

Editorial

GSA referendum result must be taken seriously

Last week's Graduate Students Association (GSA) referendum has sent a strong message to those currently working on reorganizing York student government. Many concerns of graduate students are not being met.

Unlike Vanier and McLaughlin councils, who threatened to leave CYSF two weeks ago, the GSA has a good case for being an independent government. While the majority of CYSF members are undergraduate students many graduate students are union members, and the GSA has been constantly at odds with CYSF over a consolidated position regarding strikes.

Other issues facing GSA members, such as daycare and family support, require immediate attention. Also, most graduate students live below the poverty line as Ontario government restrictions on graduate employment make it difficult to earn enough money to support themselves while working on their degrees.

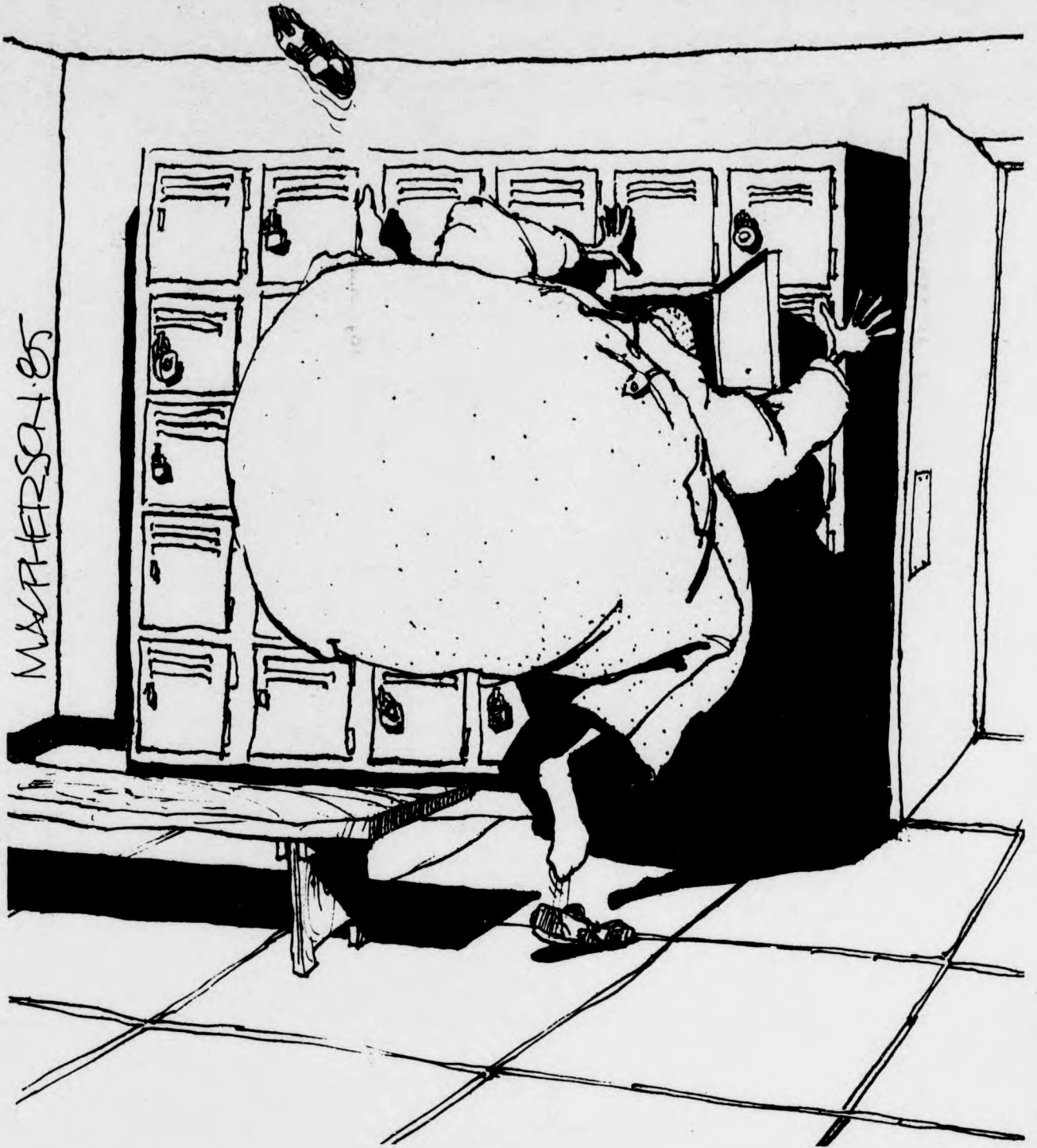
These concerns are not being dealt with effectively within CYSF, which is concerned mainly with undergraduate issues and activities.

