

Changes are needed in CYSF constitution

By R. WILLIAM OSMARS
Stong CYSF representative

This summer, CYSF gave first reading to a new constitution. Soon after Orientation, this constitution received final reading. Although the draft has been around for about a year, the vast bulk of the major revisions took place in the period starting with exams last year, and ending in Orientation Week this year: a period when most of us were otherwise engaged.

Until recently, anyone wishing to examine the constitution had to plow through the various alterations, deletions, additions, and revisions that took place. Now the constitution is down in black and white. It lacks some of the worst features of the draft, but it still has a good share of its own questionable aspects.

For instance, no matter how hard one looks, a section on the duties of representatives cannot be found. Perhaps the CYSF reps no longer wish to have some of their duties outlined. It could be useful, I admit, not having a written requirement to report to my constituents, or even to represent their views to the council, as was previously the case.

Then, of course, there are the things that are in the constitution.

For example, in the October by-elections, no one was nominated to fill the Calumet vacancy. The Calumet General Meeting was asked to choose a representative. Yet, according to the new constitution, the Council could have selected a representative for Calumet. Granted the just method was used in this case, but no elected body should be able to choose any of its members in any cir-

cumstances.

CYSF also claims the power to make any undergraduate or graduate college or faculty a member of CYSF, whether or not that college or faculty so desires. It also leaves open the possibility of the various faculty associations becoming part of CYSF, something that has no proper place in York University.

The Executive now holds certain key powers that in the past were shared by the various individual members of the Council. This includes the fact that currently only the Executive can initiate amendments. I have requested that the Executive take steps to change this, but there is no way of predicting whether they will comply or not.

Also, the practice of the Council electing the persons who sit on the various standing committees is no longer constitutional. Now

the Director involved has sole power to appoint and replace committee members. Since the Council is currently attempting to become incorporated, it had to include a clause restricting the meetings of the Council to Ontario. There is no requirement that they be held on campus. As it is, next month's meeting could be held in Moosonee if the Executive so desired.

Finally, not even the Council knows whether or not the Constitution is correct. The President was recently asked to determine whether a clause regarding the removal of members had been accidentally omitted. As it now reads, only the Council can remove members from office.

These are only some of the things involved in the CYSF constitution. Obviously, changes are very much needed.

Opinion

Students should seize chance to influence society

By RON ROSENTHAL

This is a response to Michael Mouritsen's column. It is not for him but for those who share my embarrassment at having him represent York students.

Students are in a unique situation. Most have no dependents; none have fears of losing long-term jobs, and few have to devote more than 40 concentrated hours on course work.

These characteristics explain why students have often acted successfully to change the society which supports them. Since countries are creatures which contain large numbers of people, the most effective methods of carrying out change is through politics. When the students of

Thailand united to demonstrate against the military dictatorship, their actions led to a major change in the government.

Mouritsen was elected by the student body to defend their interests and to represent them on and off campus. By refusing funds to political clubs, Mouritsen is defending those who recognize the dangers of a politically active campus. "Organizations which profess a distinct exclusive political ideology will receive no money." Why? The rationale is that these clubs are not open to all students. No organization, school course, or association can be universal in its appeal. Do you know any hemophiliacs playing on the York football team? (The athletic programme is partially funded by York students, including non-participants.)

Mouritsen does not object to politics. He claims it is legitimate for clubs to be funded, provided they merely, "discuss or debate political issues." Such debating societies are cathartic trips which remain harmless exercises in futility.

Of course, Mouritsen reasons that if we must tolerate left politics (let's remember that it is the left which is crippled by lack of funds) at least we can keep it on campus. "No off-campus event, service or activity will be subsidized by grant of the council." Apparently we are not supposed to be concerned with matters beyond "the quality of education". Knowing Mouritsen as I do, this issue will not be decided by reasoned argument, but by students who stand up and refuse to bury their heads in the York sand-box.

Russians suffer, ask our concern for their plight

This case is certainly deserving of attention from those concerned with injustice and inhumanity wherever it appears.

John Ridpath
Social Science/Economics

A STATEMENT BY VALERY PANOV

To the conscience and heart of mankind:

Today, when the Soviet Union speaks so eloquently, so frequently, of legality and love of man, I want to talk about my own case.

My wife and I are ballet dancers who have more than once been given high awards by the government. Ballet is our life, outside which we cannot imagine ourselves.

About two years ago, we applied for exit visas for Israel. It is hard to relate what terrible moments then befell us and the various humiliations which we have had to undergo—slander, prison, interrogation, blackmail, which have led to the death of my mother and much more.

