

The CYSF Column

New arts regulations are most welcome

By MICHAEL MOURITSEN

PRESIDENT of the YORK STUDENT FEDERATION

(First of two articles) Replacement of the year-of-study with a "course" system, higher minimum grade requirements and more flexibility in the first-year programme are some of the new features in a wide-ranging revision of academic regulations approved by the Faculty of Arts Council last month.

At its December 13 meeting, the council adopted, with little opposition, the report of its committee on academic policy and planning which has been working on the revision since last spring. Most of the reforms are long overdue and answer many of the criticisms that have been levelled by students and faculty against the current arts curriculum and degree requirements.

Presenting the report, associate dean of arts Rod Byers, the committee chairman, stated that the new regulations will be implemented immediately, being applied to first-year students who registered in the faculty of arts last September, and to all subsequent students who register in the faculty. The new system will not be applied to students presently enrolled in second, third or fourth year if it would be to their disadvantage.

The most significant change is the replacement of the year-of-study with a course system, although this change was effectively authorized last spring, when the council established a part-time day programme and allowed full-time students to take between four and six courses a year.

Under the year-of-study system, all students were required to take five courses in each year. No course could be dropped (except for medical reasons), and students were not allowed to accelerate their programme by taking extra courses during the year or in the summer. Students wishing to take part-time studies could only do so in Atkinson College evening courses. Students who failed a year-of-study were required to repeat the entire year, and were not allowed to retain credit for any courses passed in a failed year.

Under the new course system, students will accumulate a specified number of courses towards a degree (15 courses for the "ordinary" degree and 20 for the "honours" degree), without being required to pass a year-of-study as a whole. Although most students probably will continue to take five courses a year over a three or four year period, the course system allows students to either accelerate or slow down their programme if they wish. Students will be able to take as few as one course or as many as six during the fall/winter term, and any course may be dropped before February 15 each year. Students may also take summer courses for credit towards their degree.

Other reforms contained in the report:

- Students will be allowed to postpone the compulsory natural science course and the college tutorial until the second year if they wish. One social science and one humanities course still will be required within the first four courses, but the natural science and the college tutorial may be taken within the first seven courses.

- Standing will be determined by the cumulative average grade in passed courses and the accumulated number of F grades. The report argues that "The fairest system of evaluating students' standing is one which takes continual account of performance as a whole, and which allows good grades to redeem bad." Yearly averages will no longer be calculated, and F grades will be excluded from the cumulative average.

- The distinction between major and elective courses for standing purposes is eliminated, in contrast to existing legislation which requires a higher grade in major subjects than in electives.

Minimum grade requirements, however, will be raised. Honours students will be required to maintain an overall average of C+, instead of C+ in the major subject and C overall. Students in the ordinary programme will need an overall average of C, instead of the presently required average of C in the major with no overall average requirement.

Failure in a year-of-study is replaced by an academic warning system. After receiving one F grade in Honours or two grades of F in the ordinary programme, a student will receive an "academic warning." Students will be suspended (and required to re-apply for admission to the University) if they receive three grades of F, or if their average grade falls below C and is not raised to C+ over the next four courses. A suspended student who is re-admitted and who receives another F or whose grade average falls below C will be debarred.

Supplemental exams and the grade of E are abolished. Under current regulations, a grade of E is a "redeemable failure", in

which case a student may write a supplemental exam to raise the grade to a pass. Under the course system, an entire year's credit will no longer be at stake if a student fails a course.

Central to the new system is the shift in emphasis from regulations on standing to curricular objectives as a control of academic standards. The report argues that "the academic quality of university studies must be assured by curricular requirements (level, sequence and combinations of courses) as well as by regulating grade levels. The primary measure of academic quality is the depth and sophistication in subject matter that students have been required to achieve by the time they graduate, a measure which grades alone do not record."

In line with this shift, the report continues, "a searching review of the amount and type of structure desired in our degree programmes will be necessary to complete the reform of the regulations." Individual teaching departments have been given until the 1975-76 academic year to implement any necessary curriculum changes arising from the report.

