sesame Street. Now, it's up to him to get it back. Mr. Hooper's dead. Guy Smiley rules the town with an iron fist. But Kermit the Frog plays by his own rules. He's a frog who isn't afraid to kick butt. It's time for: THE MERCENARY MUPPET FROM MATTEL!"

Actually, that isn't such a bad idea. The sequel could have Kermit beating the hell out of those wimpy turtles. Think of the toy sales, the cereal commercials, the T-shirts. That's what entertaining children is all about.