The GSA referendum comes at a critical point in the history of York student government and it serves as a challenge to those rethinking the makeup of central student government.

It is not, as Provost Tom Meininger has said, just the result of a strong campaign by a "misguided" GSA executive. 339 GSA members said with their votes that CYSF is not meeting their needs.

The upshot of the referendum should be a clear indication by the Student Relations Committee (SRC) of York's Board of Governors what route student government will take. There is a good possibility that the SRC will veto the GSA's bid for autonomy, despite its constitutional validity.

While we'll put the serious ethical problem facing the SRC aside for now, this much is clear—if York is to take the route of centralizing student governments, and the indications are that it will, it will have to give more serious consideration to the GSA, if not as an independent government, then as a much more thoughtfully integrated one.



GSA SANDBLASTS ITS CYSF LOCKER

excalibur

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Letters

Time to start a student movement says Riha

Editor:

We say enough!!!
 Why is CYSF falling apart? Ask Reya Ali, ask all the members of the 'Honorary Council', ask some of the political experts at *Excalibur*. If you ask this question, the likely respond will be an attempt to justify CYSF's existence.

Should we continue to justify an organization which has not exhibited any political or social commitment to the student body? Should we continue to support ill-founded campaigns, should we agree with shallow and distorted views, personal ideological dilemmas? Should we continue to support a council which feels certain that it has the power to do anything it wants to do, regardless of democratic practice as we have learned to live by? Should we support a small group of 'go-getters' whose interests are clearly personal, withdrawn from our immediate student needs? I say no more! I say enough!

I call all students and groups to organize a student movement. A student movement willing to care for its membership. A student movement which will be involved with the OFS, a student movement that will not only defend students rights on campus, but also in needy regions of the world. A student movement ready to demonstrate against

pus, with a clear democratic mind, with a clear united voice.

I call on you now because these demands can not wait any longer. The York Student Front is willing to organize this committee, a provisional government on campus. For this to happen we need your participation. You means, interested students, presidents of college councils, executives of cultural organizations and clubs, sports committees, arts and fine arts representatives, political groups, religious bodies.

We do not want another central 'council' riddled with contradictions and setbacks. We want an organized student movement with operational committees ready to meet the challenges that lie ahead. Committees that represent and are headed by caring students, committees that represent real constituents, we do not need phoney charismatic faces. We do not need titles such as 'external affairs', or 'internal affairs', all affairs will be our concern in the student movement. We need a coordinating committee headed by all groups who want to participate. Salaries will not exist in this student movement. We do not need a business manager, because what business there is, we can, and will account for openly.

We want democracy in the largest and most genuine nature. We want a say. We want an attempt at honesty. We want everyone to know what is going on here, and we want everyone to care enough so that nobody can abuse our student rights. If you want this call us, our demands are clear.

—A. Riha
 J. Echegoyen, members of YSF,
 and of the new
 York Democratic Movement

Prof confident of Soviet proposal

Editor:

The US Secretary of Defence, Mr. Schultz, has objected to recent Soviet disarmament proposals on the grounds that: "...it would require the US to remove most of its intermediate weapons in Europe, while allowing Moscow to keep similar weapons aimed at European cities."

But, what is more to the point, the Soviets do not have any land based intermediate weapons pointed at US cities. Soviet Leader Krushchev tried to put some in Cuba in 1962, but President Kennedy threatened to blow them out of the water en route, and the Soviets have never again attempted to station such weapons so close to the US.

Moreover, to deter a Soviet attack on Europe it is not in the least necessary to station nuclear weapons in Europe itself, in fact this is the worst place to put them, as there they are extremely vulnerable to a Soviet surprise attack.

The Soviet disarmament plan would leave the US with 6,000 strategic warheads, enough to destroy the Soviet Union about 10 times, as opposed to 20 times now. If that does not deter the Soviets from attacking Europe, nothing will.

The plan should be accepted with alacrity, as it gives one of the few hopes of reversing the arms race, which otherwise will destroy us all.

J.M. McNamee
 Associate Professor