

# Chinese students association's grievances largely unjustified

By CLARENCE BORJA

Clarence Borja is past President of the Filipino Students' Association of York.

In the November 20th opinion article "Student Centre Won't Make up for Weak Club System" written by Mr. Tak Chan, Secretary of the Chinese Students' Association, (CSA) Chan questioned the leadership of CYSF President Gerard Blink. On this matter Mr. Tak's accusations are nothing but unfounded rhetoric since CSA executives are merely blaming their misfortunes in their alleged underfunding on the Central Government.

My interest in this particular matter is the naming of other clubs by Mr. Tse and Mr. Chan in their propaganda campaign to gain more funding from CYSF. It was written in the Nov. 13 *Excalibur* article that CYSF underfunded the CSA by a mere \$200 from the previous year.

In addition, Mr. Chan charged that Gerard Blink proposed to deny the CSA's right to exist by cutting half of its funding. However, it was the CSA executives who initially threatened Gerard Blink that they would no longer support CYSF sponsored events as well as plan CSA club activities, because it lacks the necessary funds.

In a conversation between Mr. Tse and myself a week before the Multicultural Festival Tse said that his executives would not participate in a multicultural exhibit because his Social/Cultural Director had quit. After congratulating me and the Filipino Students Association (FSAY) on our \$750 club funding, Mr. Tse went on to say that CSA cannot afford to support CYSF or plan CSA activities. It is therefore not clear to me whether the boycott of the multicultural exhibit was related to club funding or the inability of CSA to put on a show.

It seems to me that underfunding is a flimsy excuse on the part of CSA executives. Furthermore the CSA has continually charged that other clubs were over-funded. The club of interest, according to Mr. Tse in a recent CYSF negotiations meeting, is the FSAY. Speaking on behalf of the FSAY, the fact is we received \$500 from CYSF the previous year as seed money to start the organization. The increase of \$250 in this year's budget was based on the assessment of a number of functions held, and the functions' ability to open its doors to

the greater York community. The same cannot be said for CSA functions.

Mr. Tse's charge of arbitrary club funding assessment is untrue. These funding guidelines were made perfectly clear during past CYSF Club Commission meetings. Mr. Chan's use of colourful metaphor to display his outrage and the "unbridged gap" between CYSF and CSA is obviously a consequence of the cut in funding. However, it is reckless of Mr. Chan to include other clubs in his unqualified remarks.

There are CYSF-funded clubs, both academic and otherwise, which are concerned with campus unity eager to involve the greater York community in their functions. So what is the CSA executives' function other than to serve their membership? They should at least include the York community in their functions. The CSA executive have used their positions on campus as a marketplace to make a profit. It is a known fact that the CSA have used club space to advertise many of its corporate sponsors along with advertisements in many of their extravagant parties.

CSA also receives a substantial amount of corporate sponsorship from advertising in their club publications. In addition, these corporate sponsors offer discount rates to CSA card-carrying members. Thus, comparing FSAY and CSA is like comparing apples and oranges. FSAY does not have any ads or printed publications nor do we have any corporate sponsors.

Was \$200 really worth the provocative protest by CSA? I am sure this is loose change compared to what CSA receives in corporate backing. The CSA's clandestine approach was totally wrong. To boycott the multicultural exhibit and to threaten to pull out of CYSF sponsored events was a worthless threat that did not work. Had the CSA executives used their "political wisdom" in acting in a diplomatic manner, surely CYSF would have had a positive ear for their concerns. But by merely plastering posters around campus during the Multicultural exhibit written in Chinese, I would doubt very much if other clubs including CYSF could sympathize with the group (let alone understand what they were talking about).

While Mr. Tse concedes that funding should reflect the club's membership (400 CSA members), my response to Mr. Tse is what kind of strength can 400 members generate when you don't have their unequivocal support? Consequently, there are other groups with just as high a

membership which receive far less funding and have no corporate sponsorship, yet we do not hear them quibbling over funding (for example, the Chemistry Club). To say that one has 400 members on paper is far too simplistic a statement to make; but if one had 400 members rallying behind its leaders this is obviously a different story. Especially if one only needs 20 names to start a club.

Maybe if the CSA executives included the York community in many of its extravagant parties/functions, they would receive a favourable response from CYSF. It is also equally interesting that Mr. Chan criticized CYSF government, yet CSA's own executive lacks the necessary credibility to muster control and support over its own members. On this point I do not speak merely from observation but from dealings and discussions with CSA executives and known sources within CSA.

In a recent CSA emergency general meeting held November 10, only 60 people showed up. What happened to the CSA's 400 members? While the meeting was highly publicized in both Chinese and English, attended by various representatives from the York Community including CYSF Social and Cultural Director Michael Latchana, the meeting was not conducted in English for the benefit of the visitors. Is that the kind of behaviour that CSA executives want to convey to the York community in general, if they want a positive response for their cause? In my view it is outright disrespectful.

