

Artistic strike is not council's responsibility

By MICHAEL MOURITSEN
President of the York Student Federation

At last week's meeting of the Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF), a motion expressing support for the Artistic Woodwork Co. strikers was narrowly approved. The supporters of this motion claimed that immigrant workers are being exploited and that pickets are being harassed by police. If the CYSF "motion of solidarity" were to be passed, it was argued, the strikers would be able to add another organization to its list of supporters.

So the CYSF expressed its solidarity with the strikers. (A narrowly-approved motion is quite an expression of solidarity, isn't it?) What was the point?

A motion of solidarity expresses the opinion of the majority of the councillors who happened to be present at the meeting that night. The only purpose of such a motion is to cloak that opinion with a phoney legitimacy. Supporters of the Artistic strikers will now claim that the York Student Federation supports their "struggle." That will easily become "The students of York support our struggle."

One of the aims of the motion was financial support for four York students who have been charged on the picket line. This motion was ruled out of order on procedural grounds, and the ruling was sustained by the council. It is certain to be raised again.

The council cannot possibly act as a spokesman for students on an issue such as

the Artistic strike. This is an issue on which individuals, not organizations, must make decisions. Student opinion on the strike is by no means unanimous, and the council has a responsibility to represent all students, not just a particular faction.

The Artistic strike does not fall within the terms of reference of the federation, which has been assigned responsibility for certain specific university activities. The council was elected to make decisions on these matters, which it does by majority vote. It was not elected to make decisions on questions of support for events such as the Artistic Woodwork strike, which are not the subject of majority vote; they are the responsibility of in-

dividuals.

I would like to re-issue my invitation to students to write me (or the council generally) with suggestions or criticisms about the university or the federation. The university internal mail boxes are ready-made suggestions boxes. An envelope addressed to a campus address can be mailed without postage if dropped into the "York" slot of any of the brown mail boxes around the campus.

Students are entitled to make use of the federation's services, one of which is the investigation of complaints and grievances. It is equally important that we receive suggestions from members. I hope to hear from you. Our address is CYSF, NIII Ross Building.

Letters To The Editor

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, c/o Excalibur, room 111 central Square. They must be double-spaced, typed and limited to 250 words. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for length and grammar. Name and address must be included for legal purposes but the name will be withheld upon request.

Mouritsen has overstepped his powers, student complains

In regard to the opinion piece, although it was not labelled as such, by Anthony Gizzie in your issue of Nov. 15/73, I find myself incredulous at Mr. Gizzie's journalistic irresponsibility. Clearly he has violated his own stated principal of offering constructive advice. Is calling for the resignation of members of CYSF who support the impeachment of the president constructive?

If Mr. Gizzie is going to adhere to the principle of responsible journalism he is bound to examine all the facts. The facts surrounding the proposed impeachment of M. Mouritsen are twofold.

Firstly, the president of CYSF has powers above and beyond the ordinary member of council, as a cursory reading of the constitution will reveal. Secondly, the actions of Mr. Mouritsen in exercising his powers over council have been irresponsible.

The attack on Excalibur has been well documented. The proposed incorporation of council is ridiculous in view of the Ontario government's position on incorporating student councils.

Mouritsen's attack on the National Union of Students was successfully countered by council. Last but not probably most important, Mr. Mouritsen peremptorily cancelled the only scheduled council meeting in October, a direct violation of the constitution.

Now that the facts are evident I must refute Mr. Gizzie's harping on the subject of apathy. I was a member of the group which originally conceived the idea of impeaching Mouritsen. I took this idea to a number of students who when made aware of the facts agreed with impeachment. The consensus of opinion amongst the members of the group was that there was a broad base of support for such action.

I find myself in agreement with Mr. Kapusta's position that Mouritsen has abused his powers. I would further add that it is irresponsible reactionaries such as Mr. Gizzie who are the propagators of apathy and non-involvement.

COLAN INGLIS

Don't confuse culture with ideology, says Black Movement

Recently the Black People's Movement has become the subject of much discussion and investigation, and according to a very able, efficient and militant columnist, "whites feel threatened by an organization of which they are ignorant."

The in-fighting hinges on \$2,500 that was allocated to cultural groups, of which the BPM received \$500. Many of our friends and well-wishers argue unceasingly that the BPM in addition to being cultural is also political, and that CYSF erred in giving us \$500.

It is not our fault nor responsibility that a style of living should be of such great controversy.

The Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism, Volume 1, The Official Language, (O'Hara, 1967) defines culture as a way of being, thinking and feeling. It is a driving force

animating a significant group of individuals united by a common tongue, and sharing the same customs, habits and experiences.

It argues that cultures are not watertight compartments; they are evolving and constantly borrowing from each other. To the extent that they are alive, they continually undergo change in accordance with their own drive and line of development.

The culture of a group must not be confused with a "particular" system of thought even though there may be correspondence at a given moment between a culture and an ideology; one ideology can be replaced by another, whereas the culture continues to live. Culture significantly determines the thoughts or actions of the group; it colours the group's manner of thinking and acting. (Culture is to the group rather what personality is to the individual.) It is rare for a person to have two personalities or two styles of living at the same time.

