

CFS supporter says Excalibur writer's comments were less than fair

Greg Gaudet's article in last week's *Fair Comment* ("Voting will be difficult" March 24/83) raises some important questions that no doubt will be considered in the upcoming OFS/CFS referendum. It would be wrong, however, to consider Gaudet's appraisal of these questions as in any way "fair", as the column's title might lead one to believe. In fact, if one were to accept Gaudet's appraisal of OFS/CFS (or rather the "no side's" appraisal, whose "legitimate" concerns Gaudet appears to share) their voting will not be difficult at all.

What is disturbing about Gaudet's evaluation of OFS/CFS is not simply his evident negative evaluation of these organizations but also the manner in which he (or rather the "no side") criticizes them. Are these criticisms valid? Let's consider some of the arguments that are being offered: 1) Gaudet notes

that "one critical report on OFS in 'the Mike' suggested that OFS was so closely aligned to labour that the needs of students were sometimes overlooked."

It is curious that Gaudet would cite this apparently authoritative criticism as being (possibly) valid when his own participation on the OFS executive would presumably have led him to recognize that OFS works with many groups, including such labour groups as university and college faculty and staff.

2) Gaudet writes that "experience indicates that OFS fieldworkers... are not often on campus" and that OFS staff is only "easily available" at referendum time.

Whose experience is he referring to? Fieldworkers have been on campus this year to help organize OFS/CFS employment and lobby campaigns and to offer advice and help to the degree that the resources

of the organization permit. The absence of a CYSF External Commissioner has not facilitated liaison between the two organizations.

3) Finally, Gaudet states that "one can seriously question whether or not the present organization" can make their case and voice their

concerns to federal and provincial governments.

Indeed, one can. And the organization has made the case for a quality and accessible education, as indicated this year by the numerous meetings that have taken place between OFS/CFS and the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and

Universities and the Federal Secretary of State. OFS/CFS have made their case, but cannot do so without the support and actual involvement of students who, after all, constitute the OFS/CFS membership.

Mark Rosenfeld
History

BOG rep defends her performance

RE: BOG Candidate Claudio Calvin Lewis

At the All-Candidates' meeting on March 23rd, BOG candidate Claudio Calvin Lewis unjustly criticized my performance as student Representative on the BOG. As my term does not end until May 1984, I am very concerned about the allegations; therefore, I wish to clear the air and set the record straight.

First, Mr. Lewis stated during his speech that the present BOG representatives had not fulfilled their campaign promises of communicating with students--he claimed that John Weston and I had only written a few articles for Excalibur and that other than that, we did not communicate with students. It is true that only a few articles were printed in Excalibur in the Fall. But this was not our fault. We wanted more articles in Excalibur; however, Excalibur due to financial constraints, could not provide space for us. In terms of other contact with students, I am in the CYSF office every Monday to Thursday from noon until 2:30 p.m. Therefore, Mr. Lewis has criticized me on this issue without reason. If he had complaints about the lack of newspaper articles, why did he not come into the CYSF office if he had ever come in, he would have found me there.

Second, Mr. Lewis expressed his concern about the 12.3 per cent increase in student residency apartment fees and the 10.5 per cent increase in scrip fees. He implied

that the present BOG reps don't share this concern since these increases have been approved by the BOG. I am also concerned. As a member of the Board of Finance Committee, I was present at the Finance meeting on Monday, March 7 in which these increases were discussed. In fact, when I expressed my concern about these increases, I was informed that the UFBS, of which two thirds are students, had approved the scrip increase and that the residence fees increase had been approved by the Residence Budget

Committee, also largely made up of students. Since student committee members had approved of these increases, I had no recourse but to accept the increases when they came to the Board. Therefore, Mr. Lewis without knowing all the facts, again unjustly criticized my performance.

I hope that this letter will make students aware of all the facts and not just those that Mr. Lewis decided to mention.

Pamela Fruitman
York Board of Governors
Student Representative

JSF Chair says tribunal's decision doesn't solve problem

On March 28th I addressed the Election Tribunal in order to change the dates of the CYSF Elections from April 5 and 6 to April 6 and 7. The reason for this request was that the 5th of April is the last day of Passover--one of the highest holidays in the Jewish Calendar. I felt that in a truly democratic society all voters should be given an equal opportunity to participate in the election of their government. Without a change in the polling dates, Jewish students would only have a single day on which to cast their ballots. Their colleagues will enjoy two opportunities to participate in the election of their student government. I believe that such a change would be in keeping with the spirits of democracy and of fairness.

I was, therefore, both shocked and disappointed to hear that the

Tribunal in answer to my petition simply tacked on another day to the already existing polling days. It stated that "an extra day of voting is necessary." I assume that this is intended to rectify the problem. However, the reality is that the problem still exists. Jewish students still do not have an equal opportunity to participate in the election. The Tribunal gave no indication that the requested change was problematic in terms of scheduling or cost.

The Jewish students at York constitute a fairly large percentage of the York community. It is tragic that such an allowance is considered too great to make for these members of our community.

Guidy Mamann
Chairman
Jewish Student Federation



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