

# Questions:

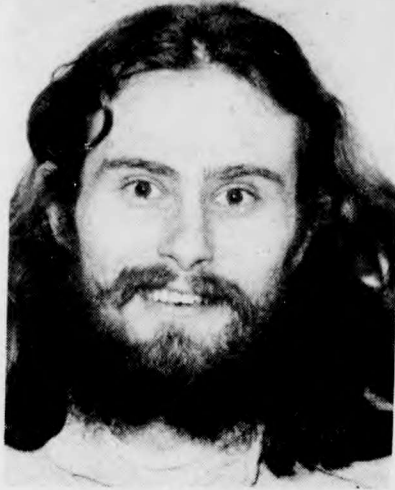
- (1) What should student government do?
- (2) What is your program to represent the interests of students at York?
- (3) What do you intend to do to democratize York?

Answers to questions were not received from Patricia Bregman and Dave Sparrey who have been acclaimed as Winters College representatives to CYSF along with Greg Thomson. John Rocca, Linda Middleton and Dennis Bedeau of Calumet College were acclaimed. Linda Middleton did not submit answers.

Bill Cook, who is seeking election from Stong College, and Wally Gustar, acclaimed as an Atkinson College rep. along with Ron Rosenthal, also failed to submit answers.

# PRESIDENT

# WINTERS



DALE RITCH ULS



ROBERT ASHTON



MICHAEL MOURITSEN

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

GREG THOMPSON ULS

I have been a student at York for the past two years. That period of time has been marked by many signs of discontent and even of protest on the part of many York students and workers.

Hundreds of York students rode buses to the American consulate to protest Amchitka. A campaign was carried through the senate to end all military sponsored research on the campus. A referendum to repeal anti-abortion laws was passed by a large majority. At Queen's Park, the then Minister of Education George Kerr, promised a mass demonstration of students who were protesting the Wright Report, that there would be no tuition fee increases. Twelve hours later the \$100 increase was announced.

This year began with an under-enrolment of nearly 2,000 students, partially due at least to the tuition increases. The resulting budget deficit has led to cutbacks in every department and divisions at York. Many actions have been held both on and off campus to protest these cutbacks and mobilize students against them. The sequence of referendum, demonstration, fee strike and finally the occupation of the registrar's office and moratorium, are unprecedented events in York's history and signify the seriousness of the cutbacks for students. The York administration and Queen's Park have remained unmoved on this point in the face of protests both at York and on other campuses across the province. The government will only be stopped when thousands of students across the province are organized and unified with a powerful leadership. The ULS intends to become the nucleus of that leadership. We cannot replace or substitute for students in the upcoming battles with the government and administration. What we can do is offer the financial and organizational resources of CYSF to concerned, active students and provide leadership.

CYSF to this point has not provided proper leadership. The present council excepting the ULS members on it, have abdicated their responsibility to explain the true nature of the cutbacks and other important issues and to provide leadership for the students who want to fight back. The fee strike is a case in point. First the council supported the fee strike then it didn't and then it did. Other than putting up a few posters and sending out one letter to the student body, nothing more was done until the occupation of the registrar's office (lead by ULS members) brought the fee strike to the attention of York students.

Since the ULS intends to turn CYSF into an organizing centre, it is only natural that the prime qualification of the presidential candidate should be his or her organizational capabilities. In this respect I think that I am well qualified. My work as organizer of the York Young Socialists has proven valuable in gaining experience by building many meetings, including the largest meeting in the last two years at York. (When Ernest Mandel came to York. (When Ernest Mandel came to York. (When Ernest Mandel came to York. I helped organize the Amchitka teach-in last year and this fall was appointed as CYSF organizer for the November cutbacks demonstration. I would ask all York students to get out and vote for the ULS.

York University needs a strong and imaginative student government. The identity of CYSF has been established. CYSF is now ready to leave its adolescence, and must be prepared to come forth and represent the students and be an innovator in all matters concerning York university. The following are issues that I feel are of prime importance to the York community.

1. *The Ontario Federation of Students:* York has taken a leading role in this organization, a role that should be continued. However OFS has become a "one issue" organization, dealing specifically with the fee strike, and it is the duty of the new council to try and broaden this narrow range of thought.

2. *Excalibur:* York's newspaper is one of the most vital organizations at York university and is a definite communication link with all student activities. The newspaper should have definite guidelines such as a Newspaper Act for it to follow, the major criterion being that this Act must give the newspaper independence from political groups so that it may maintain its impartial yet critical role.

