



Present head of CYSF Mike Fletcher.

This year CYSF seems to belittle attention to small details such as examining the constitution. Fletcher realized after finally reading the constitution that only 50 percent of the colleges have to give their approval before the budget can be passed. Previously two-thirds of the colleges had to approve the budget.

Fletcher's Council began this year with one hand tied behind its back because of the vacancies left by members of the council. Some of these vacancies have yet to be filled.

They were further handicapped by the lack of a secretary and business manager. This put Mike Fletcher in the position of taking on the responsibilities of these two positions over the summer. This could have been a reason for his failure to report on the summer activities of CYSF.

Funds embezzled

At the first meeting, Fletcher requested the resignation of Robin Macrae whose summer contribution as financial commissioner was confined to embezzlement of council funds and phone calls to Bermuda at CYSF's expense. One other member was also asked to resign for reasons of inactivity. (According to Fletcher), Macrae was absent and the other refused.

The next resignation councillors demanded was that of Fletcher himself. As he had failed his year, he was not a full-time college member, and thus not legally eligible to be president. Fletcher fulfilled the irregularity by becoming an honorary member of McLaughlin College.

The chaos of Orientation week provided a foreboding breeding ground for the continuing lack of coordination in cultural activities.

Fletcher lost no time in declaring, at the year's beginning, that he would press for student parity on senate and all committees — hardly a novel policy for a student council. The key however would be effective action.....

But action was taken on other issues. In response to a pitch from Texpack strike sympathizers, Fletcher took the lead in successfully urging council to vote the workers a cash donation of \$250 accompanied by a statement of support. For this, CYSF received the expected big media publicity and Fletcher pronounced the move a demonstration of the CYSF's involvement

in the real life of the outside community.

A smouldering dispute between former social affairs commissioner Jeff Otis and the council finally culminated in the form of his resignation. Otis said he resigned for "personal reasons". This left yet another vacancy on council and increased the pressures to hold by-elections. After a rather undynamic publicity campaign, when the closing date for nominations came, there were not even enough candidates to fill the positions by acclamation. Fletcher was forced to recommend the appointment of interim reps until such time as sufficient interest arose. The council had already failed on at least one occasion to muster a quorum of 11 (out of 22) members for a meeting.

Every council has faced this problem of apathy and every council has resolved to stem the fatal tide. This year's effort at out reach has been the establishment of a coffee shop in the CYSF offices (concealed deep in North Ross). The efforts at luring students with donuts, coffee and pop; a free phone and a hackney assortment of midway games are well intentioned but the response is understandably insignificant.

Less evidently, work is under way on the planning of the university centre building, but such committee toil has little immediate impact on the student at large.

Budget effort

Most of the council's energies channelled themselves into the manoeuvrings required to get their budget passed. It is perhaps a positive sign that when the colleges began to throw road blocks in front of the budget, CYSF reacted on a grander scale than usual.

If the problem was domination by college councils then the solution was obviously independence. So, Fletcher and his councillors set to work to rewrite and reform the constitution in the hopes that not only then would they be able to pass the budget, but that CYSF might effectively face the rest of their manifold problems.

The new constitution would strengthen CYSF's political and financial position in the university and give student council autonomy on its own budget. In other words CYSF would no longer have to present the budget to the colleges for approval, the budget could now be passed within the confines of CYSF. Maybe then the bickering that has been an integral part of college and federation relations would cease.

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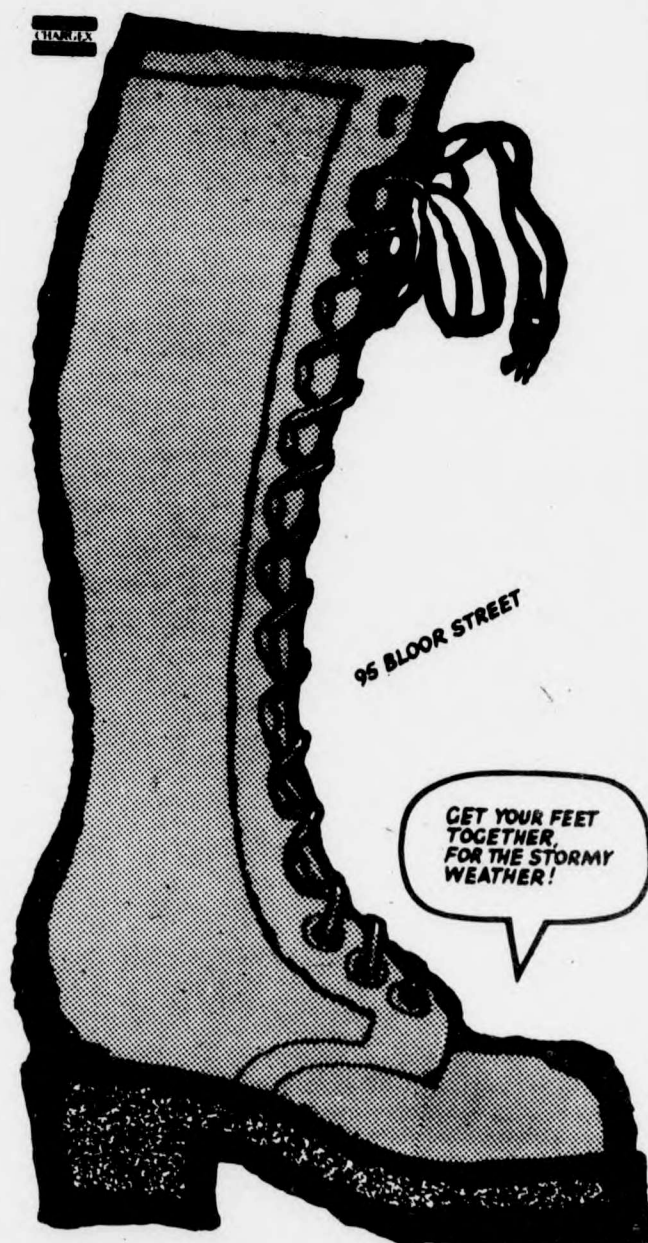
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