

# York clubs — victims of political sloth

By JAN PATTERSON

Clubs just aren't getting the money they need.

And it's up to Council of the York Student Federation to support the clubs.

York's clubs asked for almost \$60,000 this year. They got \$17,000 or 17 per cent of CYSF's budget. But this is an increase over last year's 11 per cent allotment.

How does CYSF decide who receives how much? The executive sits down with the club's budget and decide what expenses are "reasonably required" for operations. The council then votes on the total allotments.

CYSF's academic commissioner John Theobald said that the clubs low priority rating did not indicate CYSF's evaluation of their importance. Other priorities, such as bad debts incurred by past councils have to be met and clubs unfortunately are left to the end.

## Little satisfaction

Of 13 clubs polled, 11 felt little satisfaction with CYSF's process, one didn't know exactly what the process was, and one felt it was adequate.

All club executives questioned didn't want to be identified, in case of reprisal but two main issues did emerge. They criticized the amount of time "wasted" and the large amounts of red-tape involved in getting money. Budgets were being held up so long and were such a hassle as to make the whole process "insane". One club didn't apply for funds this year because the process was too much to go through.

This is exactly the issue that the constitutional change is supposed to clear up according to CYSF. Yet the clubs didn't seem willing to pass the buck so easily. Some criticism was aimed at the college system as the source of these bureaucratic hassles.

## Some blame colleges

One club president said "... the individual colleges, for no valid reason, are using their constitutional power to impede CYSF. There is no sense of cooperation between the two groups, and as long as the CYSF is held responsible to the colleges, these petty jealousies will continue."

Yet many felt the referendum would not improve things although several answered "maybe" or "I don't know". Those who thought the college system was the source of these budget tie-ups, thought the referendum would improve the monetary transactions between CYSF and the clubs.

Many clubs felt that CYSF did not consider the activities important enough to fund sufficiently. Their decisions on allocation were "poor" or "irresponsible". One club said that those that submitted a reasonable budget were cut down just as much as those that submitted an unreasonable budget.

Others felt the process of decision making was more important to change. It was "chaotic for lack of a consistent cohesive policy," which "made



behind closed doors with no factual basis," or "meaningless unless more student involvement."

## Others blame inefficiency

Then too, came practical complaints about how the present system fails even on its own ground, largely from simple inefficiency. The clubs had to fill out complicated request forms last March, and for many that was the last they have heard from CYSF. One club was informed of a meeting where their budget was to be discussed, they attended, and the matter didn't come up. They were never informed of another meeting, and have since heard by "rumor" that they have received a grant. Theobald admitted that the communication and information flow between CYSF and the various clubs was poor.

When asked whether the

referendum would change CYSF government "adequately" seven though it would help but wasn't enough, one thought the change would be adequate, two thought it shouldn't pass or that it wouldn't matter if it did, and two weren't sure of the implications of such a change. Only three of the clubs were advising their membership to vote, however.

One club felt CYSF would have a powerful financial control without a system of checks and balances. The council should have at its disposal a committee made up of college council members to advise the council on monetary allotments before (the) budget is passed."

Another said "The proposed constitution gives the CYSF an almost unlimited scope, which is good; but makes the CYSF responsible to no one except at election time. The constitution should provide a continuing forum for those who disagree with CYSF policy." Another thought that one "pro" for the college system was that knowledge of the CYSF budget was more widespread.

If such checks are desirable, then why, one is tempted to ask, not keep the college system? Responses to such a question were generally cynical. Comments such as "at least as much corruption in college councils as CYSF so 'controll' doesn't really protect students."

## Discrimination by colleges

One club commented that college clubs were generally better financed since they brought the college status and prestige. Yet another said, the colleges tended to discriminate against certain clubs and seek out only those they wished to be affiliated with. Another commented "The colleges and CYSF set their own priorities not necessarily in accord with student wishes."

Many of the clubs felt that since they drew their membership from the whole campus, they should not affiliate with the

colleges (or with the college restriction on membership which goes with such an affiliation). A system of college clubs tends to duplicate services and waste money.

Those arguing against the Nov. 30 constitutional change said CYSF's proper role is one of co-ordinator, not of government. They also thought the process of club budget allocation as it now existed was sufficient.

## Suggestions made by clubs

A number of suggestions came out of this questionnaire which CYSF, whether it wins the referendum or not, should take notice of.

(1) The system of "left-overs" should be changed to a grant of a lump sum (either in percentage of the total budget or in dollars) granted to the clubs at the beginning of each year. The money would then be divided among the clubs by a chosen decision making body.

(2) There should be a committee which critically examines the needs of clubs at York before ratifying budgets.

(3) The CYSF should hold regularly scheduled open meetings with the agenda announced in advance. At this meeting, if a sufficient number of students (say 25) disagree with the proposed legislation it should be sent back for redrafting. (This should not apply to club funding for practical difficulties are obvious.)

(4) The student associations, which represent entire fields of study should be given substantial amounts of money or, possibly, remove themselves from CYSF altogether and receive funds directly from the senate.

(5) Social clubs should not be funded and more money should be given to activist groups and community groups.

Whatever happens, no club appears to be really satisfied with the present situation or the future prospects.

## GROUNDHOG NEWS

### Low turn-out expected Nov. 30

York (GhN) — No groundhogs are expected to vote in the upcoming referendum concerning a new constitution for the CYSF. Replies from a poll asking: "do you know about the Nov. 30 referendum?" varied from "no", "no", and "no", to a surprising "I don't know." A spokesman for the groundhogs when informed of these results asked indignantly, "would you leave your hole and run the risk of being stepped on in Central Square?"

### Excalibur does great job

City Hall (GhN) — A reliable groundhog source said here today that he was extremely pleased with the exclusive coverage given by Excalibur to what has not been happening on the groundhog scene. "We groundhogs haven't done much" he said. "but at least now everyone knows it."

### Complaints levelled at CYSF

York (GhN) — Several groundhogs have complained to Excalibur over CYSF's new pinball machine. "We can't reach the bumpers," said one groundhog. "Perhaps if CYSF took our complaints more seriously groundhog alienation would not be the problem it is today."

### Deluge of mail at Groundhog News

Special Bulletin (GhN) — The response to Groundhog News has been, well, overwhelming. The deluge of mail being received here at Groundhog News headquarters has demonstrated to us that the time is ripe for groundhogs to take over the world. So you won't be left out Groundhog News is putting together a special "how to be a groundhog" kit. This kit includes one empty head, one blank expression, five courses of study at York and one vile of groundhog brew.

## Mac social affairs over spent 70%

McLaughlin Council has spent almost 70 per cent over its social affairs budget.

McLaughlin spokesman Shane Murphy said on Friday that the council has already spent over \$13,000 on social events this year after budgeting only \$7,700.

He said the council had to pay for huge losses on The Crowbar and Chase concerts handled by ex-social affairs commissioner Grant Corbett. He said he had resigned to spend more time on academic work.

Murphy said McLaughlin plans to have "well-ordered" big events where the council will break even but they're still in the planning stage. He wants to use a private agent to bring groups onto campus and McLaughlin will just take a percentage of the gate receipts. The council would book Tait MacKenzie gym and get the rent the gym authorities would usually charge a private group.

"We can't say anything definite," he said, "but we want to try putting on events without losing money."