

Editorial

CYSF must clarify club funding policy in light of YSMAA

CYSF's policy on club funding is at best confused and leaves the door open for serious problems in the future.

The present controversy over whether or not to fund the York Student Movement Against Apartheid (YSMAA) is a perfect illustration of the weakness in the CYSF by-laws governing the financing and operating of student clubs. Article 3.8 of the by-laws stipulates that "political" organizations should not receive funding. What follows in the by-laws is an ambiguous definition of "political."

As the YSMAA rightly points out, almost all clubs that CYSF funds can be construed to be ineligible for funding because they are "attempting to control affairs of state." The YSMAA just happens to be more overt about its political intentions.

Since the international community has strongly condemned South Africa's apartheid system, it is likely that CYSF will make an exception on humanitarian grounds and provide funding for the YSMAA. With precedents like the United Way's recent decision to support an anti-apartheid festival next May, not supporting the YSMAA would be controversial and politically unwise for CYSF.

But the ambiguity in the CYSF constitution surrounding the definition of "political," which CYSF President Reya Ali terms an "escape clause," still exists and remains flexible enough to be taken advantage of by some politically biased council in the future.

Ali should take a harder look at this "escape clause." If it is not more carefully defined now, the definition and funding of "humanitarian" causes will be left to the whim of Council.

Instead of making exceptions to the rule, why not set down a strict policy before the already cloudy definition of what constitutes a "political" group becomes even more confused. If he doesn't, Ali will be setting a dangerous precedent.



YORK'S ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB, EXERCISE FACTION, COULD WELL BE CONSIDERED POLITICAL, FOR REASONS TOO OBVIOUS TO LIST.

excalibur

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Letters

Liebman sets the record straight

Editor:

I would like to make a factual correction in regards to last week's *Excalibur*.

Mr. Kwinter *did not offer to speak* to President Harry Arthurs. When I spoke to Mr. Kwinter on the telephone, he asked me if I'd talked to the President, and I told him, I had not. He then suggested that he would *phone to set up the appointment for me*.

Shortly afterwards, Dorothy Moore phoned me, and told me that the President was out of the country, but she would try and see what she could do.

Mr. Kwinter later called back to me to ask me if I'd heard from the President's Office, and I told him "yes" and thanked him.

Please print this correction in the coming issue of *Excalibur*, Thursday, November 28, 1985.

Thank you for the time and effort that you have put into this article.

Jean Liebman

York must fight apartheid: YSMAA

Editor:

The members of YSMAA want to register their appreciation to *Excalibur* for bringing to the entire York University community the activities and objectives of a group like YSMAA. The presence of a

functioning YSMAA may be a precedent in the history of students' organizations. This is therefore a wholesome precedent; a precedent that indicates York student's responsiveness to and involvement in the historical struggles against inhumanity and social injustice of all kinds—especially racism that is institutionalized as a civil religion of oppression and extermination by the minority regime in South Africa.

It is a precedent not only at York University, because all over the world students are standing up and saying NO to apartheid. It is not new in the University of Toronto for students struggling against apartheid; it is not a precedent at McGill University in Montreal where the anti-apartheid group has just won a major victory in convincing the University to divest 45 million dollars from the racist economy of South Africa. And why must York University—the third largest university in Canada—be left out in the just fight against fascism and present-day Nazism?

It is disturbing that CYSF should have any doubts or reservations whatsoever about a group like YSMAA, given its clear mandate and aims. It is disturbing that CYSF, a students' council, delegated by the collective mandate of all York students, should turn around and take a unilateral stance to frustrate a group like YSMAA. It is very disturbing for our own student representatives to say what we are doing is "political."

According to CYSF, political is defined as to organize or act as individuals, par-

ties, or interests that "seek to control appointment or action of those who manage affairs of state." YSMAA is only asking that CYSF, on behalf of York students, allocate funds to YSMAA to enable us to set up literature tables at Central Square, raise consciousness of us all through workshops, public lectures, symposia and meaningful support work so that defenceless children will be more likely be killed by South African bullets.

CYSF has our votes, let them not now ruin us!

Esiri Dafiewhere
 Secretary, YSMAA

Canadian, eh?

Editor:

Loved your article on "The Lost City of York." I just have one question about the FAX SHEET—what are lbs, ft², gallons, yds³, miles and tons? I've never seen any of those terms in my metric measures textbooks! Canadian, eh?

—Ellen Leibman

A Yeomen effort

Editor:

On behalf of the Yeomen Football Team please accept my thanks for your coverage and support his past season. Our Yeomen gave it the best they had at all times and it's nice to know that you recognized and encouraged their efforts.

—Frank Cosentino