

OFS and CYSF debate the pros and cons of York/OFS partnership

By LORNE MANLY

The Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) membership debate was held Tuesday at midday in the East Bear Pit. Since the turnout was poor to the say the least, *Excalibur* has decided to present the issues from the perspectives of both the Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF) and the OFS in the hope that this will benefit the student body in formulating their opinions for the upcoming referendum to be held February 6.

• *The Issue*—The \$30,000 cost of membership in the Ontario Federation of Students.

CYSF—CYSF pays OFS membership (exclusive of conferences) out of its own budget and not from a special additional operating grant as is the case with other OFS members.

CYSF President Reya Ali: "We can no longer afford it... with the equivalent money we could double our capacity in lobbying and services for York."

CYSF plans for the money include the hiring of a full-time researcher and a part-time administrative to lobby the provincial government on behalf of York's specific needs.

OFS—OFS concedes that CYSF is operating on a small budget but feels that the benefits OFS provide justify the cost. These benefits include the \$10.8-million increase in OSAP, the holding of tuition increases to four percent, and the exemption of residence food from provincial sales tax. As well, OFS feels that York's actions with the money saved would be redundant. According to Gerard Blink, the student coordinator for the OFS support committee, "They'd be doing the same job (lobbying the government) that OFS is doing, and the Government responds much better to a 200,000 person strong organization than to 15,000."

• *The Issue*—The effectiveness of OFS as a lobbying group.

CYSF—CYSF points to a recent meeting with officials at Queen's Park where their representatives were told that no real lobbying was going on. CYSF also claims that not one Government official has credited OFS with bringing about change in the government's policy.

Ali feels that CYSF could be effective lobbying the provincial government. "We would have more resources and research behind it (the lobbying)," Ali said. "It's a matter of who gets the ear of whom." CYSF does not want to pay \$30,000 to an organization which, in their opinion, is not lobbying effectively and has no credibility.

OFS—To counter these allegations, OFS uses Gregory Sorbara's (the Minister of Colleges and Universities) quote that "OFS has got its act together. The issues they raise are the issues students care about."

OFS does not believe that York will be able to get results on its own. "OFS is the only organized visible presence at Queen's Park," Gerard Blink said. "We have more resources than CYSF can bring to bear; CYSF on its own is not going to be able to communicate these demands effectively."

OFS sees the basic question of this referendum as whether York should work with other students in Ontario to make sure the Government

addresses their needs or should York rely on CYSF to do it alone.

• *The Issue*—CYSF's conviction that York's specific concerns have not been acted upon.

CYSF—York is the worst-funded university per student in the province. CYSF believes that OFS has accomplished nothing in this area and moreover, has no interest in doing so. Director of External Affairs Sandra Antoniani feels that it would be "political suicide" for OFS to change the formula as the "universities at the top of the scale (in the funding formula) won't be thrilled as they stand to lose money."

These universities, such as Western, have a considerable amount of clout in OFS. What OFS can do, according to Antoniani, is "lobby for more money."

As well, York's lack of space is one of the worst in Ontario (York is operating at approximately 75.4 percent of its capacity) but Ali "has yet to see any OFS document on this so there would be equity between the universities."

OFS—OFS claims that it is working for fundamental change in the funding formula and won't take any offer that just pumps more money into the system without changing the allocation method. OFS also states that the space shortage among Ontario universities is an issue it raises.

• *The Issue*—The presence of committees on issues not directly related to the improvement of post-secondary education in OFS.

CYSF—CYSF's concern that OFS covers too wide a range of issues thereby making it ineffective and inefficient. OFS has committees on such issues as peace and women's rights and while CYSF considers these issues important, they don't believe that a provincial student movement should concern itself with these items. OFS should concentrate on education issues only.

OFS—OFS is a democratic organization and therefore, according to

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GARY BLAKELEY

WINTER RENOVATIONS: While most York folk are busily bustling from class to class, this lone renovator cleans the beams on 5th floor, Ross Building. See page 5 for more pictures.

Guelph U. provost signed to review York system of student government

By DOUGLAS STEWART

A committee of York's Board of Governors (BOG) has signed on an outside consultant to study the chronic problems of student government at York.

Lino Magagna, chairperson of the Student Relations Committee (SRC) of York's BOG, announced to a meeting of student council presidents on Monday that the SRC has commissioned R. Paul Gilmour, the Provost of Guelph University, to work part-time on a study scheduled to be presented to the SRC by November.

