

# letters & comment

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, *Excalibur*, room III, Central Square. Please type letters, triple or double spaced, and keep them to around 250 words. Name, address and phone number must be included, but name will be withheld on request. *Excalibur* reserves the right to edit for grammar and length. Deadline Monday 4pm.

## CYSF shock: budget bungle, circus meeting abusive show

An interest in the CYSF budget prompted me to attend the council meeting on Monday night.

In general, I was shocked at the lack of political responsibility that was displayed. The meeting was run without apparent knowledge of, or regard for Robert's rules or any other rational system of conduct for a democratic meeting.

The chair ruled anyone who spoke out of turn out of order with the exception of President (Paul) Hayden, who was allowed to dress whom he pleased when he pleased. Although a proposed budget was placed before council members, they were informed, after questioning, that this was not the actual budget being discussed.

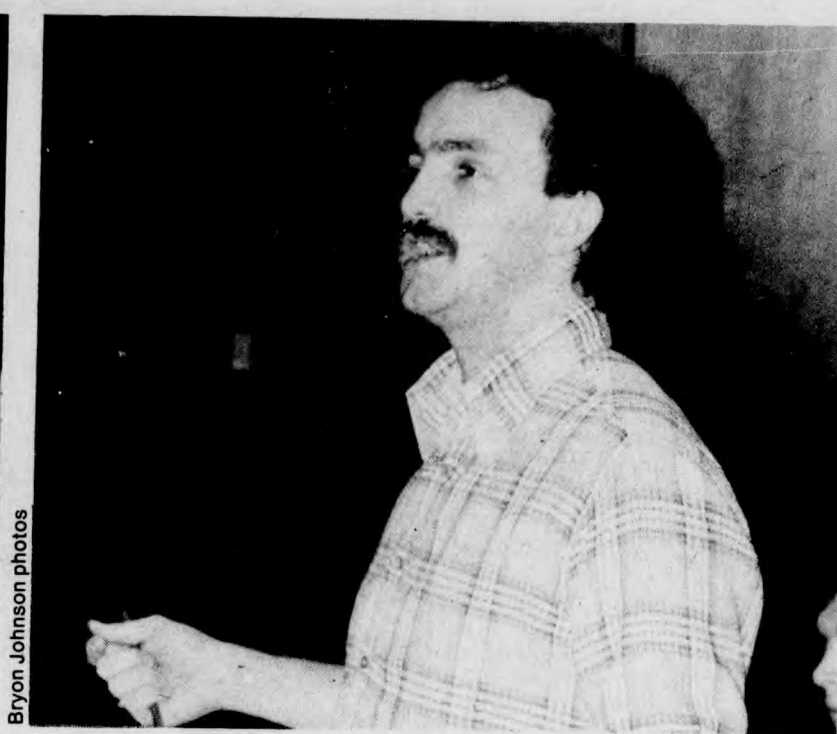
No budget in fact, was ever tabled for discussion. The council executive appeared to be making the budget up as they went along even to the point of discovering an extra thousand dollars in funds at the end of the meeting.

In any reasonable governing body such conduct would have been totally unacceptable. The few members who tried to encourage rational procedure with points of order were verbally abused by other members of council for their efforts.

This is the level of democratic procedure that one might expect to find in a dictatorship, or among uneducated people. To discover such arrogance and incompetence in the student government of a university is as incredible as it is sad.

I for one am outraged by the fact my fees are helping to finance this circus.

Janet McNaughton



Harbinger's Sue Kaiser faces CYSF President Paul Hayden, at Monday night's wild budget meeting.

## Harbinger: a vital service

The student council allocated Harbinger a mere \$2,000 at its Monday night budget meeting.

This is a cut from the \$4,000 proposed in the budget and only a quarter of the \$8,000 awarded to Harbinger by last year's CYSF.

Harbinger is a community service which each year trains student and staff volunteers in a number of areas.

The centre, located in Vanier college, provides information peer counselling in sexuality, birth control, unplanned pregnancy, venereal disease, drug, alcohol and personal problems.

Harbinger also makes medical referrals. Last year 2,500 students benefitted from Harbinger services.

Unplanned changes in the centre's services will result from this drastic reduction in its budget. The lack of sufficient funds threatens Harbin-

ger's quality of service, its continuity and very existence.

Since the proposed cuts were hinted at during the council's October 31 meeting, the centre's members and friends spent four days circulating a petition. As of Monday night 576 signatures supporting Harbinger were collected. What did these people sign?

A statement saying Harbinger is vital, necessary service for the York community. One which should continue to be financed by CYSF to ensure its present level of operation.

This means at least \$4,000, not \$2,000.

Unfortunately ten members of CYSF saw fit to ignore the case for Harbinger and the evidence of student support for the centre. A large part of council's responsibility is to allocate its funds in the best interests of students.

To this year's council this means no financing for political clubs, a meagre portion of the budget set aside for other clubs, and cuts in grants to course unions.

Council is providing such limited financing for Breakthrough (York's feminist magazine) that it cannot publish regularly. The women's centre has had to limit its program because of cuts.

Budget cuts are real but should be spread around in an equitable and planned manner. This has not happened. Instead the proposed budget suffered last minute changes based on little research or concern with student desires and needs.

Do we need a council which proposes cuts for Harbinger and political clubs, but plans only small cuts in its entertainment budget?

Do we need a council which requires a motion to allow interested

students a chance to speak at its meetings?

