

CYSF drops fee strike study day called for Mar. 13

The fee strike debate raged in CYSF again last Monday with the statement of a graduate council member who claimed that the university might capitulate on the fees issue if undergraduates withheld their fees until the end of this term.

Despite this argument and the fact that York had the greatest student participation in the fee strike of any university in Ontario, CYSF voted six to five, with two abstentions, to end the fee strike during the week of March 6 to 9. CYSF also voted to call a moratorium on March 13 to discuss the financing of universities and student fees.

Opposing the fee strike CYSF president-elect Michael Mouritsen told the group:

"I hesitated to speak at this meeting, but I received a phone call from Professor Yolton on Friday. He told me that he went to the board of governors meeting with his proposed budget. Now the university is 1.6 million dollars in debt because of unpaid fees, though this amount was listed as income on the budget. The board told Yolton to come back when he had his budget in order. If students do not pay their fees, the university will be seriously damaged."

The argument given by Theobald for ending the fee strike was that the action "although locally successful was on a provincial scale a bankrupt tactic." Since only a fraction of a per cent of the province's education funds had been denied them, the Ontario government was not going to budge.

In another motion, CYSF accepted the report of the chief returning officer on the CYSF elections after tabling the section that declared that the two Atkinson college candidates were legally elected until after a conference between CYSF and Atkinson council. Although Atkinson had appointed its own representatives in the past, the CYSF move had political overtones since the two members who were acclaimed for Atkinson, Ron Rosenthal and Wally Gustar, were elected on the United Left Slate.

A motion that the President of York be elected by the students, faculty, and staff was defeated, but resolutions were passed to support both the striking students in Montreal who had been beaten up by police and student demonstrators in Greece, some of whom has been killed.

In a final motion by Ray van Eenoooghe, council voted to sponsor a meeting with a speaker from the National Farmers Union to explain the Kraft boycott.



President-elect Michael Mouritsen.

President airs views on student situation

By ABIE WEISFIELD

Excerpts from a taped interview with student federation president-elect, Michael Mouritsen.

Excalibur: What do the election results mean to you?

Mouritsen: Well obviously I accept the results. I'm very upset at the low turnout of people who were committed enough to vote; that were concerned enough to vote. I received a plurality despite the fact, as Excalibur put it, I squeaked in by 20 votes. I still nevertheless squeaked in.

Excalibur: What are your ideas on implementing the referendum decisions on the National Student Union and the student centre?

Mouritsen: Well, apparently the referendum on the National Student Union — the legality of that referendum is being questioned right now because it wasn't approved by council. But I think that it obviously indicated, by those people that did vote, that a majority want to join. I'm not in favour of joining the National Student Union because I don't see the benefits to be gained from it.

I don't see what benefits we have gained from the Ontario Federation of Students. I'd like to explore the possibility of pulling out of both organizations.

With regard to the student union building, there is no way the provincial government is going to fund the building. They cut off all building programs in the province. I'm certainly in favour of the student centre and I'd like to act on it next year in terms of working out a system of financing it.

Excalibur: What do you mean by the quality of education and what are your plans for implementing your ideas?

Mouritsen: Well, the types of questions that are problems that are covered by the phrase, quality of education, include such things as teaching quality, curriculum development, academic planning, academic standards and hum . . . and these types of things, hum . . . and what . . .

Excalibur: implementing your ideas?

Mouritsen: The way to . . . first of all these are the types of issues that I think — as I stressed in the campaign, that CYSF can do something about and the way it can do something about them is to work through the existing committee structure and the existing corporate structure of the university to . . . hum . . . do you want to stop the thing (tape recorder) for awhile?

Excalibur: Would you like to elaborate on your projections for future CYSF policy?

Mouritsen: I think that CYSF can do much to improve the student image generally and certainly the image of students at York by working on its own (with respect to the OFS) and lobbying with the government because we have more in common, working with the other institutions in this university. We have more in common with professors and administrators at York than we do with students at Brock, at McMaster and Toronto.

Excalibur: In view of the cutbacks in the quality of education here at York; the library budget cutbacks, faculty layoffs, maintenance worker layoffs, and the probable future cutbacks, what are your intentions for the policy of CYSF to deal with these measures?

Mouritsen: Well, I don't think that the quality of education has really been cut back, I think it's just — in a lot of areas — at a very low level.

Excalibur: Do you project any changes along the lines of the democratization of the university governing structure?

Mouritsen: Not any fundamental changes. The university governing structure now is very democratic in the sense that it welcomes the institutional involvement of student representatives. I think the only level at which students are not officially represented is the board of governors although they are not prevented from sitting on the board. They aren't officially represented.

Ed: Board meetings are closed to the public.)

Excalibur: Do you believe the CYSF should take positions on international issues of concern to York students such as the self-determination of Soviet Jews or the sending of Canadian troops to Vietnam and campus military research?

