

McLaughlin criticizes CYSF.....

Motion made clear

As the initiator of the motion within McLaughlin Council to hold a referendum regarding our membership in CYSF, I feel that I must make my reasons clear to the York Community as a whole.

Since my election to the McLaughlin Council I have received numerous complaints from students regarding the activities of CYSF this year. Many of these complaints centered around the specific lack of Festival, Winter Carnival, and other such events. Equally numerous were complaints about allotment of funds within CYSF to outside organizations and the priorities involved therein. These opinions, expressed by McLaughlin students, tended to deepen doubts that I, myself, held.

My role within the college includes being manager of the Mac Bunkhouse, secretary and advisor to the Mac Day Student Committee, as well as being external affairs officer of the Mac Student Council. Thus I come in contact with a great number of students. It was largely on recommendation from these students that CYSF be looked into.

CYSF has been miserably mismanaged, with large sums of money going to either dubious organizations or going completely unaccounted for. The State of the books and records was so bad last year that McLaughlin refused to grant this year's monies to CYSF until last year's balance sheet had been completed. This example was followed by the other councils. My conclusion from that budget was that a great deal of the funds never went into channels that would benefit the York Student Body.

Even with this in mind I was hopeful that

with new CYSF members this year would be different.

Last night, at our Mac Council meeting, Mr. Axelrod admitted that his CYSF had done little to interest students. He even stated, "That most damned students couldn't give a shit about what the CYSF does."

As a spokesman for Mac students I must say that this just isn't true. We are infuriated with the \$3,500 spent for Task Force that will probably never even publish a report. We are sick of the incredibly high salaries to EXCALIBUR staff (some are in excess of \$150 per week). We are fed up with paying out \$15,000 for salaries for CYSF executive and administration. We are sick of getting little or no value for our \$10.

My intention is not to stop support of RYFM, which is one of the finest radio stations on the continent. I will not end support of EXCALIBUR which is among the very best Canadian university papers. I do intend, however, to closely check how the funds of the paper are spent and insist on proper itemized budgets.

Mac was divided on the original question of joining CYSF three years ago. Thus we feel that it is time to ask the students if they still support it.

Last night Paul Axelrod told us that the idea of a referendum was a good one. He asked, however, that we wait until his term of office had ended. He appeared violently afraid that he would be held responsible for the failure of his CYSF platform. He obviously wants to be safely out of the way when the roof falls in.

To conclude, I urge all Mac students to vote on the referendum as their conscience sees fit. I, as a Mac Councillor, feel that we have no choice but to condemn an

organization that has not in the past, does not now, and probably in the future act in the best interests of McLaughlin students.

Adrian Hill

By-law conscious

Congratulations! EXCALIBUR, as usual, has upheld its unblemished reputation for biased, one-sided reporting.

With reference to your article on the McLaughlin Referendum, November 26, 1970, I wish to take objection to Paul Axelrod's comment that "That is, they (McLaughlin Council) want to be censors of the press". Paul Axelrod's concern over the freedom of EXCALIBUR appears ironic to me since our Council is concerned over the influence he and CYSF appear to exert over EXCALIBUR. One just has to read the article on the McLaughlin Referendum to see just how biased and prejudiced EXCALIBUR is. May I refer you to the CYSF constitution, By-law #13 Board of Communications, page 3:

"The student press and student broadcasting stations should be free from pressure by student governments, university authorities or any other external agencies whether or not the press or broadcasting media is a part of such an organization, except for the extraordinary power of removing the editor or station manager, which should reside only in the authority which appointed them".

With reference to off-campus spending, I would refer Paul Axelrod to the CYSF constitution, the constitution of his Council, By-law #3 The Finance Commission under Budgets a) "All requests for funds by clubs, organizations and societies will be accompanied by a proposed budget." and under Criteria b) "Only organizations

whose activities and membership are open to all students of the University shall receive funds. If this then is the case, I would ask CYSF where the budgets are for such organizations as Refugees from Militarism and the Toronto Union Project etc. and if they are open to all students of the University.

At the CYSF meeting of Tuesday November 3, 1970, a motion was made and seconded by two of our McLaughlin representatives, Mike Fletcher and Tim Delaney. The motion stated that CYSF reconsider all off-campus allocations to the extent of withholding money until all support to on-campus clubs and other support had been considered. The motion was defeated. Is this the action of the responsible Council, responsible to the students of York?

In the light of the fact that I was recently informed by a member of the administration directly concerned with the finances of York that CYSF is for all intents and purposes broke, I find the actions of CYSF highly irresponsible.

In closing I would like to inform your reporter David Chud of By-law #13 Board of Communications, page 4, section #2 Code of Ethics, in the CYSF constitution, "The student journalist or broadcaster should strive continually to be fair and accurate in their reports, and should strive to equip themselves adequately with fact to support their published and broadcasted statements. They should realize fully their personal responsibility for everything they submit for publication and broadcasting."

I would appreciate it if you would publish this letter in your next issue.

Jim Cameron

College Affairs Officer

McLaughlin College Student Council

..... And CYSF gives a response

Reasons for referendum

Last Monday evening several CYSF members attended a McLaughlin student council meeting in order to ascertain the reasons for the upcoming college referendum.

According to certain McLaughlin council members, one of the prime sources of dissatisfaction with CYSF stemmed from what one of their councillors termed "misuse of funds". When pressed by members of CYSF to be more specific concerning this accusation, he was unable to reply.

Alleged misuse of funds is a serious, perhaps even slanderous allegation and I would hope that before any responsible person makes such a charge he would be operating from a sufficient factual basis.

