

NEWS

ANALYSIS

YFS/FEY gripped by "motion sickness" disease

by Salman A. Nensi

The YFS/FEY is becoming more and more gripped by a disease known as "motion sickness."

At the last YFS general council meeting, the councillors were unable to finish the items on the agenda, even though they spent over three and a half hours trying.

Many of the councillors have no concept of parliamentary procedure, as described in Robert's Rules of Order (RROO). Those that do, however, insist on following the rules. This sometimes leads to a state of utter confusion where no one, including the council's speaker, is sure what is going on.

Should the current deplorable conditions be perpetuated they will precipitate a progressive constriction of the channels of communication, culminating in a condition of organizational atrophy and administrative paralysis which will effectively render impossible the coherent and coordinated discharge of the functions of the YFS at York. (Thank you Sir Humphrey!)

The questions to ask here are:

1. Should the YFS/FEY be forced to follow the exact letter of the law, i.e. their own constitution and RROO?

2. How much leeway should the executives or councillors be given to bend the laws in order to actually get things done?

3. Who decides when a law, rule or procedure has been bent too much?

4. Who decides on the penalties when a rule is broken?

Even with all the administrative and functional problems, the council did manage to conduct some business last Tuesday night.

Brad Abrams, vice president (finance) submitted the council's six month financial statement. Highlights include...

1. *Up York*, in the final analysis, was broken even.

2. The change in name from CYSF to YFS/FEY has cost \$1,142 so far.

3. President Jean Ghomeshi has not spent a cent of his discretionary fund.

4. The cost of bilingualism so far has been \$25

5. Only \$2,278.57 was spent by YFS on the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) / Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) referendum — NOT, I repeat, NOT \$30,000 as has been rumored. An equal amount was contributed by the OFS and by the CFS. A large majority of the money was spent on poll clerks.

The councillors present at the meeting sent a strong message to president Ghomeshi. They are losing confidence in his ability to effectively run the student government and to represent the students at York. His presidential report was only marginally accepted with eight out of 18 councillors voting against accepting the report.

Many of the councillors were upset with Ghomeshi's unofficial participation in the now infamous Macaroni Protest against the prime minister. Even though Ghomeshi was there as an individual, he did not deny an allegation that the YFS offices were used to organize the protest.

One York student stated that president Ghomeshi could not just "... turn it [his position as president] on and off when he feels like it."

Mitch Blass, vice president (external), stated that he was, "... disgusted with the protest." However, he did not see fit to vote against accepting the report.

While trying to decide who should represent York at the next OFS meeting, the president was asked why there was no Policy Committee formed in May (as the

YFS/FEY constitution states).

"The constitution says some things that we don't have time to deal with ... we try to follow the letter and the spirit of the constitution." Ghomeshi said.

Not convinced by his answer, Ghomeshi was pressed by several councillors who stated that he had not been approached before about not having a Policy Committee.

Becoming quite frustrated, Ghomeshi replied, "It is really sad that we sit around here, with all due respect to the constitution, sit around here talking about this, focusing on technical paperwork! This is *not* what I joined the student movement for!"

At the end of all this, there was still no concrete conclusion reached in regards to a Policy

Committee.

YFS council tries very hard to do what it feels is right for the students at York. To do this they have to make decisions, take votes and follow RROO.

But they are human and make mistakes, perhaps too many. With people calling out the proper procedure from the floor and the speaker trying to figure out who is right, there were at least two times when she violated her own precedents.

Calling the question, points of information, friendly amendments, points of order, points of personal privilege ... Is the YFS getting too bound up in administrative tape?

Campus Chronicles

by Jennifer Lim

Queen's University

Ali Rahmena, a student of Iranian background received a racist and homophobic threat note on November 8.

The note written in cut-up newspaper letters read, "If you and your ... pakki faggot ... pro-abortion friends don't like it here, leave before something happens to you."

Enclosed in an envelope, the note was addressed to Rahmena personally.

He received the note in the Amnesty International mailbox in the International Centre.

Rahmena was at first surprised, but now feels angry and frustrated, saying, "Racism ... is essentially due to ignorance and the only way to deal with it is to publicize it."

Ryerson Institute

Ryerson's lesbian and gay community was asked by LGAY (Lesbian and Gay Alliance at York) to help fund a conference for nine Ontario university groups on November 30.

"If money is given, it will come out of the proceeds from social events," said Kelly Stephen, a coordinator for Lesbian and Gays at Ryerson.

