

## 'Unsatisfactory relationship'

# Stong demands greater CYSF accountability

By DOUG TINDAL

An observation by the Stong college committee "that the present relationship between the college and CYSF is not satisfactory", provoked a tense and sometimes bitter meeting between the two groups on Tuesday.

CYSF president Anne Scotton, accompanied by Stong representatives Bill Osmars, J. J. Koornstra, Janet Hart and Monica Sikk, attended the Stong general meeting to discuss with Stong students "the general direction and philosophy" of the college's representation.

Unlike most other colleges, Stong does not have an elected council. Its

only institutionalized student body is the general meeting, held every two or three weeks, at which any Stong member who attends may vote.

Although the organizers of the meeting, Garth Wood and Dave Fleet, stressed that they wanted to avoid the area of individual performances and personalities, they had difficulty restricting the sometimes caustic discussion to areas of general 'philosophy'.

The main point at issue seemed to be a lack of communication between the Stong representatives and the college committee. As Wood told Excalibur last week, "They (the representatives) may be doing a

great job — we just haven't been able to see them to find out."

All four Stong representatives said they have classes at the regular time of the general meeting.

"Everybody seems quite willing to find faults," added Koornstra. "I think the biggest fault is that no one seems to know that minutes of CYSF meetings are sent to the college office here. Anyone who wants to can go and look at them."

Also at issue was the question of whether or not representatives are responsible to the general meeting.

Osmars said he would object to being responsible to the meeting since he was elected by 102 people, while the average attendance at a general meeting is about 15.

"The meeting is such a farce," he said. "On a scale of college councils, I'd put the Stong meeting at rock-bottom."

Koornstra added, "This meeting means nothing. If you want to try to get me out, I can just get 100 of the people who voted for me to come to the meeting and keep me in."

Scotton then asked the meeting, "why do you let them (the representatives) talk to you like that? I mean, they are your representatives. You don't have to take that from them."

Stong members replied they could "safely stand on their record", and added that they "took the source (Koornstra and Osmars) into consideration".

Janet Hart said she was "willing to attend the college meetings, but to date CYSF hasn't made any decisions requiring input from the college".

To date CYSF has, among other things, approved its budget for the year and amended two sections of its constitution.

The next meeting of the college committee is set for a week from today, in the hope that the Stong representatives can find time to attend.



C. T. Squassero photo

Tuesday's meeting between Stong and CYSF aroused some moments of confrontation, but organizer Garth Woods said he felt "it helped to clear the air". Seated left to right above are: Monica Sikk; a member of the general meeting; Dave Fleet, one of the meeting's organizers; Bill Osmars (seated on the floor); Janet Hart; Anne Scotton, CYSF president; J. J. Koornstra. Sikk, Osmars, Hart and Koornstra are Stong's CYSF representatives.

## Israel's 'economic pause' will drop standard of living

By DARA LEVINTER

Israel's economic, social and political problems were explored in a teach-in sponsored at York last week by the Jewish Student Federation.

Noah Meltz, a professor from the University of Toronto, told the audience that one main problem was the "economic pause", designed between 1965 and 1967 to curb inflation. This attempt to cool off the economy resulted in a greater slump than anticipated, he said, and caused mass emigration.

The subsequent period of mobilization for the 1967 war resulted in a limited spare labour force; as more Israelis enlisted, the force dropped by 50 per cent, domestic production was reduced, and imports consequently outnumbered exports.

Excessive military expenditures further drained the country's already limited funds. Meltz suggested that productivity should be increased immediately, and that more capital should be imported in the form of gifts, loans and investments.

Meltz pointed out that strains between economic sectors have been reflected socially, a state of affairs aggravated by the government's use of inflation as a less overt means of taxation, to acquire what few resources remain in the country.

He predicted an imminent period of lower standards of living and a

shift of capital in economic sectors, but assured the audience that "the problem will ease out over a long-term period".

Gabriel Strasman, the second speaker, approached the topic of social relations between the Israelis and the Palestinians, whose population he estimated at about 900,000 refugees, and whose development of an identity as an aspiring nation he saw as clashing with the existence of the state of Israel.

"Israel refuses to negotiate with the PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organization), whose objective is to destroy them," said Strasman.

He said the Israelis would probably agree to resume talks, however, if the PLO were to accept the principle of a Palestinian Arab state adjacent to an existing Israeli one. The question would then be what to negotiate, he added.

Osgoode doctoral student Asher Grunis continued the thought by terming the Palestinian issue the most crucial in any discussion of the Middle East conflict.

"You must solve one before you can solve the other," he said.

After outlining Israel's major dependence, both economic and political, on the United States, he concluded that any agreement between Israel and Syria would depend to a large extent on U.S. secretary of state Henry Kissinger's negotiating powers.

## York has no flag-lowering policy

By MELODIE MILLER

Since the beginning of the school year, York's main flagpole, located in front of the Ross Building, has been at half-mast six times.

The gesture, explained George Dunn, director of safety and security services at York, was made for staff and faculty members who died this year.

Asked if York had a policy regarding persons for whom the flag should be lowered, Dunn, who works under vice-president of administration William Small, said he thought not.

"We do lower it for any member of the York community, be they stu-

dent, faculty or staff," he said, "provided, of course, that we know about it. Sometimes a staff member passes away and we don't hear about it until a few weeks later."

Dunn said the university tries not to get involved in politics, but admitted that were a national figurehead such as Trudeau or Davis to die, the flag would definitely be lowered. The last such gesture was made for former UN secretary-general U Thant.

Dunn added that the university tries not to slight anyone.

"If anyone asks us to put the flag at half-mast for someone, generally speaking, we do. We never say no."

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