

Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity
—Lord Acton

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CYSF and councils: is there room for both?

While most students are burying their heads into text books or burning the midnight oil over an essay that is already a week in arrears, the battle lines are being drawn.

The combatants—CYSF and the college councils (Vanier, Winters, McLaughlin and Founders).

In the past few weeks these councils have openly discussed and are still courting the possibility of secession from the CYSF. The reasons are not all that clear, but at the heart of the matter is a feeling among these councils that the ULC, hence the CYSF, would rather see the college councils disappear altogether.

CYSF president Dale Ritch is a strong believer in a centralized government for York students, and his reasoning is sound.

In what sense has York University a college system? In no sense. A vast majority of students at York commute daily and have no closer ties with their college than with their distant cousin. Indeed if the university were sincere in wanting to establish a college system, the Ross building, which is the central administrative complex for the entire university, would not have been built.

The university administration propagates the myth of a college system, because by remaining in a structural and philosophical limbo, they hope that whatever may happen, it will still be possible to opt for the college concept or for a single-university concept.

Student governments, much like the university, find themselves in a similar limbo. While it is true that there exists a central student government, it is rather weak and ineffectual, having a meagre \$10 per student allotment per annum. College councils, while receiving more money (\$17 per student) are weaker still, because of their size.

Were the central student government to receive the entire allotment, effectively tripling its annual budget, many possibilities would arise, which before, were mere pipe dreams.

Such goodies as a student union building, a bi- or even tri-weekly paper, an FM-licensed radio station, bigger entertainment attractions, a more professionally run council, and much, much more, would become possible.

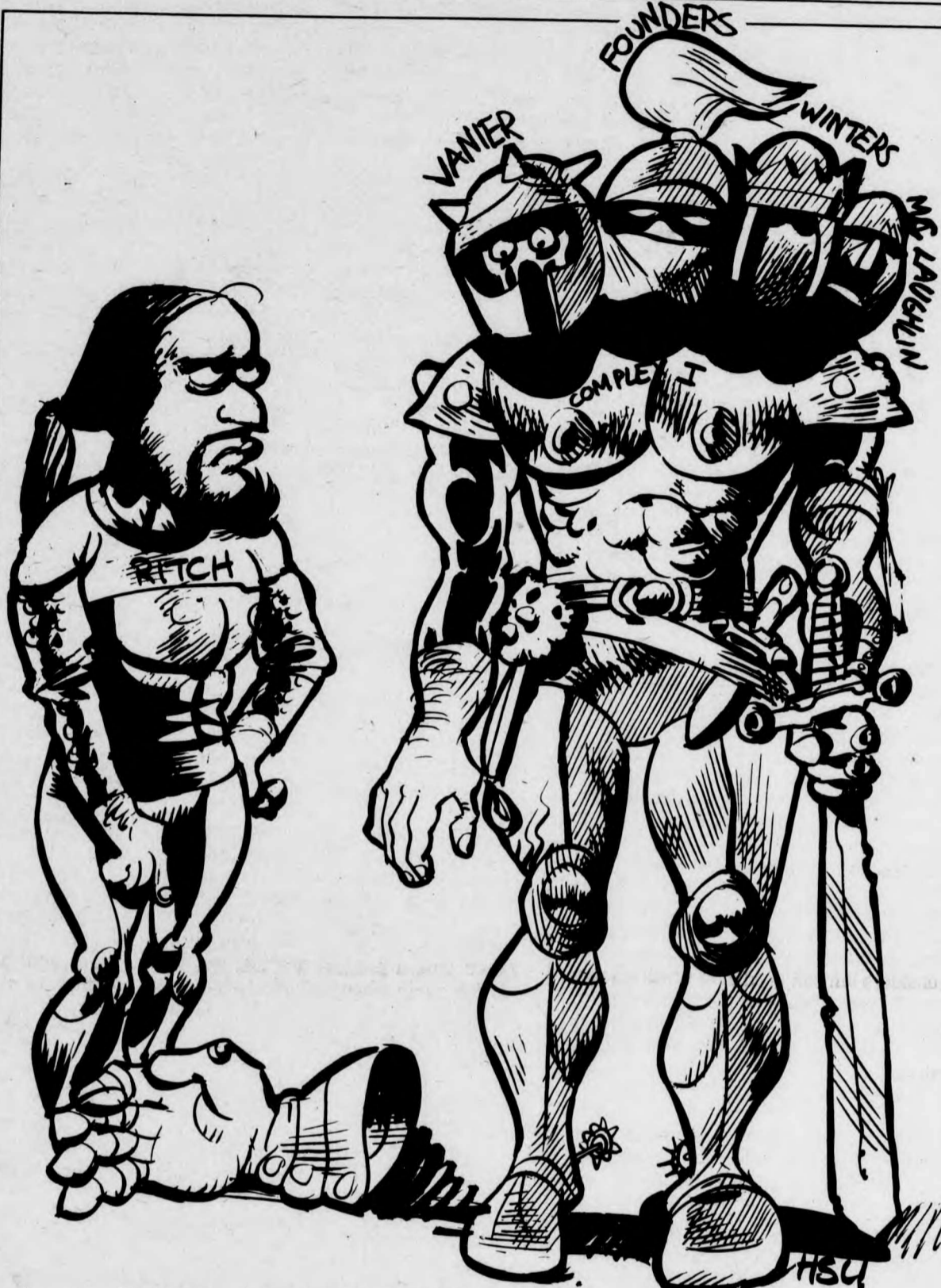
But is it worth it? CYSF has been around long enough to have built up some public support, yet, last year, during one of the most bitter and hotly contested presidential elections in years, only 1,155 students cast votes. A big yawn, was the verdict of most students at York.

