

Editorial

Who foots bill for OFS/CYSF ineffectiveness?

Next week the Council of York Student Federation (CYSF) may opt out of membership in the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS).

The OFS represents close to 200,000 college and university students province wide and lobbies the government on their behalf, on issues such as accessibility, tuition increases and student aid.

In the past few years relations between CYSF and OFS have been strained. For example, last March the OFS organized a rally at Queen's Park to protest the Bovey Commission's recommendations. Of the 1000 students from across Ontario who took part, only one person showed up to represent York. CYSF blamed OFS for organizing the rally when CYSF elections were coming up while OFS accused CYSF of just being uncooperative. For whatever reason, the bottom line is what many members of CYSF's executive are saying—that York students, who are paying \$30,000 a year for their membership in OFS, are not getting their money's worth.

But a great deal of the problem is rooted in the CYSF, which is supposed to be York's central government, but which only represents 46% of York's students. Of the 13 student governments on campus only eight are members of CYSF. If York students can't have a unified voice on campus it is ridiculous to hope that they can be effectively represented by a provincial organization.

CYSF President Reya Ali is aware of the problems with CYSF and has drafted a proposal that he hopes can make it the strong central government it should be. To help make the CYSF work Ali also needs to hire a full time research assistant. This is necessary in order to update and maintain the CYSF library of documents and files which are used to prepare briefs outlining York students' concerns to organizations such as OFS and to the government.

Ali and most of his executive see the \$30,000 of the budget which goes to the OFS as money which can be



used to hire a research assistant. Their argument against OFS is a good one—OFS may not be giving York its money's worth. To start with an OFS field worker is only on campus three days a month. When the field worker came in August she had only a sketchy idea about how the CYSF works and was vague about the problem of underfunding at York, which is one of the most urgent issues facing this institution. For OFS to be effective at York, it has to learn what York's endemic needs are.

In the meantime, Reya Ali has two thorns in his side. Firstly, York students decided to join OFS in a

referendum. The organization is designed so that membership is initiated or cancelled in a referendum. Afraid of the well seasoned OFS referendum team, and reassured by his lawyer, Ali wants to pull CYSF out of OFS without a referendum, claiming that he has every right not to consult students about this because he was elected to represent them. This is the second point—retaining membership in OFS, or at least having a referendum to decide the issue, were key parts of the election platform on which Ali was voted in.

Don't we at least deserve an explanation?

excalibur

Editor Elliott Shiff
Managing Editor David Byrnes
News Editor Laura Lush
Acting Arts Editors Rebecca Cann, Alex Patterson
Sports Editor Edo Van Belkom
Acting Feature Editor Paul O'Donnell
Photography Editor Roberta Di Maio
Acting Art Director R.D. Macpherson
Photographers Gary Blakeley, Ted Christensen, Alex Foord
Windsor Correspondent Graham Thompson
Staff Gary Barwin, Mel Broitman, Dave Bundas, Rebecca Cann, Kevin Connolly, Nicole Desjardins, Janice Goldberg, Jim Hoggett, Adrian Iwachiw, Jacqueline Ann Kennedy, Matilda Kentridge, Mike Kohn, Nick Lapicciarella, Lorne Manly, Harry Margel, Paulette Peirol, Manoj Prajapat, Jason Sherman, Susan Sperling, Lerrick Starr, Henry Sum, Gary Symons, Gisele Winton, Martin Zarnett

Advertising Manager Merle Menzies
Advertising Assistant Patty Milton-Feasby
Typesetting Stuart Ross
Office Assistant Carol Gwosdy
Circulation Manager Paul O'Donnell
Board of Publications Chairperson Greg Gaudet

EDITORIAL: 667-3201
 ADVERTISING: 667-3800
 TYPESETTING: 667-3201

Winner of OCNA Award for General Excellence in Advertising 1984

Winner of OCNA Award for General Excellence in University/College newspapers 1984

Special OCNA Awards for Editorial, News & Features, and Advertising 1984



Letters

Fine Arts student cries foul over registration methods

Editor:

I am a second-year Fine Arts student and I would like to recognize those other second-year students who in the end paid \$232.00 each for one or more courses which they really did not want or need.

The procedure was supposed to be relatively simple. Arts students choose their courses in the spring and Fine Arts students do the same in the fall. Let me tell you something.

At 10:30 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 5 I entered the Fine Arts building to register my courses. I did expect there to be a long line and I did expect there to be some closed courses.

I did not expect there to be bulletins upon bulletins of closed courses. I did not expect in panic and frustration to totally reconstruct my schedule randomly grabbing courses which were closing faster than I could change my schedule. I did

not expect to do this revising four times. I did not expect to be in that line-up eight coffees and five and a quarter hours later. And I did not expect to leave, finally, with what looked like someone else's schedule, in tears and wondering why I was in school at all.

I think that the saddest thing I saw was one girl get all the way to the very front, turn around with her sheet in front of her which had five bold black lines drawn through it. She sobbed openly in front of hundreds of other students.

The general consensus among the numbers of students that I talked to was that we had been done wrong.

The Fine Arts students were finished even before they started because they were the last to register and it would have been easier to post open courses rather than closed courses.

I understand that a University of this size has to administer to the masses. But I think that as an institute it sometimes neglects with needs which are as important as the person's beside him.

When students cannot fulfill degree requirements and pay (dearly, I might add) to sit discontentedly in a lecture on

Studies in Canadian Folklore when what they really needed was a dance or English course—something somewhere is not working. My intent in writing this is just to congratulate those students who remained and did not throw away what had not already been taken away. Remember that you have a future also, right?

—Candice V. Sheldon

Boycott the calendar readers urge

Editor:

After arriving at York this first week of classes, we were confronted with an adolescent publication of "Women at York 1985-86 Calendar."

In 1985, when women's roles are still being questioned in society, this calendar reinforces the traditional view of women as objects.

University should be a place where issues such as sexism should be raised and discussed, *not* reinforced. We encourage all York students to boycott the calendar!

—Dominic Barber, Joseph Anelin