Magagna said that an outsider was chosen to conduct the study because of a need for impartiality. He added that the selection of Gilmour, a political scientist, is because of Gilmour's "understanding of the university environment, experience in student affairs and obvious intelligence and performance record."

The Terms of Reference drafted for Gilmour by the SRC ask for a review of student government that will look into questions such as the "larger purpose and role of student government at York" and "what functions should student govern-

ment be expected to perform."

The Terms of Reference leave open the possibility that "a fundamentally new model" of York student government may be proposed, while keeping in mind a "due regard for the current overall structure of the University and the presence at York of both Colleges and Faculties."

Pam Fruitman, one of two student governors on the SRC, regards the appointment of Gilmour as a good move.

"The system that was implemented 25 years ago cannot be applicable to a university with a student population that has grown to 35,000," Fruitman said. "There is no better time for change than now."

Fruitman also said she feels that the launching of the study is "an important opportunity for students to participate in a process which will determine the future of York University."

She speculated that "the changes could be very moderate. Gilmour realizes he is going to have to take a very middle of the road position to accommodate a general consensus."

CYSF President Reya Ali welcomed the step toward a much needed change in the organization of student government at York. He said that the general response from student government leaders has been favorable. However, he feels that hiring a consultant may prove to be redundant.

"The CYSF executive and myself have been preparing, since October, our own model of proposals and recommendations which could have been ready before the end of the '85-'86 school year," Ali said. He added that he will be providing his own structural outline and a very detailed report for Gilmour's consideration by the end of February.

York's Provost Tom Meininger also welcomes the review as "an objective analysis of the structural problems of student government at York University."

Gilmour is required to submit a draft to the SRC by August. At that time, the draft will be circulated throughout the university community for comment.

Arthurs sways Senate in sensational debate

By DAVID BYRNES

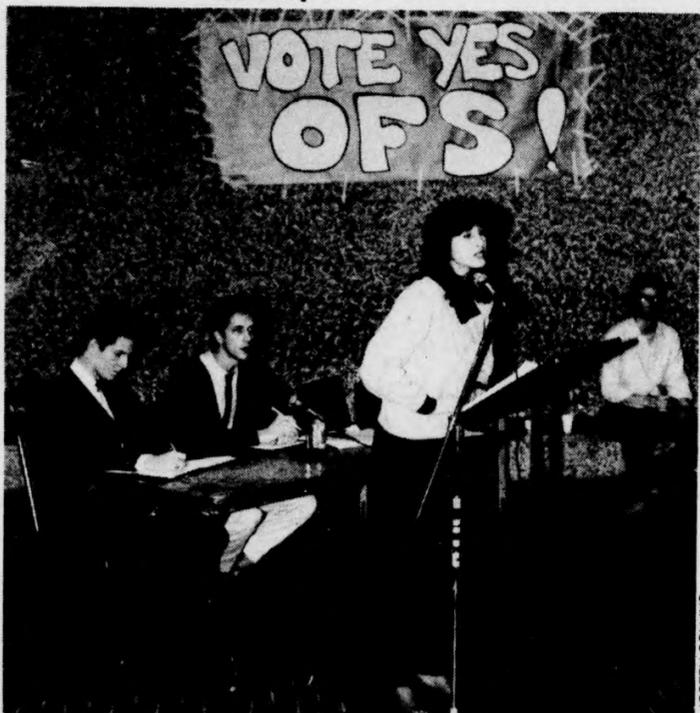
A sensational Senate debate that rocked York's professional academic community last Thursday will likely resolve quietly in a committee meeting today.

The debate, which saw 90 Senate members crammed into the 9th floor Ross Senate Chamber, pitted York President Harry Arthurs against the Senate Committee on Tenure and Promotions, over their long irrecon-

cilable differences in the interpretation of a piece of legislation that grounds Senate policy on the promotion of faculty to the rank of full professor.

Tenure and Promotions Committee Chair Paul Stevens told *Excalibur* that although two of three motions proposed to resolve the issue were not voted on at Thursday's meeting, he will recommend to his Committee today that they accept the defeat of

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JOSEPH COLLINS

THE GREAT DEBATE: Nope. From left: Gerard Blink, moderator Marshall Golden, Sandra Antoniani.

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