

Excalibur

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Students picket today

By Marc Epprecht

This morning at 11:45 three buses will be leaving from in front of Ross Building to join the Ontario Federation of Students' picket line at Queen's Park. The Council of York Student Federation is providing the round trip and a cutbacks button for all CYSF members. Bethune and Calumet students however must pay 75 cents for the ride because, as CYSF president David Chodikoff says, "our number one priority is to serve our CYSF members".

The event is intended to be mainly informational, as opposed to a mass protest march. The picket signs and leaflets handed out will publicize the fact that the OFS is "dissatisfied with government policy on post-secondary school education."

The decision to hold the picket came on October 29 after, as Chris Allnutt of OFS explained, it became apparent that the ministry of education will not be changing its position.

According to Allnutt the OFS has repeatedly presented its concerns to Betty Stevenson, minister of Colleges and universities beginning with a meeting with her last September. Because she has "consistently avoided the issues or given a qualified 'no' to OFS requests it was seen as a necessary step to bring pressure to bear," said Allnutt. "Stevenson will not be there today as she has gone up north for some meeting."

Allnutt confidently predicts from 500 to 1000 students will show up, coming from as far afield as Laurentian, Lakehead, Carleton and Algoma College.

Allnutt's mention of a leak from a confidential report prepared for the government by P.S. Ross Associates, recommending that schools be allowed to set their own tuition rates, makes this picket even more important. Stevenson has not yet to comment on it, but the picket will publicize the fact that this policy could mean tuition increases of hundreds of dollars. No official statement is expected until December.

By acting ahead of the actual announcement, rather than in response to one, Allnutt believes the OFS can avert implementation of the report's recommendations. "We expect the support of the opposition parties and hope we will bring our situation to public attention." He claimed that the U. of T. has already suggested that it would raise its fees to 20 per cent of the total cost of the education, that is, about \$1150.

Pot smokers' club

OTTAWA (CUP) — The sweet smell of marijuana may waft through the halls of Carleton University if a proposed marijuana club gets off the ground.

As if anticipating the happily-glazed eyes of interested students, club initiator Andy Rapoch emphasized its seriousness.

"It will be actively pushing to decriminalize possession and cultivation of marijuana," he said.

However, this need not prevent club members from indulging in a few of the fringe benefits, he pointed out.

While Carleton's club will be affiliated with the National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), he said, the club need not adopt its policy of banning smoking at meetings.

The club will lobby with NORML to remove marijuana from the Narcotic Control Act and transfer its administration to the Food and Drug Act.



Candidates for today's Board of Governors elections were thrown into the bear pit last week. Polls are open until 6 o'clock today. Watch for election results in next week's Excalibur.

Student council budget unveiled

By Laura Brown

The 1978/79 Council of York Student Federation's preliminary budget was passed 14-3-1 Tuesday night with little opposition, except when the allocation of grants to Excalibur and the York Women's Centre were discussed.

At the budget meeting, finance vice-president Gary Empey introduced the grant proposals with the reminder that the council's budget is \$9,000 less than last year. Calumet's withdrawal from CYSF accounts for a loss of \$6,500, and \$2,500 reflects an enrollment drop in CYSF constituencies.

Prior to the acceptance of a \$13,000 allocation to Excalibur, a long yet good humoured discussion arose when Winters representative Robin Carter proposed an amendment that in light of the newspaper's financial straits, the grant should be raised to \$20,000.

With Excalibur now running 12 page issues each week with a required 40 per cent ad ratio, Carter pointed out that the students are only receiving seven and one-fifth pages of copy: "CYSF must re-order its priorities as Excalibur is a service we all value here."

When asked where the money would come from to cover a larger grant, Carter replied that "we can trim other areas".

Foremost in Carter's argument was the money allocated for memberships to the National Union of Students and the Ontario Federation of Students.

"NUS and OFS are fringe benefits which we can no longer afford when our house is not in order", Carter said.

Carter's proposed amendment for the defeated 11-5 with three abstentions.

Founders representative Steven Muchnik also proposed an amendment for the motion on Excalibur's funding which called for a drop to \$12,000. Muchnik suggested that the additional \$1,000 be equally split between the Clubs and the Women's Centre, but this was also defeated after a minimum of discussion.

Slight dissent also arose when a motion was proposed to allocate the Women's Centre \$350, and \$500 to the new CYSF Women's Affairs Committee.

Council president David Chodikoff said the money allocated to the Women's Affairs Committee "is well worth it". Chodikoff

said that this organization has already set up a month long film series in conjunction with Ryerson and the University of Toronto as well as having done extensive work in determining the needs of women's activities on campus.

Mike Meckler, part-time co-ordinator of the Women's Centre, contested the \$150 drop from last year's grant by citing the

already large constituency".

The discussions on the funding of the two campus-wide services led to remarks that extra money can be sought from other sources than the council.

Empey spoke of "a minority paying for a majority who are getting a free ride with some services". Chodikoff said that future meetings will discuss actions which can be taken to prevent non-CYSF constituencies from using services they haven't paid into.

Several council members pointed out that Calumet can provide more money for services. Empey said the college has promised \$5,000 to be allocated to campus-wide services such as Harbinger and Excalibur.

The remainder of the meeting passed quickly with the agreement to the following grants.

- Salaries for the CYSF secretary, business manager and president amounted to \$25,600.

- The allocation for election costs is \$2,500.

- Academic Affairs received a grant of \$2,700. Course unions received a \$420 increase from last year because

"We feel that the course unions and course evaluations are of value to the students", Empey said.

(See COUNCIL pg.2)



numerous activities already offered by the Centre.

Commenting on the grants allocated to the two women's organizations, Meckler said, "I'm not wishing to compete with another group which is geared to serving women on campus, but I would like to stress that the Women's Centre has been in existence since 1975 and continues to serve the needs of its

What lies within

Nazi hunter

pg. 3

Transportation problems

pg.7

Flicks from underground

pg.9

Yeowomen on ice

pg. 12

