

Editorial

Rash YSMAA move and apathetic CYSF demand attention

York Student Movement Against Apartheid (YSMAA) spokesperson David Himbara's recent threat to hold a sit-in at CYSF over a misunderstanding regarding funding has exposed some serious shortcomings of the YSMAA and as well has raised questions concerning CYSF's club funding guidelines.

Since their formation last spring, the YSMAA has worked hard to bring the apartheid issue to the forefront at York. Last May the group was instrumental in Sonja Bata's decision not to seek re-election to the University's Board of Governors. The Bata Shoe Company has been condemned as being one of the worst exploiters in South Africa.

In September the YSMAA peacefully protested an award handed out by York to a South African dissident, rightfully exposing the hypocrisy of the University, which is alleged to have investments in South African companies.

However, their threat to hold a sit-in at CYSF was a rash reaction, and ironically has illustrated their own lack of organization. In fact, YSMAA's application for club funding from CYSF was a month late.

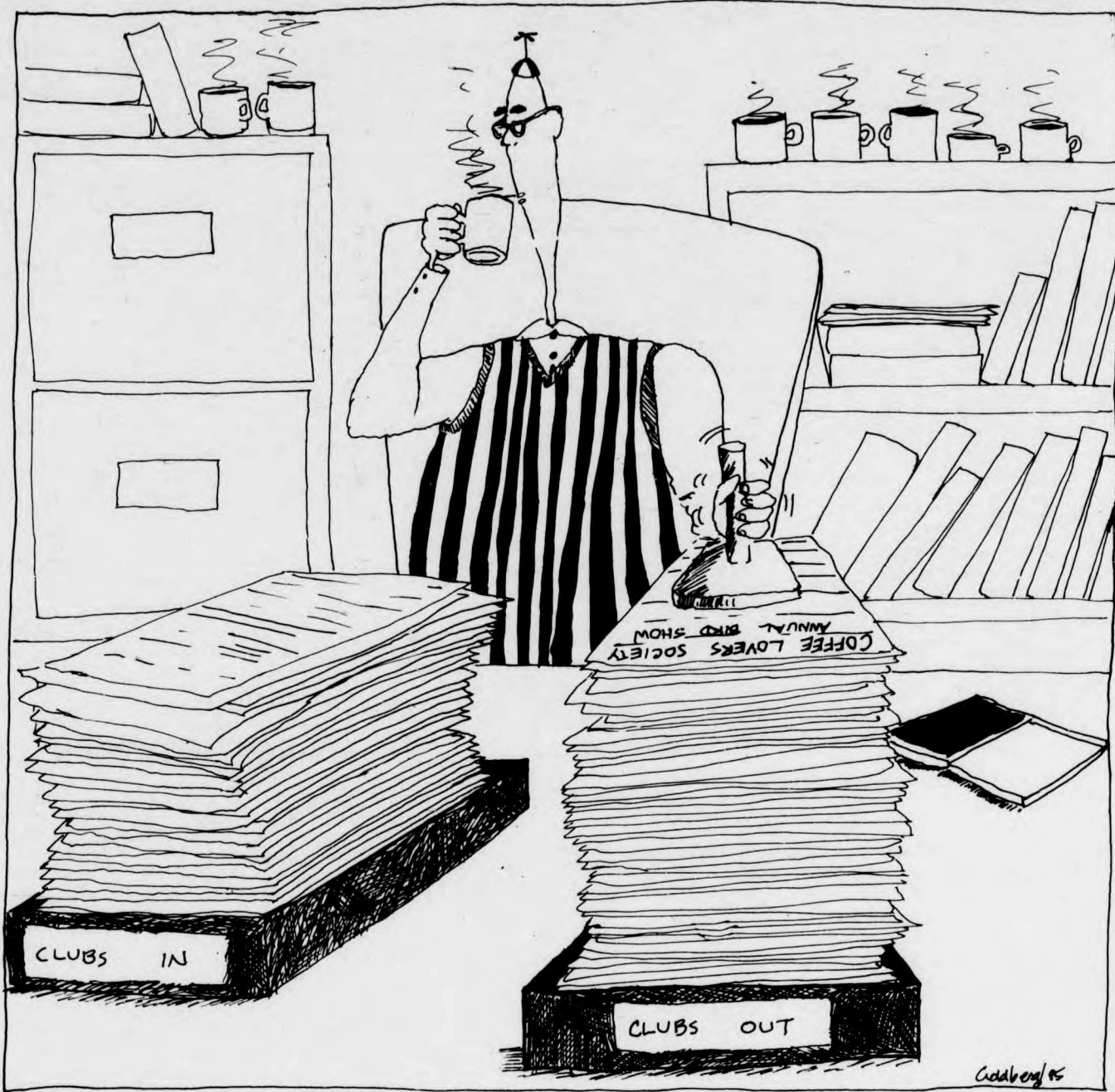
This incident brings to mind other recent indications that the YSMAA is not as prudent and well organized a group as it has appeared to be. Although Himbara told *Excalibur* that one of the YSMAA's best claims to funding is its large membership, which he said is over 1,000, the fact remains that only 16 people attended the first YSMAA general meeting. If this is any indication, their membership is mostly in name only. And if this is the case, does the YSMAA deserve the \$3750 of student money they requested in their budget submission?

