

Stong was correct to remain in CYSF

By MICHAEL MOURITSEN

President of The York Student Federation
The committee established by Stong College to study that college's membership in the York Student Federation presented its report to the Stong General Meeting last week, and effectively recommended that the college remain a member of the Federation (CYSF). All six members of the committee recognized the necessity for a central student government of which Stong has a responsibility to be an active member.

The committee consisted of the three Stong representatives to CYSF, John Koornstra, William Osmars and John Theobald, Stong communications chairman Dominic Didiano, Bill Bates, editor of the college newspaper Walrus, and Mary Churchill, who acted as committee chairman. Bates, Didiano, Koornstra and Osmars have been among the noisiest critics of the Federation recently, and were the original backers of the study of Stong's membership in CYSF.

This study stems from a series of curious incidents and prompts one to ask "What was all the fuss about?"

An October 11 Excalibur story headlined "Stong threatens to leave CYSF over favouritism" revealed that Bates and Didiano were threatening withdrawal, but that the college's General Meeting had not even considered the question. Stong's grievances, according to Didiano, were:

"1. All activities of CYSF seem to be centred around complex one and are done for complex one and CYSF;

"2. Complex two (Stong and Bethune, which is not a CYSF member) is badly represented in that we have only three representatives on council as opposed to twelve for complex one (McLaughlin, Winters, Vanier and Founders);

"3. Stong's operating expenses make up a total of 5 per cent of the college budget while CYSF uses 50 per cent of its budget for administrative expenses."

(As I explained in an earlier column, the council's "administrative" expenses represent about one-third of this year's budget.)

In their joint campaign for election to CYSF in the Oct. 11 by-election, Koornstra and Osmars complained that Stong College had been "screwed" by CYSF and that "CYSF is not acceptable in its present form." They neglected to elaborate except to say that the council should be restructured "to give Stong and other colleges more direct control in decision-making, as well as more direct benefits."

Bates, Didiano, Koornstra and Osmars then drafted a proposal to be presented to the Stong General Meeting Oct. 24.

Although Didiano claimed he wanted to conduct an objective study of CYSF, the proposal read: "It is pointless for we at Stong to justify any position with respect to the CYSF. Instead, let us invite CYSF to justify our membership in that body at an open referendum of Stong students. Let the onus be on CYSF to convince the general student membership of Stong College of the benefits that we at Stong have received and

will continue to receive by our continued participation in CYSF. Following this and a general discussion of the question, let us hold a referendum on the question of membership."

This proposal was scuttled by the General Meeting, which established a committee to study the membership question and report back.

When the committee's report was presented last week, the long-awaited specific criticisms of the student federation were finally made, and they did not amount to much. The committee stated that Radio York, Excalibur, the Harbinger student clinic, and the Daycare Centre were inadequately funded, that a large part of CYSF's budget is absorbed in operating costs, that few social events are carried out, seldom in college complex two; that CYSF is "too closely affiliated" with the Green Bush Inn "to fairly serve the needs of students" and that the amount budgeted for course evaluation is too low.

As I pointed out to the meeting, these are issues on which we must agree that we can disagree. Someone must make decisions on the level of financing of student organizations and programmes, and the Council of the York Student Federation has been given that authority.

Decisions are made by majority vote, and obviously the majority of the council did not consider the funds voted to Excalibur, Radio York, Harbinger, or any other organization, to be "inadequate".

Everyone is not going to be satisfied with the decisions of the Council, but one doesn't threaten to withdraw every time a decision is taken with which one disagrees, particularly if one accepts the principle of central student government (which the Stong report does).

The only fundamental criticism raised by the Stong committee's report was directed at the withdrawal clause in the CYSF constitution. Under that clause, a constituency may only withdraw from the federation in agreement with CYSF (failing which, the university president shall arbitrate). The Stong committee recommended an amendment which would allow the per capita operating grant which the federation receives on behalf of a constituency's student members to be given to a withdrawn constituency.

Objections were also raised at the General Meeting to the fact that CYSF agreement was necessary before a constituency could withdraw.

Surely, the need for a tough withdrawal clause has been demonstrated by this latest fiasco: to discourage frivolous threats of secession such as that of Didiano and friends. Otherwise, constituencies could be withdrawing and rejoining every week. This entire "study" was unnecessary and could have been avoided if certain people had stopped to think before firing off a press release.

A constituency of the York Student Federation not only has a responsibility to its own student members. It has an equal responsibility to the other constituencies and to the university as a whole. I will continue this discussion next week.

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.

Fire Judith Steed as research assistant says YUSA member

I am amazed at some of the statements attributed to Judith Steed in your front page article of Nov. 8 about Job Evaluation.

Any staff member who has participated in the Job Evaluation Programme on campus (most have by now) knows that the evaluation of his or her job is based on a very detailed description of duties provided by the individual on a job description form, plus a sheet of comments by the immediate supervisor, plus in most cases a personal interview between the staff member and someone from Personnel Services. In the four years I have been at the university there has been no "rigid classification system imposed from above" to my knowledge.

As a fee-paying member of YUSA I object strongly to our having a research assistant who either does not do her homework or deliberately misrepresents the facts. By copy of this letter I suggest to the president of the staff association that we find a more reliable research person.

Incidentally I was intrigued to see that we have an accounting secretary who has been with us for 15 years, in light of the fact that York was only founded 13 years ago.

