

Committee report spurs CYSF to pull out of OFS

By STACEY BEAUCHAMP

After receiving the "External Affairs Committee Report on the Ontario Federation of Students" (OFS) and its relationship to CYSF, CYSF has decided to pull out of OFS. The decision was passed unanimously during the last council meeting.

According to the report, the committee found "some benefits to being a member of OFS, but not benefits warranting \$30,000 a year." This is the present membership cost to York, which gives it two votes at OFS plenaries.

The problem, says the committee, is not the principle behind the organization, which is to lobby to the provincial government on behalf of university students. Rather, it is the fact that the OFS is "in a chronic state of disarray."

In its report, the committee made several observations on the nature of the problems with the OFS. The first of these is its lack of profile. Since the organization represents only student governments, the students themselves do not know of its existence and purpose. Also, the report found that OFS is too bureaucratic, and thus it has "become too preoccupied with its own concerns," forgetting those of the students.

Furthermore, according to the report communication has not been good between OFS and "its members, members of the opposition, campus media, and the media in general."

There are certain benefits to OFS membership including information that is available to members as a result of research conducted by the organization. However, because of the disorganized nature of its filing system, this information is sometimes difficult to get a hold of.

By pulling out, CYSF has gained \$30,000 and has lost little in the way of benefits, says CYSF President Drew

McCreadie. When OFS lobbies the government, it is representing all universities, not just its members. McCreadie feels that if the government were to change anything, it would change it for all institutions in the province, not just a select few who happen to be OFS members.

However, in withdrawing without holding a school-wide referendum, the CYSF is opposing OFS by-laws. But according to External Affairs Minister Tammy Hasselfeldt, the by-laws are not a problem since OFS cannot "document that CYSF is a member." Sheena Weir, chairperson of OFS, says that there is documentation of CYSF's membership, in that they held a referendum in order to join in the first place.

According to McCreadie, OFS could sue, but the worst that would happen is that CYSF would have to pay the \$30,000 for this year's membership.

Weir says she is "very disappointed" over the whole affair. She believes that if CYSF was unhappy with its present position, it could have negotiated with OFS. She also said the organization knew nothing of CYSF's discontent, and at the time *Excalibur* contacted her, was not even aware of CYSF's intention to withdraw. Weir pointed out that the student council has a "moral obligation to the students to conduct a referendum." In not doing so, they are "not being accountable to students at York."

According to McCreadie, the money originally intended for OFS dues this year will be restored to the council's coffers, and will be used to eliminate the expected deficit at the end of the year.

In all, McCreadie feels that this decision would give next year's council a better negotiating position as they would then have the choice as to whether or not to join OFS.

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LETTERS

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continued alcohol related incidents of violence.

The point here is that the vast majority of these incidents involve male varsity athletes. As varsity athletes, they should be acting as diplomats of the university. They should be the ones setting the example for the way other York students conduct themselves, but they continually choose to do the opposite.

As they read this, some varsity athletes may become upset with my accusations. Rightfully so, after all, not all varsity athletes cause problems. It is up to these individuals then, to make sure that their fellow athletes don't get out of line.

From what I am told a Code of Conduct exists for varsity athletes. If such a "code" actually exists then why isn't it being enforced? Obviously the coaches aren't enforcing it so perhaps it's time upper level administrators get involved. In speaking to other students, the general consensus appears to be that varsity athletes should be automatically suspended for any breach of this Code of Conduct, not just slapped on the wrist as they usually are. If their particular sport is not in the season that the incident occurs, then the suspension should apply for the next season.

Why should we continue to pay the price for the actions of a select few?

Yours truly,
Lorenzo D'Alessandro
Chair, Executive Committee
Stong Student Government

Itwaru story poorly researched

Dear Excalibur,
I am writing to express my displeasure at your coverage of the 'Itwaru

Affair' currently unfolding in the Sociology Department. Your coverage has been poor at best and outright biased at worst.

Why were we never informed as to the credentials of the candidates that were awarded the position? Or how long they had taught at York? Or how their students felt about him?

Smarten up, Excal. If you're going to tell a story, tell the whole story. As readers we deserve a little more credit.

Sincerely,
Penny Pfeiffer

More ado about professor Itwaru

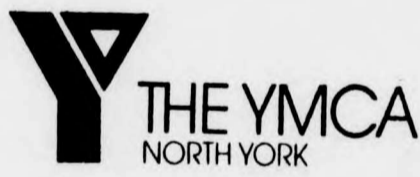

To the editor:
The letter by Jay Benjamin (March 17, 1988, "Much ado about Itwaru") adds peculiarity and nuance to the case of Professor Arnold Itwaru. Mr. Benjamin tends to dismiss the issue of tenure and academic freedom as if it was nebulous and irrelevant, thus, slovenly writing "like it doesn't occur every other day anyways."

Tenure to professors is like a pen to a writer, a human rights code to a lawyer and a nurse to a doctor. The struggle, pain and agony to achieve, fulfill and succeed. Your desecration of the entire process and experience lies on the absurd and demonstrates ignorance.

You enlighten us about your conversations and conclude by noting that Prof. Itwaru was not re-hired because of his political beliefs. If this is so, it should be condemned, protested. It is at variance with all the notions of democratic ideals that "great western nations boast about."

I too was in attendance at the

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