Mouritsen: No I don't because I don't think that the CYSF can claim to . . . first of all these are decisions which have to be made individually. I don't think that the council can claim to represent the students' viewpoints on these issues. Every student is going to have a different viewpoint and I think it's very wrong for the council to claim that it's speaking for York students or even a majority of York students.

Grads seek to maintain advisor post

The possibility that the graduate faculty's student advisor position will be eliminated due to budget cutbacks has prompted York international students to organize in support of the office.

A group of students has submitted a brief to Collie outlining the ways in which the student advisory position has benefited them.

The students feel the present advisor, Mary Junjek, has provided an essential service, particularly for overseas students. Besides meeting incoming students at the airport, she has provided all the advice and help necessary for such students to get established at York. A number of overseas students have expressed their gratitude to Mrs. Junjek for accommodating them at her home until she could get them permanent accommodation.

Graduate Dean Michael Collie asked Mrs. Junjek to take on the advising position on a part-time experimental basis two years ago. This year the position was made full-time.

Collie is still sympathetic towards the position but said it is simply being re-evaluated in light of the senate co-ordinating committee's instructions to establish staff priorities. He said he expected to get feedback on the office's effectiveness and this is occurring now. "I want to make it clear that I don't think the university is doing very much when one person is available for advising these students".

Junjek stressed that although her office is part of the Grad faculty, she is available to any student at York. Her work has been primarily with overseas students however, for whom she holds open get-togethers twice a week in a Grad residence apartment.

"There is a need for someone in this position whether I have it or not" she said. Although ideally York's colleges are supposed to handle student advising, Junjek stated that "international students don't feel they are being looked after by the colleges."

Former YUSA pres says union possible

York's support staff may be receptive to the idea of forming a union within the year, according to former president of the York University Staff Association (YUSA), Alexis Thoman.

She said yesterday, however, greater involvement in the association by the 1,400 support staff employees might give this group more bargaining power within the university and make a union unnecessary.

Thoman, who was replaced by Barbara McCaw in the regular YUSA executive elections yesterday, said the staff will have to accept whatever the university offers if they do not show more concern for the association.

The university administration had budgeted for a six per cent increase for maintenance worker wages but faculty and staff increases were left up in the air by the co-ordinating committee when it proposed a deficit next year of \$333,000.

The faculty association has already said it will not tolerate a salary freeze next year. In the past the association has threatened to withhold grades over increase demands.

Thoman said that the staff are very important to the operation of the university also. She said that if a majority of the members called in sick for two or three days and then worked at a slow pace when they returned they might impress the board of governors they need a pay increase.

Thoman said that when YUSA negotiators meet the president they will be looking for more than a six per cent increase. She pointed out that the cost of living rose approximately seven per cent this year.

York Briefs

Guitar society sponsors concert

The Guitar Society of Toronto is presenting a concert including Edra Bayefsky, Lynne Gangbar, and Art Levine at St. Michael's Choir School, 66 Bond St., March 3 at 8:30 p.m. Admission is \$2 for non-members.

Cuba film today — art and revolution

A documentary, "Cuba: Art and Revolution" which describes the Castro government's development of the fine arts in Cuba, will be shown Thursday, March 1 at 12 noon in Rm. N203, Ross.

What change is good change?

The impact of social policies on local communities across Canada will be the focus of a conference, "What Change is Good Change?" to be held today in the senate room on the Glendon campus of York University. The Glendon Canadian Studies Programme is bringing together sociologists and anthropologists to discuss how local groups influence policies affecting their communities, how communities respond to social policies formulated elsewhere and what the researcher can do when he is caught in the crossfire between local residents and policy-makers. The conference is open to the public. For more information call Stuart Schoenfeld at 487-6118 or 962-5989.

Marxism and revolution with Novack

George Novack, a well known American socialist scholar and writer will be the feature speaker at the forthcoming Regional Ontario conference "Marxism and the Canadian Revolution" to be held at Hart House, March 2, 3, 4. For further information contact the League for Socialist Action, 334 Queen St. W., 364-5908.

Weekend Latin America conference

A round-table conference, Latin America . in the 70's, discussing political conflict, the role of the military, economic dependence and underdevelopment in Latin America, will be held Monday, March 5, 7:30 p.m. in Rm. 202, U of T, 35 St. George St. For further information contact the International Studies Program, U of T, 928-3350.

ERRATA

A front page story in last week's edition (Library Cut By \$35,000, Layoffs Likely) incorrectly reported that the library's budget was cut by \$235,000 this year. The budget was actually cut by \$165,000 by the joint committee on alternatives in November 1972. The budget for 1973-74 will be the same as this year's budget: \$3,670,000.

The second editorial in last week's Excalibur (Students Must Help If Workers Strike) implied that staff members can obtain free tuition for themselves and their families. This privilege is only available to faculty. Staff members, but not their families, can get free tuition if it can be shown the courses would up-grade skills relevant to their employment.

The story (Mordecai Richler Says Canadian Nationalism Makes "Cultural Nonsense") printed last week reported Richler spoke in Winters dining hall when actually he spoke at Vanier as part of the college's Canadian Perspectives series.