

Student Centre won't make up for weak club system

By TAK CHAN

The current talk of the campus is the Student Centre, as Gerard Blink, president of the Council of the York Chinese Students' Association (CYSF) has rekindled our hope for more space and communal integration.

Until now, I never allowed myself to judge the ability and sincerity of Blink, but merely asked if his obvious ambition was supported by integrity and a sense of political wisdom.

My hopes deadened however, when Blink proposed to penalize the York Chinese Students' Association (YCSA) by suspending \$1,000 of its funding last week. The wisdom behind the proposed penalty, according to Blink, was twofold. It would:

1. stop the YCSA from attempting to protest again without waiting for possible negotiation.
2. Intimidate other clubs from crowding Central Square and

Blink's office with their demand for more funding.

Now let's not talk about both party's accusations such as the evasive beauracracy of the CYSF or the threat of the YCSA; nothing but hollow rhetoric would result from such a petty verbal joust. Let's talk about the issue at stake—besides ambition, what other virtues does Blink possess?

This, I believe, is an important question to pose. It is time to re-evaluate the student council and particularly our chief. Had the suspension been passed by the Council, would it really, as Blink had assumed, have stopped the YCSA from continuing its protest? What is suspension of \$1,000 but retribution; a display of arrogance and recklessness?

I am utterly convinced that the YCSA, which is not an insignificant part of the community, has already been driven to question what Blink

meant by "communal integration," and is even more determined to protest than before. What does Blink care about communal integration if he denies a club's right to exist by cutting half of its funding?

And why should Blink intimidate other clubs from protesting? Granted that any protest is undesirable, wouldn't it be more sensible to detect the causes rather than attack the results.

What the YCSA has been complaining about is the inequity of the arbitrary method of funding allocation. Regardless of whether the club's claim is correct, penalties will not solve the problem. Blink's action instead side-tracked people's attention and created suspicions that the CYSF was indeed guilty of the YCSA's claim.

Thus in trying to defend the good name of the CYSF, Blink did the contrary. A worse consequence, of course, is that the causes of the protest will be left untackled, and the

gap between the CYSF and the YCSA (and very possibly all clubs) will remain unbridged, if not widened.

As Blink furiously pointed out at the November 11 Council meeting that the YCSA regards the CYSF as a bank, there obviously existed in his mind a conflict of interest between the two parties. Blink wanted the clubs to be more concerned about campus unity and felt that the YCSA did not.

I would like to ask Blink: what do you know about the YCSA? The CYSF has never attempted to understand the clubs; it has never attempted to supervise their development, organize them and help them to recognize and reflect on their unique differences and difficulties.

Communal integration can only be talked about when the clubs have direct interaction amongst themselves. Let us find out what the club's cultural differences are; that's what I call democracy, or political wisdom, if you prefer.

A Student Centre no doubt solves the problems of space and lack of facilities, but it cannot compensate for a weak system. When Blink told John Tse (the YCSA president) that a Student Centre would allow the YCSA more space to hold larger parties and make more profit, I was disgusted.

Haven't we come to York for our education? If "Up York" does not mean an active contribution to the growth of intellect and imagination, then what exactly does it mean?

A final question to the president of the CYSF: should we bother ourselves with a system which continually replaces one mediocre politician with another?

Rhetoric I have used, whether or not it is hollow, the readers shall be my judge.

Tak Chan is the treasurer of the York Chinese Students' Association.

Letters Cont'd

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shouldn't these reporters ought to have clarified first before commenting?

The two reporters also commented that although the presentation was visually pleasing, "the approach taken was reminiscent of a fashion show." Just how it reminded them of a fashion show was left to the imagination of the reader. This is a display of inept reporting, as being the only source of information about the performance, they failed to even explain how the approach taken could have caused them to reminisce about a fashion show. Furthermore, this is a subjective statement that has already met considerable opposition. The opposition comprises of some of those who witnessed the show. What about those whose only impressions of the performances are derived from the *Excalibur* report? Shouldn't they be provided with further insight?

Readers of this article were also treated to the reporters' "synergistic" abilities in reading the mind while keeping an account of the event. This they achieved by claiming the audience reaction to be "understandably forgiving considering that it was an amateur performance." The reporters may have been of the opinion that our performance was substandard, and they may have applauded out of "forgiveness," but we know now that there are at least two psychics roaming the confines of this university. After all, how then could they be so confident in making that remark, when some other personal observations and feedback obtained revealed quite the opposite.

While Mitten and Berry were kind enough to suggest to the CYSF to hold off increasing the size of the festival next year and concentrate on improving the existing details instead, we have a suggestion for the editor of

the *Excalibur*. Hold off sending "fly by night" reporters to the Multicultural show in the future.

—The Executive Committee of York Malaysians and Singaporeans Students' Association

Multicultural Fest article derogatory, out of proportion

Editor:

This is in response to your cover article ("Multicultural Festival full of food and fun") in the Nov. 13 issue of *Excalibur*. At the very outset let me state that not only were the reporters' remarks derogatory, they also chose to single out the Malaysian and Singaporean Students' Association and for undue criticism.

