

NEWS

YFS wants its money back

Last year's executive voted itself \$1,000 bonuses

by Morley Conn

The York Federation of Students (YFS) is continuing its efforts to retrieve a total of \$5,000 in year-end honouraria which last year's council executive (made up of the president and vice-presidents) allotted themselves.

The new student government claims that an apparent \$17,000 deficit from last year left no room for the bonuses.

"We're disappointed and angry," said YFS President Jean Ghomeshi. "That's student money that could have been put to good use."

He said two of last year's four vice-presidents told him they will return their bonuses if others follow suit, but they have refused.

Caroline Winship, the returning vice-president internal, said she has no intention of returning the money.

"I spent it on my tuition. I earned that money," she said.

Last year's executive called a last-minute meeting in late April during which they voted to award each other \$1,000 bonuses, bypassing the approval of council (which includes college representatives).

Constitutionally, the executive can't make financial decisions over \$1,000 without passing it through council. The five honouraria were awarded separately to get around this rule.

Winship said she was defeated in a motion to bring the issue of honoraria to council for a vote.

According to Winship, the executive passed the honouraria

at a point when the CYSF's books assumed a year-end profit of at least \$6,000.

But Ghomeshi thinks otherwise.

"Our audit came in last year with a \$17,000 deficit, which when compounded by a freeze on funds under Harry Arthur's White Paper makes for a difficult situation," he said. "YFS is involved in areas not covered before such as bilingualism, sexism, and student rights. Where do we get the money?"

Jennifer Smith, YFS business manager, reported a deficit from last year of \$13,000 (\$4,000 off of Ghomeshi's figures), which she attributed to overspending and the bonuses.

According to her, the executive payments were decided on before it was known whether there would be a deficit or surplus.

"They were unreconciled numbers — things could go up or down, and I don't think this meant

much to them (the executive)," Smith said.

"The only thing the auditors and I could question was giving yourself a retroactive raise," she added. "A recommendation was made by the auditors to change the constitution."

Smith said that adding to the deficit "was not the most responsible thing to do, but it was done legally."

But Ghomeshi said former president Peter Donato blamed Smith for giving the CYSF (now YFS) the impression that there was enough money to cover the honouraria.

Donato could not be reached for comment.

Ghomeshi insists the YFS will follow up on the matter but is not optimistic that the money will be returned.

"Legally or formally there's nothing else we can do [besides following up on the matter]. That's the sad part about it," he said.



Emmanuel Papachristou photo

YASA team victorious

The first ever Jewish Student Federation (JSF) versus York Arab Student Association (YASA) soccer game took place Sunday, September 23 at the soccer field behind Tait-Mackenzie.

YASA beat JSF by a score of 5-3. Due to low player turnout, the JSF spent an hour prior to the game scouring the campus for players. One YASA player volunteered to play for the JSF team.

The game began at 2:00 pm and players on both sides showed a high degree of sportsmanship and goodwill.

Excalibur photo editor Emmanuel Papachristou, scored the first goal of the game for the JSF team, before YASA turned on the heat in the second half. Excalibur Editor-in-chief Peter Stathis also volunteered his time to act as referee.

Menachem Neuer, JSF program director, said that the JSF will try to organize another JSF-YASA goodwill game.



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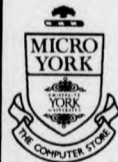
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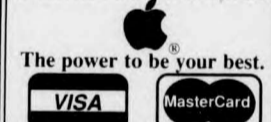
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