

## YSC and the Boy Scouts

Having once (very briefly) been a boy scout, and having been intimately associated with their 'clean mind, clean body, be prepared' for a very dull life, I can state with authority that the boy scout ethic makes for a very dull life. However, much good can come of even a short association with so neuter an organization as the B.S.'s (as I have come to call them), so I adopted the dictum "be Prepared" as having some intrinsic merit of its own, especially in regards to the situation of the York University student body.

Therefore, I respectfully suggest that York University prepare to mourn, eulogize and otherwise lament the passing of the York Student Council. Because as sure as Murray Ross has white hair, the YSC is embarking on that long, lonesome road to oblivion, as did the aborted SRC before her.

The reasons which I find for assuming that the YSC is as good as dead are legion.

Let us start with the council itself. As an institution, YSC sorely lacks both the vision and perspective necessary to endure. They have ignored standard economic procedure. The council has refused to acknowledge the fact that their main responsibility does not lie to the students who are now striving for educational immortality, but to those who will attend York over the next twenty years. For example, in formulating their budget this year, they worked on the premise that if they could just scrape together enough filthy lucre to finance such temporal pleasures as Excalibur, Winter Carnival, a full time secretary, and trips to all those conferences that student councils are so fond of calling, they would keep enough students happy so that when their term ended, they could pat themselves on the back for a job well started and retire to graduate school. What they should have done, in my opinion, is to:

- incorporate, so that they might have legal existence and borrow money.
- draw up a budget listing what facilities and capital expenditures would be necessary to provide adequately for this

year's students, next year's students . . .

c) borrow the needed funds and buy the needed facilities so

d) students could start enjoying them right away.

make arrangements to repay the loan over the life of the facilities, taking into account the fact that future students should bear the cost of that portion of the life of the equipment which they were using, and the fact that the economies of scale would eventually come into play in that when student enrollment on campus increased, the cost per capita would drop and a budgetary surplus would result.

e) take advantage of the fact that their constitution supported the principle of direct financing of the YSC by the students through the administration.

This practise of capital-debt financing is the one which is used by virtually every government on earth, but in their rush to be good-guys, YSC seems to have overlooked it.

Another aspect of YSC's policy of not offending anyone was illustrated by their reaction to the news that an independent group of students who called themselves The Ad Hoc Committee for YSC had circulated a petition at registration condemning the Board of Governor's recent action in deciding that the fee increase levied at the behest of YSC should go to the college councils. YSC's action was to pass a motion, contradictory as it was, thanking the committee for its spontaneous action but formally disassociating YSC from the action. In other words, it was a good idea, guys, but we don't want to get involved. Jerry Farber must have smiled at that one all the way down at Berkely.

But don't get the idea that YSC is suicidal. The college councils are all standing around the open grave with their shovels. With the founding of YSC, all the college councils turned paranoid. Composed as they are of egoists, you can hardly expect them to acknowledge the fact that a united YSC could have a great

effect in representing the student interests in such fields as faculty-student relations, administrative policies as they affect the individual student etc., the college councils have instead come to regard the YSC as an erosion of their power base. They fight like spoiled children over the question of YSC's financial independence, just as they fight among themselves when one of their meagre attempts at inter-college co-operation falls flat on its ass and they don't know who to blame. They worry about some illusion they have devel-

oped about their jurisdictional power over their students, and they use YSC as a common enemy-scapegoat.

All of which must have the Board of Governors rolling in the aisles. Things couldn't have worked out better if they'd been planned that way. When the Greeks first formulated the tactic of "divide and conquer" they conquered the known world. When the Board of Governors redefined it into a pseudo-philosophy of education, the students of York immediately adopted it as the greatest thing since Ever-

dale. The board began to worry, however, when student power became the thing, and when YSC was organized at York, they must have feared for a moment that things had gotten out of hand. But they didn't count on Little Johnny College Council coming to their rescue. In the first place it took the Constitution Committee about five months just to agree to YSC's founding principles, and even at that, they made damn sure that YSC had no balls.

Bang. Finished. The End.

So did anybody scream? As I said before, a few students, whom YSC immediately repudiated.

YSC is doomed. So I'd suggest you take your black suit and shovel out of the closet. Because unless you do something, you're going to need them.

## Comment

by George B. Orr

"The York Student Council last spring requested the Board of Governors to increase fees for student activities by \$10 per student."

Ergo, all cries of tuition abolishment (those were the good old days) have, for the moment been lost in the frenzied scramble toward more active students. Ten dollars. To you, maybe that's not too much, but to quote John Deifenbaker, ten dollars feeds a hell of a lot of starving constituents.

What is our own proto-politician, John Adams, going to do with this windfall? And how is he going to segregate we who paid from they who did not?

According to a small flyer recently circulated, the \$10 fee will be collected and allocated on a per capita basis to the college councils of Founders, Vanier, Winters, and McLaughlin Colleges, and the School of Business and then to YSC.

This means that the remainder, Glendon, and the Faculty of Graduate Studies, will not have to come across.

Presumably they won't benefit from whatever this vast total will bring in, but then what will this vast total be used for?

Don't bother working it out. It's a hell of a lot of cash all in one lump. Sheer speculation puts the sum in excess of \$40,000. Thus comes the solvency of John Adams' boys. That's a lot of pizza.

Exactly where does the money go? Well, tentative accounting by YSC moneymen Cruikshank splits it into three lots.

Publications and communications finances are drained off for the most part by Excalibur, This University's paper. They need every penny of the \$15,000 or so that they will get. So no real complaint there.

Then there's the yearbook. In past years this effort has had great difficulties in both production and expense. There have been threats of discontinuation,

but the council is gambling 50c a head that Century II won't be the last.

The University handbook, and the student directory have been budgeted in, as well as Radio York. None of these really seem worth the expense, totalling in themselves \$3,400.

Total for this field exceeds \$19,000, subject of course to revision.

The second lot covers social events and external affairs, the backbone of the earnest slacker who skips classes. In this are included various student union fees. This adds to over \$16,000.

What student body would be complete without a tiny bureaucratic overhead? General running costs for the YSC will run over \$11,900 this year.

Thus sits a potential expenditure of \$47,100, subject to any of a myriad of petty changes.

But what about the students in those groups not contributing to the general welfare? How will they be kept segregated from the services provided by your money? Will council budget for people to keep Atkinson students from snitching copies of this paper? Will Glendon students be forbidden to participate in any clubs or social activities on this campus?

In short, can the YSC ensure that those who paid for the services will be the main beneficiaries?



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