Dan Mahoney, executive-secretary of LGAY said the York group is grossly underfunded and will also be seeking assistance from the lesbian and gay community at the University of Toronto.

University of Guelph

The Old University Resident's Association (OURA) expressed concern over student parties held in their neighborhood.

According to A. Richard Shaw, president of the OURA, the parties are attended by both university and high school students.

Residents who attempted to maintain control were faced with abusive behaviour. The association has also had to clean up urine and vomit on the pavements.

Brian Sullivan, vp student affairs, believed that most of the students involved were high school students or adults living off-campus. As a result, the university had no direct authority over them.

However, a Guide to Proper Partying was drawn up to assist party hosts with rules about the sale of alcohol and several other guidelines.

Queen's University

An article in the Queen's Journal read, "Two women of colour "egged," assailants unseen."

Mitalene Fletcher and Deana Brown, both senior arts students were leaving a Racism Awareness Week event when they were attacked.

A black mustang drove by and a group of people threw eggs at them and then sped off.

According to Fletcher and Brown, they were not able to see the assailants and were "pretty sure that it was a racism thing" although nothing was said to them.

University of Alberta

The Graduate Students' Association (GSA) and the University administration debated over whether graduate students should have to pay an increase for instruction fees.

The administration declared plans to raise instruction fees by over 378 per cent.

The GSA argued that this violates the provincial government's tuition-capping policies which restrict any increases in tuition fees to a maximum of 15 per cent in any given year.

S.D Hillier, the defense lawyer for the administration contended that the decision should be made by the legislature and not by the courts. Hillier also went on to say that the education minister had chosen to accept the administration's decision.

Elevator break downs

continued from page 1

they are designed to last under normal usage, said Ridout, "not when the residents play games on them."

Knight thinks that students are not to blame as much as they have been accused.

"We [the residents] tend to see the problems first hand, they [administration] do not. We have the right to complain," Knight said.

Allan Koretsky, the master of Stong College stated that the college and the administration have been working together on the issue.

"I am aware of the seriousness of the problem and I am eager to see the elevators

fixed once and for all," Koretsky said.

A report on the October elevator incident by the ministry of commercial and consumer relations highlighted the areas that needed to be fixed on the elevators, but did not specify who or what was to blame.

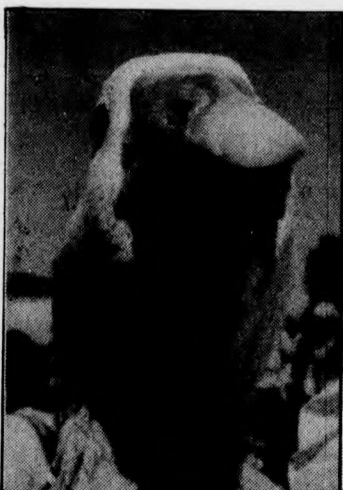
According to Ridout, the elevators were serviced by one serviceperson, until that person was transferred. The maintenance was then taken over by a number of people who "did not know the quirks and intricacies of the elevator."

This particular problem has been solved by the appointment of one person to maintain the service.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Minute Maid—didn't they use that in Vietnam?"

Dave (of the) Lake



Billy Barroo's

rhythm & brews  
★★★★★  
6 6 0 0 5 6

This week:

CARMELLA LONG

Tues. Dec. 4

DARTS & MUSIC & MORE DARTS

Dec. 5-8

NIGHTFLY

Mondays

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT-PEROGIES \$4.99

"FOOTBALL" DRAFT \$0.68!!!

Tuesdays

2 FOR 1 CHICKEN WINGS AND CHEAP TALL BOYS!!

(Darts tournament every Tuesday at 8:30 pm)

Wednesdays

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT-PEROGIES \$4.95

Every Night

ALL APPETIZERS \$2.50!!

(between 5 & 7 easily the best deal in town!)

Sundays

FREE!! HANGOVER BUFFET

(with student ID)

HUGE SCREEN NFL FOOTBALL

JAM SESSION

(8:30 — ???)

COMING TO BILLY BAROO'S TUES. DEC. 11/90 THE RAZORBACKS!!

We will be suspending our No Cover policy for this event

Cover \$5 in advance \$7 at the door

the Razorbacks Christmas bar-b-que tour 1990 Dec. 11 doors open at 6:00 pm \$5 beans in advance \$7 at the door

CORNER OF DUFFERIN AND STEELES