

York's student politics require a central forum to present unified voice

Student government is a mess at York. CYSF, York University's supposed central student government, is in even more trouble. One week GSA wants to leave; the next Bethune want to join. Calumet has made noises about joining; but Vanier and McLaughlin have made similar noises about leaving.

Student government at York has never been too stable; at least for as long as I can remember. Each year new crisis' rock council, be it not being able to attract quorum to its meetings or political scandals, personal and collective. Perhaps that is the nature of politics and the Zone is too naive to believe that students can do more than look out for their own tails.

York student government is presently decentralized firstly due to the physical structure of the campus (i.e. the buildings are spaced out). Secondly the administration has never been interested to correct the situation and thirdly because student politicians (mainly veteran politicians) want to protect the status quo. There are 14 funded student governments on campus. There are ad hoc groups and organizations that are formed for specific reasons and there are clubs that are formed along social and cultural lines. Each group attempts to speak for all York students.

York University needs a single, responsible, funded, recognized, central student government; representing all students be they part-time or full time, graduate, professional or undergraduate, Glendon or Osgoode. It is fortunately up to the Provost to lead the way. If that means imposing unpopular measures in the short run; so be it. What must be understood is that student's voices must be united above student leaders' voices who speak out for personal self-preservation. The administration through the Provost, the student members of the Board of Governors Student Relations Committee, and the rest of student leaders must forsake their political differences and come to a consensus that unifying York students under whatever name is a desirable course of action. It simply has to be done.

However, should the failure of government fall into the lap of the administration? Could not Ali, who has been extremely aggressive this year in strengthening CYSF's role be called upon to unite student government under one umbrella? I doubt that any student on campus could do this. At the present time it pays not to be a member of CYSF. The administration created this situation now it is up to them to correct it.

In addition, while a referendum for a Student Centre did not pass last year, ultimately that is where student government would be housed. This is the place where commuter students who make up a large majority of the students on the campus will be able to sit and relax. As the Zone has mentioned previously, a square foot of terrazo in central square is not enough. Student government and the administration have failed to provide for the commuter student. I am not saying that there should be no college councils. There should be. But they should be provided resources that reflect their number instead of the disproportionate amount that they presently receive.

Why is central student government so important? Firstly, the students and the administration will know who speaks for the students. At least then when the administration or the students need a speedy response to an issue they will all know where to go. Secondly, in the likely event of a strike or similar event on campus one united voice will speak for students.

As for the GSA, notwithstanding their recent referendum result approving withdrawal from CYSF, the BOG Student Relations Committee should deal with the entire issue completely and effectively. The time has come for the system to be examined and changed. The input must come from all groups on campus, but the decision, and it's a difficult one to make considering its non-intervention in student affairs, must come from the administration. There does not appear to be an alternative in this matter.

LETTERS Cont'd Zone beauty-struck

Editor:
Re: *Zone Special Report* on Glendon.

This report contained many factual errors as well as seriously misrepresenting the concerns of Glendon student leaders.

First of all, Glendon student leaders do know what is going on at the Keele campus. Mr. Zarnett is well aware of one Glendon student who has achieved a great deal at York University. Wayne Burnett was Glendon Student Senator 82/83, 84/85; Education Student Senator 83/84 (he is at present serving his second term in this office) and Chairman of the Student Senate Caucus during one of his terms. The Glendon College Students' Union President 84/85 was a member and

attended many meetings of the Constituent Council of York (CCOY). GCSU Council also sent a representative to the meetings of the Student Centre Steering Committee (SCSC). Hardly a group of people who according to the "Zone" only appear once to get money.

Secondly, Glendon was established as an *autonomous*, affiliated College of York University. Whether or not Mr. Zarnett approves of this does not change it from being fact.

The major question for Glendon students with regard to CYSF membership is one of expectations; most of us do not know what to expect of the "new" CYSF.

Can a Council be called bilingual because it "may" have a Speaker who will translate if necessary? So far, this is the only semi-concrete possibility mentioned by CYSF Presi-

dent Ali.

If the "Zone" could perhaps stop listing platitudes about the beauty of the Glendon campus (what benefit Glendonites would have from other York students knowing that the rose garden is spectacular?) and how our bilingualism should be shared not "hidden" (while he suggests limitations on the amount of bilingualism that should be available), he could then answer some of the concerns Glendon students have. Then, perhaps, his verbiage could be viewed as an insightful "special report."

Other York students who wish to know the reality of Glendon College and how it relates to York would be well advised to dismiss the report as the rubbish it is.

Elizabeth McCallister
Editor-In-Chief
Pro Tem

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