Our constitutional rights have been violated in the crudest fashion. We are periodically forbidden to move about inside the country. We are followed. We are not allowed to meet our friends because this brings misfortune on them.

At the present time, we have no right to leave the city. For nearly two years now, we have not worked. For

us as ballet dancers every day without work brings us nearer to professional death. This is the precise aim of the organizers of our punishment.

But I do not want to talk about my wife's talent dissolving in tears. From day to day our strength is draining away. Our confidence is dying and, with it, we too are dying. I have understood perfectly that they will never let us leave the country, and our professional death will be followed by our physical death.

Countless times we have appealed to various branches of the state and government, including Brezhnev himself, but have never received an answer. Unanswered too have been the appeals made in our support by leading political figures, prominent artists, and public opinion in the West.

I do not belong to any political organization. I speak for myself. My civic conscience does not permit me to remain silent, and as a sign of protest against the daily sadism against us artists, we are declaring a hunger strike.

I see no end to my hunger strike, but this is the sole means remaining to me of protesting and appealing to the world. I will continue, I hope, until not one honest person remains indifferent to my fate, my wife's fate, and that of others.

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Letters to the Editor

Students say Pro-Tem pic is racist

We, the undersigned, are writing as individuals and not as members of any on-campus organization to protest a highly inflammatory and racist cartoon that appeared on the front cover of the Glendon campus paper, Pro-Tem (Dec. 5/73). This cartoon is the work of a contributing cartoonist to Excalibur, John Rose, and is so signed. It depicts a Jew who, on Christmas eve, sets up a trap for Santa Claus and cocks his shotgun for further precautions should Santa survive.

Although the cartoon may initially appear humorous, its psychological effects are quite to the contrary. Mobs once used such allegations as excuses to launch murderous attacks against defenseless Jewish communities.

We demand that Mr. Rose publicly apologize to the community in general and to the York Community specifically for the insulting and malicious piece published in Pro-Tem.

SHELLEY RABINOVITCH
MICHAEL LUTHER
MAUREEN LUTHER
AMI MAISHLISH
STEPHEN LANDAU
SIMONA BLANC
DAVID JACOBS

Farcical politics

I wonder if any other readers see campus politics here as I do: in a word, farcical. Nov. 29th's Radio York Bearpit Session was much more than Excalibur presented it as, which was as a rather orderly discussion. Instead, it became an "Us vs. You" confrontation, with the Wafflers snarling, howling and gnashing their teeth against one lone individual, Mike Mouritsen, CYSF president.

Is it not time that someone spoke up to remind our "Radical Left" that, unless they begin behaving like intelligent beings, they will be left—in the lurch! I personally know of no one who would consider him/herself intellectual and who wish to be associated with this group.

While I may sympathize with their ideology, I do not believe that it condones such a vicious, semi-literate attack on York's bureaucratic power elite. At best, it appears biased; at worst, bestial.

It appears to me (and I don't believe I'm alone in this) that these people are sincere in what they believe—though, like all groups, some members are on an obvious ego-trip. But the fault lies in the communication of these beliefs. Unless they are deliberately trying to reach the arm-swinging, eye-blazing, mouth-frothing fanatical crowd, my suggestion to our York New Left representatives would be: Keep cool and calm, and exercise a Sense of Humour. I wonder how others feel?

LYNNE REEVES
Sociology III, Vanier

Is this a modest proposal?

With the Canadian government's recent concern over the so-called "energy crisis", an immediate solution presents itself to quell the fears of the common man and warm the homes of many.

I live in an area swarming with an abundance of little old ladies. You know the type I mean, feathered hats, steel-lined overcoats, orthopedic shoes and a stolid faith that will melt the gaze of any budgie-loving Catholic.

These wonderful specimens of human evolution are able, if their body temperatures are raised by 600 degrees F, to provide enough energy and heat to light and warm a home for 14.5 days.

The procedure of preparing the "potential energy" and releasing it, is quite simple. It is only the screaming which lasts for one-half hour that we are still working on.

If you don't have a fireplace, a shopping cart will do. First, tie on specimen, coat and all, in the fetal position and place on a sheet of aluminum foil, to catch the coals. Around the "log" place the artificial wood logs that burn coloured flames and can be purchased at any Becker's store.

Pour two cups of barbecue fluid on the logs and place the shopping cart over the entire ensemble. Ignite the logs and voila, heat and light for two great weeks.

MARK COHEN

Merry Christmas

Happy Chanukah

from the staff of Excalibur

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