

What is the policy towards clubs?

By MICHAEL MOURITSEN
President of the York Student Federation

In his column last week, Michael Lawrence complains about the way in which student clubs and associations are financed by the Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF). Since anyone reading his column was unable to discover exactly what is the "dangerous" and "flippant" policy of the council towards clubs, it would be useful to review the funding criteria which the council has adopted, and then to consider Mr. Lawrence's criticisms.

Any student group applying for a grant must file with the council a copy of its constitution and/or a statement of its aims and objectives, a list containing the names and addresses of its officers, a detailed budget, and an indication of the size of its membership. The organization must submit detailed budget proposals and information indicating the number of York University students to be serviced by its activities in general and the proposed projects in particular.

The demand for the service and the availability of alternative funding is taken into consideration, and membership in any organization receiving a grant must be open to any member of the York Student Federation. Money is allocated only for specific proposals and money is released to a club only upon the presentation of a receipt or an invoice.

The following specific expenses are not funded by CYSF: travel or accommodation expenses for club members, social expenses (such as food, drink or entertainment of club members), honoraria or remuneration of club members, and the purchase or maintenance of equipment.

No off-campus event, service or activity will be subsidized by grant of the council, and "organizations which profess a distinct, exclusive political or theological ideology" will receive no money.

It is this last item which seems to most annoy Mr. Lawrence who wonders "why council feels it so necessary to protect the student body from any political group." He argues that "council, through grant policies it has establish-

ed, puts itself in the dangerous position of encouraging or discouraging any group on campus". He also feels that the council's decision to fund the Black People's Movement contradicts this criterion.

The council is not in a position to "protect" students from political (or other) groups, and I am not aware that any councillor wants to start. By not funding an organization, the council does not stop it. An organization is able to seek funds elsewhere, or it might survive through the support of its members, or it might thrive without any financial support at all.

Mr. Lawrence is unable to distinguish between groups which "profess a distinct, exclusive political or theological ideology" (and in which a member must subscribe to that ideology) and groups which are concerned, either primarily or among other things, with "politics" (and in which members discuss or debate political issues). The Black People's Movement falls into the latter category, and membership is open to any member of the York Student Federation.

The council's criterion on ideological groups is based on the argument that public student money should not be spent on "exclusive" groups or projects. The council does, however, make available to all clubs (including political and religious ones) free duplicating to a maximum value of \$15. This grant is justified on the grounds that it is used primarily for producing posters or advertising, which is widely distributed. The events advertised are open to everyone, and the council is, in effect, subsidizing an information service for students.

However, Mr. Lawrence writes that the "real complaint" is "the fact that the BPM, the Chinese Students' Association, the Lithuanian Club, as well as every other organization receiving funding, were forced to justify their programmes to council."

The only specific programmes which a club is asked to justify are those for which a grant is requested. Is it too much to ask an organization to justify its request, or is every organization which applies to the council entitled to a

grant simply because it applies?

Is this how Mr. Lawrence would have the council operate? Since he suggests no alternative funding procedure, we do not know.

Mr. Lawrence states that CYSF has budgeted only \$2500 to be divided among more than 20 clubs. (He neglects to mention that a separate \$1800 was budgeted to be divided among the faculty and departmental student associations.) But, so what? Every campus group is not entitled to a CYSF grant just because it is a campus group, nor is every club entitled to as much as it requests.

Of \$4600 allocated for clubs and departmental student societies last year (an amount only \$300 higher than this year's allocation), \$1200 remained unspent by these organizations at the end of the year. That was the basis for arriving at the \$2500 and \$1800 allocations in this year's budget.

One should note, too, that student clubs and departmental student societies are not the only campus groups financed by CYSF. Excalibur, Radio York, the Harbinger student clinic, and the childcare centre are others. Money has also been budgeted for course-evaluation, Winter Carnival, and various services (described in earlier columns) which are offered from the council office.

Michael Lawrence should heed his own advice when he argues that "the time has come to stop making piecemeal criticisms" of CYSF. He also must learn to be specific in his criticism and to explain exactly what he means. Criticism entails a responsibility to demonstrate clearly how and why something is wrong.

For example, what exactly is the "nonsense" that must come to an end? How does the council's funding policy show "disdain" for campus groups? How does the CYSF "fizzle away" \$100,000? What is council's "flippant attitude to valuable community groups?" Exactly who was "highly dissatisfied?"

Finally, what is the Lithuanian club? I've never heard of it, and it certainly has not applied for, or received, CYSF funds.

Letters To The Editor

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.

Are Excalibur offices washroom in disguise or vice-versa?

I would like to thank Rosemary McCracken for writing such an honest and down-to-earth article. Washrooms are one subject rarely touched upon and certainly do provide enough frustration in our lives to be mentioned a little more often.

One question I would like to ask about the York washrooms is: why are they camouflaged? Were the designers sadistic or dim-witted? I find that the washrooms blend in with the decor of all the other doors and I know some other students who are in agreement. Even the door to the Excalibur staff room looks like a washroom.

Well, I'm too embarrassed to say anything else because I lack the guts of Rosemary.

ELIJAH SHERMAN

A round of applause for student governor on library success

Dear Sirs:

I am pleased to be able to report that after a brief meeting with Mr. Small, Vice-President (Administration), Mr. Newman, Assistant-Director of Libraries, Mr. Mouritsen, President, C.Y.S.F. and myself, we seem to have come to a partial solution to the problem of closed libraries over the Christmas period.