Do we need members like CYSF President Paul Hayden who voted against the motion? We think not.

When the budget cuts for Harbinger passed on Monday night, we saw a lack of responsible, democratic leadership in a block of council members. The debate over Harbinger was a farce, with attempts to discredit the centre as a service and a need.

We want a council which will fight for a healthy campus. It must find ways of supporting our services and not pit student organizations against each other.

Nor should council undermine the spirit of debate and democratic process which it is supposed to embody. We need leadership from our elected representatives, not attacks on vital components of the York community.

We are disgusted at the undemocratic and unresponsive manner in which the budget was handled. We hope students will make their views known by contacting their council reps, either in person or by letter.

People interested in signing or circulating the Harbinger petitions, please contact the centre at 677-3509.

**Abie Weisfeld CYSF Grad Rep,  
Philip Hebert CYSF Grad Rep,  
Mary Marrone CYSF Calumet Rep,  
Cheryl Pruitt CYSF Vanier Rep,  
William Pipher CYSF Winters Rep,  
Josie Hayes, Linda Blanchet, Ian Kellogg, Joel Goldfarb, Bill McGarvey, Paul Kellogg, Gord Lovgren, Steven Campbell, Pam Daniels, Lynne Miller, Glenn McKnight, Gael Silzer, Donna Mobbs, Joanne Pritchard, Doug Vowles, Jan Winhall.**

## "Dishonest, obnoxious, insolent"

### Council meeting a brawl, they say

On Monday night, November 7, we attended a meeting of the CYSF to discuss the budget.

What we expected was an honest and open meeting with the pros and cons of all issues being entertained in a democratic fashion by our student representatives. What we were subjected to was a farce in the form of verbal abuse, and intellectual inattentiveness when the views being expressed were in opposition to the council executives.

Many members of the councils and concerned students were met with insolence and disrespect by Paul Hayden and his supporters.

Gary Empey did not hesitate to tell speakers who disagreed with his position to fuck themselves.

He physically challenged us when we got up and left in protest against the councils apparent lack of concern for student sentiment. "Cowards! Cowards! Cowards!" he cried.

To us, a man who in a democratic meeting attempts to intimidate and silence the opposition is a fascist.

The chairperson was not an impartial member of the meeting as required by the CYSF constitution, as he constantly ruled in Hayden's favour. Opposition members and members of the gallery were constantly ruled out of order.

But Hayden and his executive were free to refute any argument at will. We strongly urge that this person is unsuitable to continue in his present capacity as chairperson.

The principal issue of this meeting was to discuss the proposed budget

of the present council. We were presented with this budget. It was agreed to vote on each separate budget item.

After several clauses of the budget had been passed, it became obvious that funds were being drawn from some source.

After being questioned on the origin of these funds, Tom Silverhart first refused to tell us, but after continued pressure, it was revealed that Harbinger's budget was to be cut from the original \$4,000 to \$2,000.

For the sake of reference, last year's allocation to Harbinger was \$8,000.

We were amazed to find out that the proposed budget that we received at the beginning of the meeting was not the proposed budget at all but a deliberate attempt to mislead the council at large.

This type of political manipulation and human deceit should not be allowed to continue at this university. This university needs a strong, democratic student council to deal with the problems of cut-

backs in a constructive manner rather than slashing needed social services.

If any of the readers challenge the validity of these observations, we suggest that they attend the next CYSF meeting...

**Steven Campbell  
Bill McGarvey  
Members of the Calumet  
General Meeting  
Win C. Hum  
Chairperson Calumet  
General Meeting**

## Council will shrink our world view

The November 3 issue of *Excalibur* reported that CYSF passed a motion denying funding for all on-campus political groups.

This outrageous decision, which was taken without notice of motion to those affected by it, must be protested as a bureaucratic and discriminatory manoeuvre on the part of CYSF.

The money that CYSF has control over is levied from students' fees and is intended to fund various student organizations and projects. By denying operating funds to political campus organizations, CYSF is effectively restricting the access of students on this campus to different ideas and world views.

And as the *Excalibur* editorial of last week noted, "this move is going to hurt the left-wing clubs more than anyone."

By withholding financial support to groups with a Marxist political viewpoint, CYSF is giving support to the status quo and only reinforcing the perpetration of bourgeois ideology that the university in capitalist society is committed to.

Paul Hayden, CYSF president, doesn't want CYSF to be the "haven for political clubs who can't get funds anywhere else" (*Excalibur* November 3).

Rather than denouncing discriminatory practices against political clubs at other universities

and standing up for democratic rights for all student interests, CYSF emulates the worst aspects of bureaucratic student government and in so doing, denies the democratic right of political groups to be treated on an equal basis with other campus groups.

Student clubs represent a variety of different student interests and politics is one of those interests. CYSF is heavily-handedly imposing its own parochial and anti-political bias on the students of this university.

Counterposing 'better food and better bands' to 'insignificant special interest groups' is a bogus argument which Muchnik, the Founders College rep who

initiated the motion, conveniently used to stomp on the democratic rights of students interested in politics on this campus.

CYSF's attack on democratic rights must not be allowed to go unanswered. It sets a dangerous bureaucratic precedent that can be used by CYSF in the future against any campus club which it deems to be insignificant.

The Trotskyist League (York) Club demands that all student groups - whether social, political, cultural or athletic - be funded by CYSF and that the motion barring funds to political groups be immediately rescinded.

**Trotskyist League (York) Club**