I refer to the last paragraph of the article on page 1. The reporters claim that we were "plagued with technical difficulties." True, ours did have some problems but not any more than some of the others. May I suggest that if you choose words for the sake of rhetoric alone then please, please do be sure that they have some basis and are proportional to the magnitude of the event they relate to. "Plagued" indeed!

Next point—"questionable authenticity of the music." Should one question the authenticity of a foreign culture from people who are alien to it? Or, should one do so from those in the know? Moreover, in making a statement like that, I would have thought it is only good reporting ethics to verify one's facts rather than blatantly write reports and open oneself up to public criticism. Perhaps the reporters should be reminded that being reporters does not give them the license to express unverified views in a public forum and remain above the readers' cen-

sure. Let me tell them that it is not only hurtful to the maligned party, but that they, as writers, invite public backlash upon themselves. This is not a subjective matter where each individual is entitled to his opinion. It is a matter of the music being genuine or not at all.

The reporters claim that the "audience response was understandably forgiving." Many among the audience did tell us that they thoroughly enjoyed our performance and I must clarify these genuinely positive and warm responses were not from our nationals.

The reporters have referred to our association as the "Malayan and Singaporean group." We are Malaysians, please. Malaya ceased to exist more than two decades ago. Moreover, did it occur to your reporters to look at their copies of the night's programme or one of the many advertisements in the *Excalibur* before printing and exposing their ignorance?

The only comment I have in response to the reporters' phrase about the whole presentation being "reminiscent of a fashion show" is that in view of the setting of item (i.e. a coronation), one cannot expect the guests at a coronation to attend it in normal everyday wear. Further, as the commentator pointed out, we wanted to represent the diversity of our cultural composition.

In conclusion, the whole week, culminating in Friday night's events, was supposed to be one to promote cultural awareness, understanding and unity. While constructive criticism is welcome, even necessary, it simply will not do pick out one or two among the many associations to sharpen your journalistic knives upon, for, it destroys the very wholesome and enriching experience that the Annual Multicultural Festival created.

—Sue Sundram

FISH FAX

By GEORGE MATHEWSON

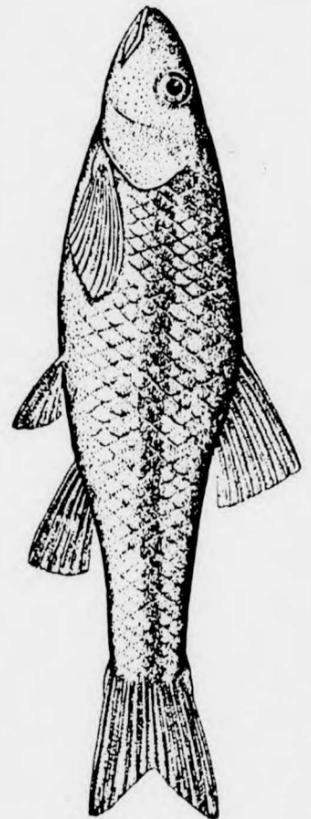
HORNYHEAD CHUB
Nocomis biguttatus (Kirtland)

Description: A firm, tubular fish averaging six inches in length infrequently found in gravelly streams draining into Lakes Erie and Huron.

Breeding: Nests are built by males in the spring, when they carry pebbles in their mouths or roll and push them into place with lips and snout. Females develop nuptial tubercles on their head and inter-orbital region (Hefner 1979). Breeding males have pronounced red spots on dorsal and anal fins.

Predation: Food consists of insects, algae and snails. Because of their size Hornyhead Chub constitute a major food item for a variety of other fishes such as Peamouths, Northern Hog Suckers and even other Chub. (For more on male-female cannibalism see Guccione, Nov., 1985).

Relationship: The Chub was once highly regarded as a bait fish because it could withstand the rough treatment afforded by storage tanks and minnow pails. When once asked why he liked fried Chub author H. Gordon Green replied, "Because they make the butter taste better."



ERRATA

• Re: "York tenants finally take priority over fruitflies as old killer rehired" (*Excalibur*, November 6).

The superintendants of the Assiniboine and Moon Rd. apartments did not threaten to strike in protest of the cockroach problem. David McRobert, York University Tenants' Assoc. executive, wrote to Norman Crandles, Director of Housing and Food Services, on Oct. 30, to clarify this misunderstanding: "The information that the tenants had provided me with... was a mixture of fact and fiction. (When) I spoke to Jack Collins, the superintendant in 2 Assiniboine, (he) told me that he and the other Supers were meeting with their union representatives the next day, but at no time

did he say that they intended to strike... I wanted to clarify this incident for the record because I feel that some of the consequences of the continued impression that the Supers were undertaking illegal action could be negative. In fact, the YUTA Executive appreciates that the Supers were attempting to address the concerns of tenants... Please view this note as a retraction of the allegation I may have made last week about the possibility of a strike."

Excalibur regrets any inconvenience or embarrassment this information may have caused.

• Re: "Multicultural Festival full of food and fun" (*Excalibur*, Nov. 13).

A quote, attributed to Sandy MacIntyre, stated that "Multiculturalism focuses on non-cultural aspects"; the phrase should have read "Multiculturalism focuses on non-controversial aspects."

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