As you know, I was concerned that York do not deny access to students wishing to use the library over this period. The original plan was to remain open with full service on only the 27th and 28th. Our hope was that Mr. Newman would recognize that the need was perhaps greater than he anticipated, and agree to provide full service on at least two and possibly more additional days. Although we were unable to achieve this, we did reach what, in view of the record of experience in past years, would see to be a reasonable compromise.

The library will be open, Reserve Section only, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday the 22nd and 29th of Dec. for student use. This change affects only the Scott Library; and all others remain unchanged.

These changes were made and agreed to by Mr. Newman, tentative to his finding staff to work those hours, on the basis of complaints which Mike Mouritsen and myself had received; it is our hope that maximum use will be made of the facility over this period by those students who indicated a desire for access. This, of course, is in addition to the full service announced for the 27th and 28th.

To those members of the library staff who volunteered to put in the extra hours of what otherwise would have been a holiday period, a hearty thank you. Whether anyone else tells you this or not, we all recognize the effort and appreciate it.

Thanks also to those councils who gave their support to this action by passing resolutions urging the President to reconsider.

BOB COLSON
Student Representative
York University Board of Governors.

A cry from the heart asking all of us here to act with charity

This letter is one I believe you will understand—that is, not the language, but the cry from the heart, for which there is no language. Although what I'm saying isn't new, I hope you'll agree that it's really something that needs saying over and over so that we remember it when we're tempted to calumniate in hurting someone.

Surely the greatest "sin" is not to be a capitalist or a religious fanatic or whatever, but rather to use any power we have—be it financial, verbal or physical—to hurt another human being. I guess this is kind of a "meditation" letter, and I trust that, if it's printed, it may help lighten the burden of even one potential victim.

I guess I haven't hit on anything new when I say that each one of us at York is hoping to enable the world to get along a little better than it has been doing. Some believe this can be achieved through presenting "The Facts", and often find to their amazement that facts, like statistics, can be manipulated to suit the purpose of the moment. Some, completely discouraged with this, turn to Love to conquer all, only to find they can't even summon up a liking for their mother-in-law. Yet we retain our high ideal of helping people.

"The point I wish to make is that we so often fall short of this ideal as individuals. We see injustices, and indeed are the cause of some, and never try to lift a finger. How can we brand the

over-30s crowd as hypocrites when we make fun of someone who walks differently (as I've seen twice recently in the tunnel), or ridicule Christians who are honest enough to express their heartfelt convictions (cf. Brian Rudd article, 8-11-73 Excalibur)?

I would merely suggest that, before taking on the whole world and tearing it down because of its wrongs in order to replace it with one in our own image, we look at what our image is. Education here and elsewhere should perhaps not merely look outward from those it teaches, but also inward at them in order to help themselves. For no matter how educated we are, unless we can stop dropping our private little atom bombs on the people around us, we are doomed to carry on the same sort of existence as those who went before us.

To paraphrase St. Paul: "Though I speak with the tongues of radicals and professors, and have not charity... I am nothing." (1Cor 13:1,2).

LYNNE REEVES
Sociology III, Vanier

For some reason this letter sounds rather vaguely familiar

Through a long and difficult struggle the Vietnamese will ultimately achieve their goal of political independence from U.S. power and the elimination of Washington's Saigon puppet.

Since last Jan. the Provisional Revolutionary Government has greatly extended its political administration and influence in the South.

Whereas, and because of the fact that as a result of the long years of war much of the traditional class structure of South Vietnam has broken down, the Thieu regime is increasingly only able to control the populace outside of its urban enclaves by using its military and police forces in a demonstration of its willingness to murder and terrorize in order to preserve itself. A capability which of course is still being entirely paid for and instructed in its every detail by the Nixon Administration.

While the PRG controls some of the potentially most productive agricultural, rich plantation and mineral laden areas of South Vietnam, vast capital outlays and a good deal of time will be required for successful reconstruction efforts in these areas. Millions of bomb craters and the destruction of the irrigation systems have resulted in the seepage of salt water into these

lands, the effects of which will have to be remedied before the land can again begin to provide the staples of life and the means of livelihood for its inhabitants.

Also, funds for medical equipment, some of which can be purchased only in the West with hard currencies, and every imaginable material human necessity are desperately needed by the Vietnamese living in the PRG zones to protect themselves against constant U.S. — Saigon encroachment, and generally to provide for the security and continued competitive viability of the resistance struggle.

The best and fastest way to help in this respect is to send contributions directly to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam. Checks should be made payable to: Acct. No. 478 408, Banque Commerciale pour l'Europe du Nord, 79 Boulevard Haussmann, Paris 8e, France.

STAN VITTOZ
Teaching Assistant

York University History Dept.
Ed. Note: This letter is being re-run from last week because of typographical errors that distorted its content.

International language is too little known but simple to learn

People are asking where to obtain information about the international language Esperanto. As the promoting organization is a nonprofit one, with small funds, would you please indicate that many public libraries have books; that there are contacts in 3,000 places throughout the world and 72 places in Canada; and that particular addresses may be found in telephone books or obtained from the national office, Esperanto, Bpx 174, Roxboro, Quebec.

The next international Esperanto Congress will be in Hamburg, Germany, opening on July 27, 1974, with 2,000 expected. Any Canadians who would like to go should send now for enrolment forms. No classes or teachers are necessary to write and speak Esperanto—some people compose letters in it after a few days, as it has no irregular verbs, exceptions or idioms, and is phonetic. It is the perfect language for science and for international affairs and it is too little known in Canada.

LORÉAN ÔHUIGINN
Esperanto Information Section
Ottawa