The incident also served to show that there is a need for a more clearly defined CYSF club constitution. Presently the by-law that restricts political clubs from funding is vague enough to accommodate the YSMAA on humanitarian grounds. While their cause deserves an exception, the by-laws are still so vague as to leave the door open to many questionable claims for funding once YSMAA funding has established a precedent.

At the November 6 CYSF Council meeting, \$60,000 in club funding was passed without a single inquiry into how the money is being spent. CYSF Director of Social and Cultural Affairs Vicky Fusca aptly summed up this dangerously apathetic attitude by stating, "I couldn't believe it. I had to laugh. I thought, this is so pathetic."

Judging from Council's indifference, safeguards within the constitution are needed to screen clubs seeking funding from Council.

The YSMAA has a cause that deserves more careful and responsible representation. And their bungled request for funding reveals that CYSF is presently not well equipped to discern which clubs deserve funding.



C.Y.S.F. GIVES FINAL APPROVAL FOR FUNDING TO YORK BEAN EATERS CLUB

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Letters

Zone distasteful and misinformed

Editor:
 re: *Zone Special Report: Glendon an integral part of York* (Oct. 31, 1985).

We note with sadness Mr. Zarnett's wholly speculative, insensitive and misinformed litanies of accusations and insinuations against student leaders at Glendon. We also find it distasteful that an ex-BOG Representative (who was only seen at Glendon during his election campaign) should pretend to know more about us than our own leadership.

Perhaps Mr. Zarnett has walked on the Glendon campus in the spring and fall; perhaps he has eaten in the cafeteria and studied in the library; and perhaps he does know some "friendly" (the patronizing was really quite unnecessary) Glendon students. This, however, is no basis to claim to know Glendon. We are a state of mind; not a per capita/percentage/aggregate/net/gross type statistical figure. Mr. Zarnett obviously does not understand what this means.

Besides, which other college can claim student leaders of the calibre of Wayne Burnett and Jas Ahmad? How can Mr. Zarnett question the integrity, albeit implicitly, of people who have proved themselves the most consistently exceptional leaders over the last four years. We know what these people have done and what they are capable of, and we respect them. Mr. Zarnett will excuse us if we listen to proven leadership before callow conjecture.

Finally, if we felt our President (Kathie Darroch, by the way, received more than 50% of the popular vote in her election) was doing something against our wishes,

we would let her know; it would be up to us to do something about it. We resent Mr. Zarnett's assumed role as patron saint of Glendon. It is a shame he does not realize that it is attitudes such as his which make us wary of people at the Keele campus. Perhaps the next time Mr. Zarnett visits Glendon he will keep his eyes and ears open to what he has so far ignored.

—K.D. Smith, M. Gauvin,
 James Keagan, H. Coté,
 Marie Lalencette, P. Roberts

Zone biased and myopic

Editor:

I must take exception to Martin Zarnett's *Zone Special Report* (October 31, 1985). He has written what must be the most distastefully opinionated, biased and myopic profile for any group of people at York.

I am an MBA candidate who transferred from Glendon two years ago. I knew, and still know, many of the people he so disparagingly refers to as "activists". By trying to discredit some of the most conscientious and hardworking student leaders in the university, Martin Zarnett is merely pointing to the necessity for people at York to take a good look at themselves before they point hypocritical fingers at Glendon.

Students at Glendon have done a tremendous job of re-electing/appointing the best of their leaders and getting rid of the bad apples. They know what they want and what they are doing. If only people at York could learn a few lessons from Glendon! Unfortunately, the Mar-

tin Zarnetts at York will always flounder in their ignorance, not knowing Glendon but thinking they do.

As things stand, it is the best for York to fix its own house and leave Glendon alone. Just because they have managed things better than York does not mean we should feel jealous, and destroy what they have so painstakingly created.

—Anne Elizabeth Murray

Group should address Godfrey in own forum

Editor:

To all "Against Apartheid" members who attended Paul Godfrey's seminar.

This is not an attack on your stand on apartheid, or on your stand on the *Sun*, or even your stand with reference to Paul Godfrey. This is an open response to all of you who attended an Urban Studies Seminar which was to address Metropolitan Suburbanization, which was in no way an "open forum". Apartheid may be in all our minds an issue which takes precedence over metropolitan issues, but, keeping in line with Urban Studies itinerary it was not included in Mr. Godfrey's "pre-arranged lecture".

I can understand your back door approach in addressing Mr. Godfrey, but I feel that you personally should have addressed him (and his columnists in a debate) in your own forum — not ours.

Lastly, I strongly feel that in future events you should respect the interests and position of the club(s) and students which had originally arranged for the speaker to lecture.

—Louise Fior
 Chairperson of the Federation of Urban Studies Students