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Editorial

Lack of vision

It would perhaps be an exaggeration to envision members of the Fine Arts Department withdrawing to a state of aesthetic monasticism after the closing of York University Fine Arts on Markham (YUFAM). The arts have been known to flourish even within the concrete confines of a campus such as ours. It is, however, a pity and embarrassment that one of Canada's largest, most diversified, and most productive collection of artists and art teachers will be denied the public exposure they deserve.

YUFAM's pathetically brief eleven month existence was a creative act in itself, during these belt-tightening days at York, but it seems YUFAM was not worthy of support in the minds of certain influential deans and vice-presidents outside the Faculty of Fine Arts. It was, after all, an expensive endeavour and in this system of 'equitable' distribution of funds, the administration chooses not to patronize the arts in any special way.

The university will have spent \$55,000 to \$60,000 to run the gallery from its inception on January 18 to December 16. According to Fine Arts Dean Green, \$80,000 to \$100,000 would have been required in the future for yearly operating expenses.

Vice-President in charge of Finance and Development, George Bell, claims the closing of YUFAM had nothing to do with funding priorities. "We did provide the money they asked for and that apparently wasn't enough." He feels the President was fair in his allocation of money and treated the project well. However, YUFAM could not survive because it exceeded its budgetary expectations.

The difference in what the university was willing to pay and the actual cost of the operation turned out to be minimal. Yet this difference is supposedly what closed the gallery. Couldn't money have been raised from private donations?

This question leads back to a constant problem at York, which is outside funding. In his letter of resignation, Dean Green said his greatest frustration was in the department's failure to get Phase III further than they did. "It appears likely that—aside from a token gesture here and there—only those initiatives with a high potential of immediate monetary return will be approved and supported." Green felt that had the leadership in fund-raising been more active and committed, "we might even have had a hole in the ground."

In order to get such funding, York needs a high profile. Universities notoriously isolate themselves from their surrounding communities and York is no exception. In fact, our physical isolation has managed to create a massive gap between academia and the public. YUFAM was one instance where we reached out to the public and made our existence known. Though such a gesture may have lost us money this year, eventually YUFAM would have given us an image that would have made York worthy of donation.

Board Rep Reports

There is good news and there is bad news. Graduate assistants are stalled in negotiations so we are sure to get our Christmas papers and exams marked. However, the faculty association is going into conciliation and there may be no one here to teach us in January.

The administration spent four hours typing up their proposal while the graduate assistants waited last Thursday. The administration already had seven months to come to terms—this is another example of their callous attitude towards labour relations. We now have three out of three unions this year forced to threaten strike action before they can get a reasonable settlement.

The faculty association has also gone to conciliation and may take strike action. For faculty this can mean a variety of things like not attending those dreary committee meetings. Teaching will be the last thing they stop doing and even then it will probably only for a day at a time. If we can convince them to strike on Fridays and Mondays we might even get some long weekends out of it.

Peter Brickwood

Federation Notes

The initial allocation of funds for clubs on campus took place at the CYSF meeting held Tuesday night. Any club or organization that requires funding should drop by the federation office, 105 Central Square. Monies are available for any campus club or organization that has been officially recognized by C.Y.S.F.

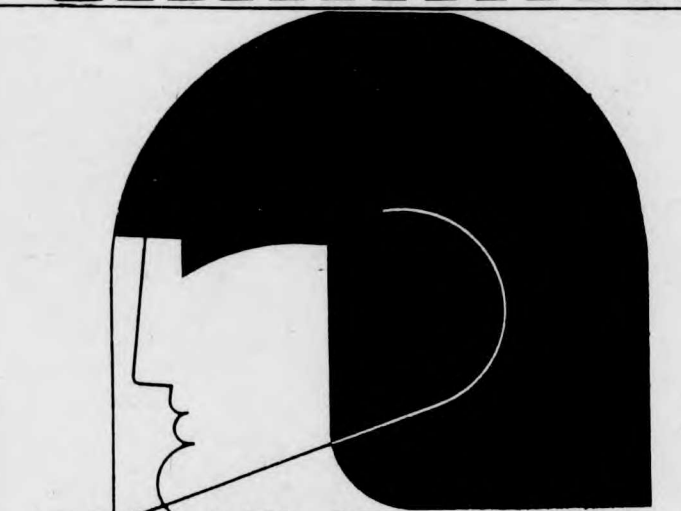
Since the beginning of the year, changes have taken place on the Council's Executive Committee. Tuesday night the Council ratified the appointments of two new Vice-Presidents; Barry Clements of McLaughlin was appointed Vice-President of Social and Cultural Affairs, and K.C. Whalen of Winters is the new Vice-President of University Services. These two join the current Executives, Jayne Hughes of McLaughlin (Student Services and Communications), Barb Taylor of Winters (External Affairs) and Jennifer Gonsalves of Vanier (Women's Affairs).

Last week, C.Y.S.F. sponsored a booth in Central Square with the Association of Student Councils' Canadian Universities Travel Service. The purpose was the sale of the International Student Discount Card. The booth will return at a later date. Contact the Council for details.

The C.Y.S.F. Classic Film Festival continues tonight with the feature presentation of *Days of Heaven*. It will be shown in Curtis "L" at 8:00 pm. The price is \$1.75 for those in C.Y.S.F. constituencies and \$2.00 for non-members.

The current Council's term of office expires April 30, 1980 and plans are underway for the elections for the new Council, which are tentatively scheduled for March 11 and 12. Positions which will be available at that time are President, Vice-President of University Services, Vice-President of External Affairs, Vice-President of Women's Affairs, and one student representative to the University Board of Governors.

D. Keith Smockum



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