Another source of discontent was CYSF's failure to place a high priority on social affairs on this campus. Given the fact that at present, the college councils have already budgeted a high proportion of student funds for social activities; given the fact that numerous CYSF council members made it abundantly clear when they were running for election, that their main concerns would be political and social issues that had never previously been raised by a college council or a central student council in this university; given the fact that last year's festival lost \$6,000; and finally, given the fact that CYSF has allotted \$2,500 for social events, we felt that students were receiving sufficient opportunity to take part in social activities at York.

Off campus groups

McLaughlin council members also alleged that CYSF had allotted a disproportionate amount of its clubs' and organizations' budget to off-campus groups. The fact is that, in total, 9.44 per cent of this budget went to such organizations.

The justification for this allotment is based on CYSF's recognition that the university is not an ivory tower. It is a social institution paid for by the public with social responsibilities and, if a group whose source of income is limited and who council feels is worthy of support, requests funds, then we are not so narrow-minded and egocentric to automatically turn them down.

Thus, CYSF's aim has been to devote its energies to matters which the college councils have consistently ignored.

What are these matters?

Firstly, CYSF, not the college councils took the initiative in responding, with an extensive critique, to the Laskin Report which ultimately will have a profound effect on the structure, government and disciplinary policies of this university, and by corollary will directly affect the daily lives of students.

Senate release

Second, the CYSF, not the college councils, took the initiative in responding to the current widespread feeling amongst Canadians concerning the Americanization issue. We pressed for the Senate's release of pertinent statistics related to citizenship and educational background of full-time faculty and graduate students at York, and we have sponsored a task force to investigate the nature of course content at York. Again, this is an issue which will profoundly affect the day to day classroom lives of students.

Furthermore, CYSF was approached by and became directly involved with students who had very specific and legitimate complaints about courses in which they were registered (Modes of Reasoning 171, Natural Science 176 A & B, Poverty and Progress Social Science 176 and Howard Halpern's request for ungraded courses).

Although we have not accomplished any radical restructuring of most of these courses, we have at least attempted to open the lines of communication between CYSF and the students, by directly participating in the student generated demands for change.

While participating we have discovered that there is a general undercurrent of dissatisfaction and boredom amongst many students. Where were the college councils when these issues were being raised? Making dances?

To recount some of the other major activities we have been involved in, they included: negotiation in the summer with the university to keep the prices of beverages down; the research and production of MANUS the university handbook; the publication of the university phone directory; negotiation with the university for space to house the daycare centre; support for an Osgoode student's attempt to investigate the legality of university parking fines; the initiation of a university social service centre.

Financial assistance

Through its membership in the Association for Student Councils, the CYSF last year acted as a service organization for over 400 York students travelling abroad; CYSF has offered financial assistance on a loan basis to several students in financial difficulty; the council provided a hitchhiking sign service; we negotiated on behalf of students with the Faculty Association during the period of its threatened withholding of students' marks last spring; CYSF took a stand on the issues of the Spadina Expressway and the proposed "anti-commune law" brought before the Metro Council (and subsequently defeated). CYSF has acted as a scrutineer of numerous corporations and entrepreneurs who have attempted to profit from the student market with offers of questionable validity.

Two of the major strains on the CYSF budget are the financing of a campus-wide newspaper and radio station. We recognize the need for such services as information outlets in a growing university, but we are not responsible for their editorial policies. If any student disagrees with the politics of the news media on this campus, he is free to either submit articles or obtain broadcast time, if he feels he has been slandered, he has recourse through the Board of Communications created by CYSF.

Fulfills many needs

As President of the CYSF, I am prepared to stand behind and defend any of the policies of the council. I believe politically CYSF has tackled important, relevant issues that the colleges have totally ignored. As a service organization we fulfill many student needs of which some of the college councils are apparently not even aware. However, I am weary of the childish games being played by certain college council members whose half-truths, unsubstantiated allegations and harping on matters of questionable importance have prevented CYSF from pursuing significant issues.

The referendum on Tuesday is simply another episode in the seemingly endless attempts by the college councils to impede CYSF's ability to function. In this article I have attempted to explain and justify our role in activities in the university. I now ask York students to turn their attention towards the question of the very purposes

and legitimacy of the college councils themselves.

Paul Axelrod
President CYSF

The annual attempt

I am writing to protest the annual attempt by the colleges, particularly the McLaughlinites, to Balkanize the student government at York. I'm not suggesting that what will ensue is the assassination of Prince Axelrod. But what I do want to emphasize is that the Mac councillors are attempting to destroy the only meaningful political voice students have.

"Ugh", you are saying. Or rather, "Argh!" He said the naughty word. P-o-l-i-t-i-c-a-l. But let's face it. The most important issues on this campus are political ones.

What else can you call it when the administration tries to shove down our throats a Discipline Report that could make the "disruption" of a lecture by a pissed-off student a crime. Or when Versafood tries to raise the price of coffee behind our backs. Or when a Senate committee tries to give the bureaucratic stall to a Psych student. Or when students are broke because the government has messed up their loan forms.

CYSF has dealt with these issues. The Phone Book. Flights to Europe. Radio York. The Day Care Centre. The Birth Control Handbook. These are services students want and need.

CYSF has dealt with these problems. But every year the college councils have chipped away at CYSF. The Mac referendum is the latest example.

CYSF, the only voice of all the students, cannot continue to deal with university-wide needs if it is being continually undermined by the uninformed diatribe of the collegians. If there is no campus-wide council, there will be no effective way to handle the problems that Founderites, Stongians, and F-people have in common. And even McLaughlinites, as much as they may hate to admit it, are part of York University.

Finally, take a look at where most of the criticism is coming from. From the friendly people who, week after week, bring to you that gem of gems, Aquarian.

Remember that if and when you vote.

John Laskin