3. *The Fee Strike:* I supported the strike by withholding my second instalment. However, is there a better way?

4. *CYSF-College relations:* College-CYSF relations are shaky. But we are getting there. Over the past few years the feelings of animosity between the college councils and CYSF have been considerably lessened through the establishment of joint executive meetings and increased communication between the councils. But there is still room for improvement.

As president of Founders and speaker of CYSF I am personally concerned with this issue. I feel my past experience enables me to see the benefits of a central student government, as it relates to the individual college councils.

5. *Academic reform and quality of education:* The academic changes that have taken place recently, have been for the better, in particular, the arts course load regulations have been relaxed allowing the students a more individual choice in their course selections thus establishing York as a more viable academic community to those seeking further education.

6. *Student involvement and participation in the university government:* We are presently represented on senate and faculty of arts council, but only to a small degree, and we have no student representation on the board of governors. This problem must be rectified.

7. *Student Services:* CYSF must be prepared to financially support such student services as Monday and Harbinger.

8. *Deficit:* CYSF owes the university \$27,000 which dates back to CYSF's earlier days of mismanagement. This debt must be repaid with the provision that paying off the debt does not affect organizations which depend on CYSF financial aid.

Michael Mouritsen, a member of the faculty of arts council for the past three years, is the first student member to be elected council chairman. He is a member of the department of history council, and represented Founders College on the senate last year. He was a member of the selection committee for a new dean of arts, experience that will be useful during next year's search for a university president.

The single most important issue facing York students is the quality of education, an area in which the student federation has refused to involve itself. I would like to redirect the entire focus of CYSF from an almost exclusive concern with its budget to a direct involvement in planning the university's academic policies and priorities.

The current CYSF has wasted practically its entire term of office debating the \$100 fee increase, about which it can do little, and to which many students by now are resigned. Meanwhile, council has ignored genuine problem areas at York, such as the procedures for evaluating courses and teachers, first-year registration, the inadequate undergraduate advising system, complaints that Atkinson students are unable to pre-register, and that graduate seminars are often scheduled twice a month rather than weekly.

Since next year's enrolment will likely remain static or decline, it is virtually certain that teaching staff will be laid off. The issue is not that teachers will be dismissed, but which ones. Since there are at present no senate procedures or criteria, junior faculty, or those unpopular with colleagues, will probably be chopped, regardless of their teaching ability. This is an immediate problem that will confront the new CYSF president. Students have an obvious interest in the retention of good teachers; student evaluation of courses and teachers must be taken into consideration. York will require a student president who can articulate these arguments to administrators, and who has credibility — with both students and faculty.

The recent occupation by twenty students of the awards office discredited students — and universities — in the eyes of the public, and invites further cutbacks. I am opposed on principle to the forcible occupation of university offices; regardless of the issue involved, the initiation of force cannot be justified. Although universities did not receive adequate notice of the fee increase, the solution lies in negotiations. The sit-in will not encourage the government to consult student opinion in the future.

Excalibur's question on the democratization of York implies that the university is not yet democratic. The fifty student positions on the faculty of arts council were filled by acclamation this year; the issue is not one of increasing numbers, but of attracting interested students to fill existing positions.

York university suffers from over-government, which is one reason for this fall's budgetary and leadership crisis. There are so many committees, and decision-making is so widely dispersed, that many areas of the university, such as curriculum development and teaching quality, are not receiving the critical study they deserve. A vigorous student federation concerned with these issues can do much to rectify this.

It is my belief that a student government should be elected on the basis of its program. The ULS is a coalition of students who have seriously considered the issues and adopted a unified workable program. Also the CYSF should be a strong student government and not a collection of isolated individuals attempting to form a social club or use CYSF as a launching pad for their careers.

CYSF meetings this year have been procedural debates at which many of the councillors who vote in favour of motions do nothing to see that their legislation is carried out. Voting for the ULS is the only way to eradicate this real problem.

Any one who examines the record of the four ULS members on the council this year will see that they have been the only people who have consistently and persistently acted in a manner which shows that the ULS is and will continue to be responsible to the students of York university.

Vote ULS.

## Presidential Candidates Forum

On Tuesday,  
Feb. 13, 1973

At Noon

in the

East Bear Pit,  
Central Square.

The CYSF  
Presidential  
Candidates

will

present

their

platforms.