Mr. Chan, interestingly enough pointed out that he and others have come to York for an education in order to nurture what he calls "an active contribution to the growth of an intellect and imagination." But contrary to Mr. Chan's assertions, the CSA executive have failed to sponsor any academic events such as symposium, or educational lectures (then again I can't read Chinese so maybe I missed the posters).

In retrospect it is unfortunate that the CSA did not receive their extra \$200 compared to last year or the \$4600 originally asked for from the CYSF budget. But maybe with 400 member constituency the CSA executives could plan a dance and maybe, just maybe the revenue generated from this sponsored dance, they could just break even. Otherwise the CSA executives may have to do away with their usual light show, smoke show and special effects and just settle for a DJ in order to economize in their budgeting.

# FISH FAX

## The Pike

By Izaak Walton

From *The Compleat Angler*, in this year of He whose name is Wonderful, 1653.

**DESCRIPTION:** The mighty pike is taken to be the tyrant (as the salmon is the king) of the fresh water. He is the longest lived fresh water fish; and yet it be not usually above 40 years; and others think it be not above 10; and yet Gesner mentions a pike taken in Swedeland, in the year 1449, with a ring about his neck, declaring he was put into that pond by Frederick the Second more than two hundred years before, and the inscription in that ring (being Greek) was interpreted by the Bishop of Cologne. But whither am I going?

He is the fresh water wolf, by reason of his bold, greedy, devouring disposition. I know a man who watered his mule at a pond, had a pike bit his mule by the lips, to which the pike hung so fast that the mule drew him out of the water. And the same Gesner observes, that a maid in Poland had a pike bit her by the foot, as she was washing clothes in a pond.

**BREEDING:** 'Tis not to be doubted but pikes breed some by generation, and some not. Unless learned Gesner be much mistaken, for he say a weed called pickeral weed, with the help of the sun's heat, in some ponds apted for it by nature, do become pike.

**PREDATION:** Pikes will eat even venomous frogs. And a Polonian

gentleman did faithfully assure me, he had seen two young geese at one time in the belly of a pike. And doubtless a pike will bite at and devour a dog that swims in a pond; and there have been examples of it, or the like; for I tell you, "The belly has no ears when hunger comes upon it."

**RELATIONSHIP:** And now I will give you some rules how to catch pikes. If you intend to fish with a frog, you are to choose the yellowest that you can get, for that the pike ever likes best. Get secretly behind a tree, and stand as free from motion as possible; and put a frog on your hook, and let your hook hang a quarter of a yard short of the water, to which end you must rest your rod on some boughs of the tree. Some affirm, that any frog anointed with the marrow of the thigh-bone of a heron is a great temptation. This I have not tried but was told me by a friend, that pretended to do me a courtesy; but if this direction to catch thus do no good, I am certain this direction to catch thus do no good, I am certain this direction how to roast him is choicely good. First, take out the guts and keep his liver, which you are to shred with thyme, marjoram, pickled oysters, and some anchovies, two or three. To this add a pound of sweet butter, and some claret. Then into the belly sew it all up. Then you are to thrust a spit through his mouth and out his tail. This dish is too good for any but anglers, or very honest men; and I trust you will prove both, and therefore I have trusted you with this secret.

## Letters Cont'd

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categories, and his reasoning, to be kind, is less than brilliant.

To put the facts straight, there is a strong case favouring a definite distinction between Jews for Jesus and legitimate missionary organizations. While the latter use honourable and proper methods to pursue their goals, the former's strategy is based on creating controversy and conflict and preying on the minds and souls of naive, confused and uninformed individuals.

Furthermore, in reference to ex-Jews for Jesus member Larry Levy, Daniel Silver's analysis verges on the absurd. Larry Levy's organization, Jews for Judaism, was created to help people who were enticed into Jews for Jesus, find their true selves again. Mr. Levy found this organization after his harrowing experience as a member of Jews for Jesus. To criticize such an organization would be tantamount to criticizing other similar anti-cult organizations.

Finally, regarding Daniel Silver's thinly veiled, semi-libelous state-

ment accusing some organization of being "totalitarian wimps," I have one question. To whom was he referring? *Excalibur*? Jews for Judaism? or the Jewish Students Federation that sponsored Larry Levy's talk on campus?

Well, I'm certainly no wimp and I won't beat around the bush. I can be found at the JSF and I'd love to be called a wimp to my face.

—David Abitbol

## Silver targeted for criticism again

Editor:

Rare is the chance that one gets to respond to a letter (*Excalibur*, Nov. 27) written by a "mental giant" such as Daniel Silver. This is simply too good to pass up. To begin:

Yes, Mr. Silver, "hypocrisy" is a big word (so glad to see those episodes of Mister Roger's Neighbourhood are paying off) but, alas, it is

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