The report emphasizes the importance of academic advising, to ensure that students are aware of all the options available to them under the new system. Dean Byers feels that faculty members must realize that student advising is an important part of their responsibilities. In a telling comment, the report states that the course system, unlike the existing regulations, can be understood by faculty and students, and that this should make advising easier.

My comments on the report next week.

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, c/o Excalibur, room 111 central square. They must be double-spaced, typed and limited to 250 words. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for length and grammar. Name and address must be included for legal purposes but the name will be withheld upon request.

Letters To The Editor

Yevtushenko review resides in rocks, or so it would seem

In the last issue of Excalibur, (Dec. 13/73), a trivial review of Yevtushenko's reading was published which overlooked the major points concerning that Russian "poet." Let me now rescue the critical sense of Excalibur from the rock in which it is lodged.

If Shelley's, or countless other poets', vision of the artist's niche in mankind approaches anywhere near the realm of truth, then Yevtushenko is more than a fake; he is a traitor. One need only refer to the prophecies of Blake, the letters of Nietzsche, or Yeats' essays on censorship, to realize that any great artist worthy of the title will not stand mute in the face of tyranny.

"Art for art's sake" is a fine policy in a country where sundry political views can be bandied about as if they were bits of gossip. But we should remember that in the last century men like Godwin, Hunt and Cobbett spent a great portion of their lives fighting for a free press.

Now the men who send Yevtushenko whizzing about the globe on his entertaining tours, are the same men who forty years ago shot certain persons for writing the wrong sort of verse. Today these men are more discreet and allow

poets to merely rot away in asylums or northern work camps. This is all fine for Yevtushenko, since it logically follows that with fewer poets around there is necessarily less competition.

As for that popular poem of Yevtushenko's entitled Babi Yar (one of the most affected pieces to appear in modern or ancient literature), let me say that after Auschwitz it requires a great deal of audacity for a man to say he feels like a Jew, especially when that man is being fed caviar. It is this same audacity that allows Yevtushenko to call Solzhenitsyn "a prisoner of the West", for let it be remembered that Solzhenitsyn has risked his security and that of his family by daring to speak the truth.

KENNETH SHERMAN

Missing materials demonstrate squalid poverty of spirit

For 8 days from November 26th, an exhibition of Indian Arts was presented in the Fine Arts Building, Display Gallery, and adjoining foyer. Besides a number of music, dance, film and slide presentations, there were photographs, small sculptures, textiles, religious votive objects, jewellery and ceramics on display.

All these materials were contributed by, and the personal property of, the two Indian

students who designed and mounted the exhibition as a contribution to interfaculty and interdisciplinary studies in Asian arts.

It seems, therefore, contemptible that three valuable pieces have been lifted from the exhibition by parties unknown.

Two heavily embroidered long-skirts (one maroon, one black) and one heavy silver amulet (neckpiece), laboriously jimmied from the base to which it was fastened, were taken.

The persons who "disappeared" these materials are invited to return them to "The Secretary, Film Department" Fine Arts Faculty, Room 226C Administrative Studies Building. In doing so they can count upon the proposition that VIRTUE IS ITS OWN REWARD.

If they choose not to do so, let them use the goods in full awareness of their own shabby, crummy, squalid poverty of spirit, and not neglect to tell all their friends and loved one where the pieces came from.

JAMES BEVERIDGE
Chairman Film Department

Student won't pay if CYSF wastes money on off-campus activity

CYSF recently squandered \$300 to cover the legal fees and fines incurred by York students

arrested during the Artistic Woodwork strike. As a paying student here at York I question CYSF's right to do so. Since the York students' presence on the strike lines can be accounted for as political off-campus activity, the allocation of the \$300 has set a dangerous precedent.

York University students of various nationalities should now be able to have confrontations outside foreign embassies protesting the social conditions and civil rights of the people in the countries they represent, and if arrested they can look to CYSF for legal and financial support.

Since the majority of York students would be out protesting, and since their issues are also very real and highly emotional, the occurrence of violence and arrests is highly probable and in much greater numbers than realized at the Artistic strike.

The grants of monies to cover legal fees and fines would then be sufficient to bankrupt CYSF's budget.

