

Federation Notes

It was a surprise to see members of *Excalibur* attend their first Council meeting. Once the budget proposal was discussed, particularly *Excalibur's* cash grant, they were gone. Several points about the budget proposal in *Excalibur* need to be clarified.

Firstly, it was never the intention to substantially cut moneys allotted to the Campus Connection. Pending settlement of the Trust Funds, the budget proposal was not able to take into consideration an increase in enrolment. The budget forecast from the University called for a three per cent drop; however with the student enrolment increase the Federation is able to maintain previous levels of funding to the Campus Connection. Likewise, *Excalibur* funding is consistent with the previous year's grant. *Excalibur's* total level of funding was higher last year due to the active role the past President of C.Y.S.F. took in arranging the finances of the paper. He transferred an extra \$7,000.00 to *Excalibur* from a contingency fund in order for the paper to grapple with a \$46,000.00 debt. Ideally the paper should be self sustaining. The money they will receive from Council will go towards paying their debt, not operating expenses, as this year unlike other years the paper will be in the black.

Another point which needs to be clarified is the difference between a business, like the drug store and services, such as the book store and *Excalibur*. If Council can provide a service that pays for itself good; as a service it justifies itself even if it loses money. We provide employment for students, give a better buy-back price on books than the

University, and have the books available for students who cannot afford the prices on new books. When the Book Store and Typing Service proposal went before the previous Council, it was indicated then that it would require 12 to 18 months to gauge their performance. When *Excalibur* states that the Book Store is costing students \$2,000.00 it is incorrect. That money is a float which is not lost, but re-invested in books.

Social activities which are a service can operate at a loss; that money is not recoverable, and is not expected to be. The businesses need time to grow in order to be self-sufficient. Council does not expect *Excalibur* to forever be in debt, and we hope they will think the same about our endeavours. Lyceum's financial records are public knowledge; a mutually convenient time to transmit the information has been the problem to-date.

Most importantly, this year's budget exercise has demonstrated that the pie is shrinking. Even if one takes this year's projected increase in student enrolment, over the University's incorrect forecast decrease, C.Y.S.F. does not generate the level of revenue to provide the degree of service its constituents desire. The last increase was in 1972; 25¢ over the 1969 figure. Inflation has cut the real buying power of our dollar by more than 60 per cent. Students must level their expectations to the amount of funding available. If more services are desired, students must be willing to support them.

Malcolm Montgomery
President
Council of the York
Student Federation Inc.

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228 York Hall

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