ELLIE McTAGGART
Staff Member
Department of Physical Plant

Giant American flag hanging in window is affront to dignity

Every morning on my way to York, I see a giant American flag hung in the window of the north tower of the Bethune residence. This is clearly visible from the approach leading up from Athabasca Blvd.

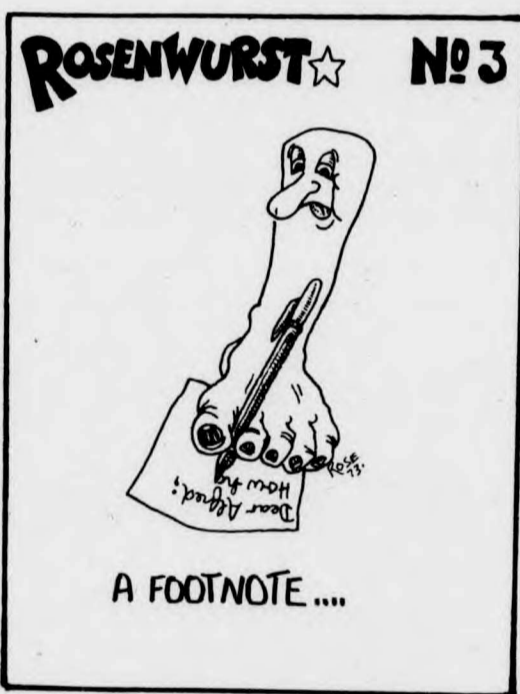
York, and Canada in general, are dependent on foreign expertise which Canada cannot supply alone. York U. departments of political science, mathematics, sociology, psychology and others are predominantly staffed by Americans — who are as welcome here as anyone else — as long as they leave their patriotism at the border.

In Canada's historical context the display of an American flag (which is as meaningful of "Americanism" to Americans as the swastika was to the Nazi's and "Nazi-ism") anywhere on Canada's soil is an affront to our national digni-

ty and a slap in the face to Canadian self expression.

The flag must be a fire hazard inasmuch as the dormitory drapes are fire treated and should be stored away until the owner leaves the residence or until it is needed at the next anti-American demonstration. If the flag has to be there a Canadian Maple Leaf — our flag — should stand along side it.

IAN STEWART
3rd year Arts



Davis trade mission shields brutal regime math prof charges

This come to protest in the most emphatic terms the action of the Davis Government in subsidizing a trade mission to the Republic of South Africa.

Your action shields that brutal regime with the mantle of respectable normality, "business as usual" with a government that is dedicated to vast profits through unspeakable oppression and racism.

In so doing, you have disgraced the Province of Ontario (and, with it, the country of which it forms part, unless some new separatist doctrine is enunciated now), its Parliament, Government and yourself personally. Long after whatever financial profit

this province may gain from this blood money will have been spent, the enduring shame of this trade mission will remain in the history books.

LEE LORCH
Professor of Mathematics

Poster controversy continues to rage, now CPL enters fray

We would like to correct some misinformation in the article entitled "Student Tempers Flare Over Meir in Nazi Uniform" by Michael Lawrence in Excalibur, vol. 8, Number 9, Nov. 1, 1973.

Firstly, the literature which was attacked was put up by the Canadian Party of Labour and the display mentioned contained CPL material. The Students for a Democratic Society (S.D.S.) was not involved in the incident.

Secondly, the confrontation happened because some hoodlums (who were in no way representative of most Jewish students at York) disagreed with a display which made the following points:

- the Arab dictators rely on hysterical nationalism and murder both to suppress leftists and to protect their oil-gotten gains. Terrorist organizations financed by these oil billionaires can only serve to build racism and provide no answer for the oppressed people in the Mideast;

- the answer to anti-semitism in the world is not Zionism, but anti-racism and internationalism;

- the Israeli state has expansionist politics, genocidal and racist policies with regard to Arabs and sephardic, oriental and black Jews, terror techniques to suppress strikes and leftist political activities, a 'master race' theory with respect to immigration, labour and kibbutz policies, all of which resemble fascist policies.

An important point is that the Meir caricature was just a part of this display and has been sued as a red herring by these Zionists. The table was attacked in a similar manner both before and after the display and picture were put up. In order to 'prove' that Zionism and fascism bear no relation to each other, these Zionists threatened ("see what the J.D.L. did in New York — we'll do it here", "you won't get out of here alive", "we'll burn you", "I'll kill you", etc.) pointed lighters at us and at the display; tore

the display down; danced on it and cried for the cops. Before we held our forum in the bear pit (Wednesday, Oct. 31) our members received threatening phone calls ("this is anonymous — you'll be put in hospital if the forum goes on," etc.)

However, the forum was a resounding success and showed to the more than 200 people who turned up that the small number of Zionist extremists didn't even know anything about the history of Israel and the writings of the 'great' Zionists. It was clear that only a handful supported these fanatics.

The incidents were political — between C.P.L. and certain Zionists who wished to silence all anti-zionist opposition, because of their all-too-obvious vulnerability.

LUIZ ANDREWS

Candidate's complaint directed at CYSF, not at opponent

To the Editor

I would like to draw your attention to an inaccuracy in your Nov. 8 issue. The article entitled "When is a council rep. not a rep." states that I lodged a complaint that J. Greatbatch failed to submit a financial statement for the CYSF by-election in Founders College. At no time have I lodged a complaint against J. Greatbatch. My sole complaint arising from this by-election is against the CYSF leadership and the Chief Returning Officer for their ineptness and irresponsibility in the running of the by-election.

COLAN INGLIS

Staff meeting

Room 111,
Central Square
2 pm