The college councils, on the other, although far from having a large mandate, would pool more than the roughly 1,100 votes the CYSF gets every spring. Because their organization is closer to the students, in size and structure, they can claim to be more responsive to the needs of their constituents.

Would not a central council made up of representatives from the college councils, not be able to incorporate the advantages of both systems?

These are important considerations which should not be lightly breezed over in one editorial but should be the basis of an ongoing discussion between CYSF, the college councils, the administration and the students.

Excalibur plans to be a forum for such a discussion; one which hopefully will find a solution by the time the next CYSF elections roll around.



"The colleges have dropped the gauntlet, and I'm prepared to fight" — Ritch



Why are these people laughing?

Come in and see

staff meeting today 2 p.m.

room 111

Central Square



YORK YOU, BUDDY

By ESMONDE McINNES

Word has leaked out from Ottawa that a professor Noah of York's department of carpentry has been awarded a \$150,000 grant to construct an ark on campus. The project, for which students will be hired at the rate of \$2 a day ("nostalgia for the old days," explained Noah, a die-hard advocate of child labour), will take two months to complete. On January 24, the ark will be rolled up Bayview Avenue in a re-enactment of the historic voyage of first York president Murray G. Mouse from Glendon to York.

In related news, the Board of Gullivers released a statement concerning the six-year delay in the construction of the chapel. "It had to be approved by God," new chairman Bertrand Greenstamp announced. "And sound doesn't travel very fast, you know." God was unavailable for comment.

President Last Ditch of the Council of York Students and Turkeys (CYST) has released this year's \$96,000 budget. Items include a \$4,000 comic book entitled *You've Been Taken*, and \$3,600 in membership dues to the Ontario Infestation of Students, an organization created to hire professional students and keep them off the streets. The National Union of Students, a coast-to-coast

system designed to collect membership dues, will milk the CYST for a couple of thousand as well.

"Moo," said Ditch in an off-the-cud interview. Ditch, the well-known ex-senator, will receive \$5,000 and change for leading the student council. "Which proves," he said, "that you don't need a university education to succeed in this world."

Football coach Knobby Waterski has been declared a national monument. He will be installed next week in a dark corner of the Tait McKenzie gym, above a plaque reading, "We made a few mistakes this year, but next year we should win the cup." York's Redneck-and-White Society has agreed to supply a continuous tape of canned laughter.

Shattered by news that the Metro Toronto Parks and Recreation committee voted against a proposed \$4 million stadium for York, Director of Development Marvel Accrue has decided to pave the Stong Lake and use it as a roller-skating arena. "Kids in Downsview love roller-skating," he said. "They'll pay thousands of dollars to use it. And we can start saving up for our stadium." He estimated the stadium should be built by 2054, in time for the 2056 Olympics.

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