

Women's Centre funding cut

By DEBORAH DUNDAS

Funding to the York University Women's Centre has been suspended due to the recommendations of a report compiled by Robert Castle for the Council of York Students Federation (CYSF).

The report, released in October 1987, made a number of recommendations, the most controversial being a) that all funding from CYSF to the Women's Centre be suspended until the Centre has provided "all financial statements and receipts from the 1986-87 academic year;" and "all files and documentation pertinent to the functioning operation, and procedures of the Centre;" and b) "that the CYSF Director of Women's Affairs should be granted a permanent voting position on the collective of the the Women's Centre."

According to Castle, the report was "commissioned by CYSF as part of a wider attempt to rationalize its funding programme and to determine if York students were receiving value for their money."

Members of the Women Centre Collective, however, do not agree. They take objection to the investigation on the grounds that CYSF vis-a-vis Castle was asking for far more information than was asked of any other group. Ellen Flanders, member of the Women's Centre Collective, noted that historically, the Centre has not relied on CYSF for funding. It is only over the past two years that student government has given substantial financial support to the Centre.

Pat Vamvakidis, another member of the Women's Centre Collective noted that "(Castle) said he wanted everything from day one. The complete financial history for every year. We really have no historical links to CYSF—so we question the whole investigation."

Problems arose on yet another level. Drew McCreadie, President of CYSF, questioned the seriousness of the Women's Centre Collective. "If they don't get a financial statement in, there's not going to be a next year. They shouldn't take their funding for granted."

Apparently, the Women's Centre submitted a funding request to the CYSF for the amount of \$3,875. Along with this, Vamvakidis said that "they have our annual report for

1986-87."

Castle and McCreadie agree that the whole problem is really financial accountability. They say that none of the documentation requested in connection with the report was submitted, including a comprehensive financial statement and budget projections.

Again, Vamvakidis says that "The Women's Centre has no problem with being financially accountable. (We) have always shown financial accountability. What, besides an annual report, constitutes financial accountability?" The financial accountability and the report Castle did are two separate issues."

Marcia Cooper, current Director of Woman's Affairs at CYSF concurred with Castle and McCreadie, noting that "we did not see financial figures. We expect all that we've asked from all clubs."

Further objections were raised regarding the appointment of the CYSF Director of Women's Affairs to a permanent voting position on the collective of the Women's Centre.

First, the Centre points out, the Collective operates on a common consensus type of system. There are no voting procedures per se. Besides, this, it was noted at a collective interview that Marcia Cooper had not been interested in the Centre until she had decided to run for office, and had not been to the Centre yet

this year. In addition, Vamvakidis noted that the Centre had had "no documented recommendations for improvement by Cooper." Cooper."

Cooper noted in response that "I'm willing to sit down with the Women's Centre to talk about this at any time, and I've told them this, but they've made no move to contact me."

Yet another conflict arising from the report involves the structure of the Centre's operating system. According to Robert Castle, the collective model is an inefficient way to run a service, because there is a lack of direction within the model and thus within the service. In addition, he noted in his report that "the activities of the Centre have begun to wain."

The Centre took exception, with Flanders noting that "we try and organize as much as possible according to demand, availability (re film, speakers, etc.) and moral, financial and general support from our student government in those activities. This support doesn't have to be direct. That is, they could help with advertising, cooperation and so on." She also noted that "we have goals and objectives which are very clearly stated in our annual reports. It is also clearly stated in our pamphlet on the Women's Centre."

Provost 'heavy-handed': McCreadie

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grant, regardless of whether a council supports or opposes the idea.

CYSF President Drew McCreadie said that the Provost has implemented his plan "in a heavy-handed fashion," and with little respect for student point of view on the matter. He notes that while there's "no doubt that student government has not lived up to the set standards," the liaison could be dangerous because of the vague definition in power which the position will possess. Believing it to be a matter of ethics, McCreadie says that the Provost "should not be allowed to spend student government money when they are opposed to an idea, and this shows how little autonomy student government truly has at this university."

Meininger emphasized that the position will have no authority whatsoever, except the power to make recommendations to the University. According to the draft copy of the job description, "The primary functions of the financial liaison is to provide an advisory and educational service to funded-student governments, funded-student based services, and student clubs and groups which receive support from sources within the university. The services offered will include: assisting the planning and implementation of budgets; providing guidance on business matters; developing educational programmes to better student financial management; and finally to act as a liaison between student councils and their auditors."

Meininger has also set up a User's

Faculty of Arts essays prizes

By NANCY PHILLIPS

Four York University students have been awarded \$250.00 each for outstanding essays which they submitted over the course of the 1987 academic year.

The Faculty of Arts Essay Prizes for 1987 were awarded on December 3, 1987 at a luncheon hosted by Dean Traves.

The prizes were established by an anonymous private donor in order to encourage good writing as an undergraduate priority, and to focus attention on writing as a vehicle of critical thinking.

The essays were judged by their: clarity of presentation, coherence and cogency of argument, appropriateness of organization, felicity of expression, and "brilliance," which may manifest itself as wit, originality, persuasive power, or insight.

The 1000-level winner was Jennifer Hill, for her essay "The Favelas of Rio de Janeiro: Eradication or Transformation?"

The best 2000-level essay, written by Suresh Anantha, was entitled "Plato's Republic and the Paradox of Philosopher Kings Who Lie."

Allen G. Plant won for the best

3000-level essay, called "Criteria for Approaching Evil: Peck vs. Becker vs. Russell."

Sharon Davison's essay, "The Deconstruction of 'Folktale' in 'Was' through Burlesque: William Faulkner's *Go Down Moses*," won as the best essay in a 4000-level course.

Phase Three set for spring

By ODED ORGIL

York University is tentatively set to begin construction on the Fine Arts Phase Three Complex as early as this spring, says Steven Dranistaris of York University's External Affairs Department.

The complex is essentially an extension of the existing Fine Arts Building located in front of the Ross Building, says Dranistaris. It would also enable the University to consolidate most of the arts disciplines into a single location on campus, he added.

Two years ago the Provincial Government pledged \$6.5 million towards the complex leaving York University to raise the remaining \$3.5 million to cover the expense of the project.

According to Dranistaris the delay in beginning construction has, in large part, been a result of "the changing nature of the design of the building." This has been partly due to a shift in priorities on the basic plan of the building. Also, several cost-cutting measures were necessary resulting in the redesigning of the building.

Secondly, Dranistaris added that the University's inability to find a lead donor to help them cover their cost also contributed to the delay. Dranistaris stressed that all funds raised by the University will be through a totally "external campaign," meaning, the students will in no way have to foot any part of the bill.

Dranistaris says that the development of this project would be of tremendous benefit for the Fine Arts programme, giving both faculty and staff desperately needed space to better conduct classes and seminars.

The project is scheduled for completion in two years for the 1990 school fall term.

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