

CYSF scrutinized

by Daniel Wolgelerenter

Big things were in the works at last week's CYSF meeting, things we at *Excal* thought would be of interest to the members of the York community who may not have been able to make the last CYSF meeting.

In fact, we think that many important things happen at the CYSF that do not get publicized, so we decided to inaugurate a semi-regular CYSF column in addition to our regular coverage of CYSF events.

LXICON CONTROVERSY IN BUDGET: Vice-president (finance) Franco LoFranco unveiled a solid budget at the meeting (already covered elsewhere in this issue). It has been hailed by a former member of Vanier council as one of the best in recent memory, but it garnered some controversy in debate. McLaughlin representative Richard Denninger questioned council's spending of \$4,000 on advertising in Bethune's *Lexicon* while spending only \$3,000 in *Excalibur* and Glendon's *Pro Tem* combined.

LoFranco explained that \$16,000 was being spent through the clubs page for advertising in *Excal* and that that page could be commandeered for CYSF advertising if need be. Denninger persisted, saying that last year the CYSF decided not to fund the *Lexicon* because it is not a central student service, and added that the CYSF is setting a bad precedent by favouring the *Lexicon* over other college papers.

The executive came down on Denninger, saying that the *Lexicon* is considered a central student service, and that the CYSF decided last year that it could not afford to fund it any longer, so this year the CYSF has decided to fund it through increased advertising dollars. Vice-president (internal) Caroline Winship defended this action, saying the *Lexicon* is the only college paper to publish regularly, and it has a circulation of 8,000, which she called quite large for a college newspaper.

President Peter Donato later explained that the *Lexicon* had been funded by the CYSF as a central student service for five years in a row, out of a Bethune-CYSF trust fund, before Bethune was forced to become a CYSF member. So, last year, the *Lexicon* was funded but not recognized. At the meeting, he said that the advertising in the *Lexicon*, which is written often in pseudo-news format, could possibly give the CYSF national exposure through the Canadian University Press (CUP) news service. The *Lexicon* is the only CUP paper on campus.

I am inclined to agree with Denninger on this one. The *Lexicon* really fails in its mandate as Bethune's college paper when trying to be a central student service. The student body can really only afford to fund one central paper (if that), so I think the best way to go about being a central student newspaper is to go the independent route, à la *The Newspaper* at the University of Toronto. We certainly wouldn't mind that kind of competition.

HEALTH PLAN NEARING REALITY: Council debated the merits and problems (of which there were few) of the proposed health plan which will cover the cost of prescription drugs and all kinds of other things not covered fully by OHIP. The fate of the plan will be decided upon in a referendum the week of October 30.

Donato expressed concern over the University of Ottawa's trouble with its health plan. Ottawa's problem, it turns out, was that it was initially undersold on the premium for the plan and it was faced with a drastic increase in premiums for its second year. The insurance agent at the meeting said that the Ottawa student council had been warned by him that it was being undersold but chose to ignore the advice.

In the second year, he said, the council switched from a Blue Cross plan (similar to the one York is considering) to an inferior but cheaper Seaboard Company plan. The council was assured that the same situation will not happen here.

The referendum will offer students the choice between a plan that includes oral contraceptives for \$52.08 in an annual levy, a plan without oral contraceptives for \$42.72, or no plan at all. Condoms will not be covered by the plan.

The CYSF has planned an all-out advertising blitz to help students make an informed decision, but even if the decision is made to adopt a health plan, students will be able to opt out of the plan and receive a refund if they have other coverage. The council's agent said the opt-out rate is usually around 5 per cent. The highest he could think of was the University of Prince Edward Island which had a 15 per cent opt-out rate.

COUNCIL COMPLETE: Brad Gotkin has been acclaimed as Calumet councillor, and Winters has filled its vacant position as well. The rep's name was unavailable at press time.

T-SHIRT MADNESS: Part of the CYSF's overall goal to raise student morale and spirit at York, it is selling RED and BLUE Bowl t-shirts from its office for \$7 a piece. Not a bad price for a nice t-shirt.

Major increase in CYSF spending

by Shawna Kaufman

There has been a dramatic increase in expenditures by the Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF) this year.

"The [financial] goal for the CYSF is zero," said Vice-president (finance) Franco LoFranco, "so that there is no profit or loss. We are here for the students. For this reason we have concentrated our efforts towards making the students more aware about us."

The CYSF is spending over \$100,000 more this year than last year, said LoFranco.

One of the largest increases in spending is \$10,000 more for clubs. The back page of *Excalibur* is devoted to clubs which, according to LoFranco, provides a vital source for student unity.

The increased funding for programmes in this budget is also aimed at promoting student unity, he said.

The CYSF has also increased spending for conferences and meetings by over \$6,000 because of the need for council members to be well informed, LoFranco said. He added that the CYSF is aiming for a professional way of handling the council this year.

One of the new categories in the budget is the money for the new

Student Centre business proposals. LoFranco has allotted \$28,000 for these proposals, which may include a CYSF-run or joint venture used bookstore in the new Student Centre.

LoFranco said it is not realistic to compare this year's budget with last year's because the council did not spend very much last year. He said that resignations last year by two vice-presidents, Paul Dutka and David Gilinsky, may have contributed to last year's council expenditures. Last year's council ended up with a \$54,000 surplus which is not what the CYSF hopes to achieve. This year is has managed to find more public sponsorship so that the cost of advertising has been reduced, said LoFranco.

He also said that advertising got a boost in the summer since York students received information about the CYSF in the mail before the start of the academic year. This allowed for an advance in the exposure of CYSF.

"We are looking forward to the future of the CYSF and we are discussing the strategies for the next five to ten years so that the future council members can continue where we left off," said LoFranco. "I think that this year's budget is one of the best that the CYSF has followed so far."

staff meeting

Today at 4 pm

Attendance is mandatory for all Excal staff members

Excalibur is now accepting submissions for a creative writing section. We are looking for prose and poetry of up to 500 words. Send or bring submissions to *Excalibur* at 111 Central Square: Attention Arts.

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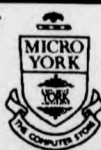
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