The Black People's Movement feels that every student organization, club or movement, be it black or white, must have the right to elect its own programme, independent of any external power or body. We proclaim this right.

In our drive to educate the masses we have made some efforts to make education available to all. It is to our mind equally important that the University should seek the welfare of the students and recognize our attempts to solve our economic, cultural, technological and scientific problems.

We also look to Excalibur to set an example by their efficiency and their sense of responsibility in their dealings with issues. They must set an example to the University, the council and the students in loyalty, behaviour, and honesty.

The Black People's Movement wishes to make it clear that it would not be used as a "whip" in any fight between member organizations and CYSF.

Finally we reject the carping of those critics who judge us merely by the heights we have achieved and not by the depths from which we have struggled.

ODIDA QUAMINA
PHYLLIS NOLA HINDS
M. HICKSON

More comment on the American flag flying in Bethune

One Thursday morning recently on my way to class. I came across a letter in Excalibur that was clearly the work of a jingo nationalist cyclops. This was plainly visible to anyone turning from page four to page six.

York and Canada in general are dependent on students of the Canadian persuasion. York U. departments of political science, mathematics, sociology, psychology and others have a predominance of ranting chauvinists — who are as welcome here as anyone else — as long as they leave their restrictive nationalism at the gate.

In York's historical context the printing of Stewart's letter (which was as meaningful of stupidity to chauvinists as the swastika was to Nazis and "Nazi-ism") anywhere on York's campus is an affront to our tradition of tolerance and a slap in the face to personal self-expression.

The letter must be a fire hazard in as much as it is printed on paper and should be stored away until the student leaves the university or until it is needed at the next book burning. If the letter has to be printed, this letter should stand alongside it.

PAUL NEWBY



Young Socialist says CYSF should fund political clubs

I am writing in response to a position put forward in the editorial of Nov. 15 entitled, "CYSF Budget Is Mismanaged." The position argued was that campus political clubs such as the Young Socialists and the Pro Life group should be denied funding by the student council. The main justification for this exclusion is that political clubs, "force members to subscribe to a preset political creed," and thus are not open to all students.

First of all, any money received by the Y.S. from CYSF is used to sponsor activities on the campus. Secondly, our activities are open to all York students regardless of their political creed. Thirdly, the activities of the York Y.S. over the last seven or eight years have involved more York students than almost any other club on the campus.

For example, two years ago we sponsored a meeting for the noted Marxist scholar Earnest Mandel. This meeting was a highlight of the academic year at York and involved more than 500 students, staff and faculty. We have also organized demonstrations, teach-ins, and meetings around such diverse issues as Amchitka, Bangladesh, the war in Vietnam, and the abortion repeal movement.

Young Socialists have also played a vital role in educating students about key political issues such as the tuition fee hikes, the fee strike of last year, and the education cutbacks.

Furthermore, I would like to add that most clubs, 'political' or not, espouse a certain ideology and therefore are not really open to all students. The Red and White Society, for example, fosters a sexist and chauvinist concept of rah, rah school spirit through its support for inter-collegiate sporting events.

However, I support the right of the Red and White Society to be funded on the grounds that it provides a service for many York students. Likewise, some groups such as the Black People's Movement and Chinese Students Association have at least partial political aims and de-

serve funding. The only criteria for funding should be based on the services that the particular club provides for students.

The policy of denying funding to political clubs has been used primarily against left-wing political groups such as the Y.S. and the Waffle. Right wing groups such as the Pro-life movement either are not classified as political and thus escape the criteria, or in many cases they are funded from off-campus sources (Young Conservatives).

The present criteria used for determining allocation of funds to clubs should be scrapped and replaced by a criteria based primarily on services provided to the university community.

DALE RITCH

History assistant wants cash sent to Paris for Vietnam

Through a long and difficult struggle the Vietnamese will ultimately achieve their goal of political independence from U.S. power and the elimination of Washington's Saigon puppet. Since last January the Provisional Revolutionary Government has greatly extended its political administration and influence in the South.

While the PRG controls some of the potentially most productive agricultural and mineral laden areas of South Vietnam, vast capital outlays and a good deal of time will be required for successful reconstruction efforts in these areas. Millions of bomb craters and the destruction of the irrigation systems have resulted in the seepage of salt water into these lands, the effects of which will have to be remedied before the land can again provide the staples of life.

Also, funds for medical equipment, some of which can be purchased only in the west with hard currency, and every imaginable material human necessity are desperately needed by the Vietnamese living in the PRG zones to protect the irrigation systems have resulted in the seepage of salt water into these lands, the effects of which will have to be remedied before the resistance struggle.

The best, and fastest, way to help is to send contributions directly to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam. Checks should be made payable to: Acct. No. 478 408, Banque Commerciale pour l'Europe du Nord, 79 Boulevard Haussmann, Paris 8e. France.

STAN VITTOZ
Teaching Assistant
York University History Dept.

Excalibur still needs new staff

Meeting today at 2 p.m.
No experience necessary