Before any more money is allocated to Artistic strikers CYSF should re-evaluate its decision. If they do decide to grant additional funds, I for one would refuse to pay that portion of my tuition that is allocated to CYSF next year. I also believe that CYSF has squandered money on various other occasions, the most recent being a \$1,000 raise for the president. If all students were given a choice of voluntary payment of fees to CYSF, I am sure there would be no CYSF.

MARTIN SEGAL
Vanier

On Campus

SPECIAL LECTURES

Thursday 3:00 p.m. — Japan Week (Faculty of Fine Arts) "Tradition and Modernity in Japan", a symposium with Kazu-Tsurumi and Frank Huff, both on the faculty at Jochi University in Tokyo - A, Stedman

Monday 3:00 p.m. — University of Toronto-York University Joint Program in Transportation — "Current Transportation Policy Issues" by Mr. M. Brennan, Director, Policy Development and Mr. A. Conboy, Director, Policy Implementation, from the Policy Planning and Major Projects Branch, Ministry of Transport (Ottawa) - Faculty Lounge (S872), Ross.

4:30 p.m. - Biology Seminar Series — "Evolution in Communities Near Equilibrium" by Dr. R. Levins, University of Chicago - 320, Farquharson

Wednesday 4:30 p.m. — Guest Speaker (Departments of Chemistry and Biology) "Structure and Function of Plant Cell Walls" by Professor P. Albersheim, University of Colorado - 317, Petrie

FILMS, ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday 9:30 a.m. — Japan Week (Faculty of Fine Arts) Philip Kapleau will lead a zazen meditation session (participants are asked to bring two blankets) — 017, Steacie Science Library
4:00 p.m. — 5:10 p.m. — Film (Humanities 281) "Peasant

Women of Ryazan" — extra seating available — I, Curtis
7:00 p.m. — Film (Film Department) "Hymn to a Tired Man" — L, Curtis

7:00 p.m. & 9:30 p.m. — International Film Series (Environmental Studies) "The Killing of Sister George" plus "Sun's Gonna Shine" — admission \$1.00 — I, Curtis

Friday 2:00 p.m. — Film (Film Department) "Kino Pravda" — L, Curtis

7:30 p.m. — Japan Week (Faculty of Fine Arts) Masaki Kobavashi will lecture on The Image of Man and Society in Japan and show his film "Harakiri" — L, Curtis

Saturday 8:00 p.m. — Japan Week (Faculty of Fine Arts) "An Evening of Kabuki Theatre and Dance" with Leonard Pronko and Shozo Stato — Burton Auditorium.

8:30 p.m. - Film (Bethune) "Deliverance" (Burt Reynolds, Jon Voight) admission \$1.25 — L, Curtis

Sunday 8:30 p.m. — Film (Bethune) "Deliverance" — admission \$1.25 — L, Curtis

Tuesday 4:00 p.m. — 6:50 p.m. — Films (Humanities 174A) "Holy Ghost People" and "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" — extra seating available — I, Curtis

7:00 p.m. — Film (Film Department) "Late Spring" (French, 1949; by Ozu) — L, Curtis

Wednesday 7:00 p.m. — Film (Faculty of Education) "The City that Waits to Die" (56 mins., col.) a B.B.C. production on earthquakes along the San Andreas fault — N833, Ross
7:00 p.m. — Film (English Department) "All the King's Men" — L, Curtis

ATHLETICS, RECREATION

Thursday 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. — Hatha Yoga Classes — for beginners and advanced; for location and further information call Gabriele Paddle at 667-3487.

Saturday 2:00 p.m. — Hockey - York vs. University of Ottawa — Ice Arena

Monday 12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. — Conditioning for Men & Women — Tait McKenzie Building

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. — Weight Training for Women — Weight Room, Tait McKenzie

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. — Weight Training for men — Weight Room, Tait McKenzie

CLUBS, MEETINGS

Monday 7:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m. — Hatha Yoga — JCR, McLaughlin

7:30 p.m. — York Bridge Club — Vanier Dining Hall

Events for On Campus should be sent to Dawn Cotton, Department of Information and Publications, N817 Ross. Deadline is Monday, 12 noon.