

CYSF Final Election Results

351
308
134
78

WOMEN'S	
Santos	422
Adriana	362

B.O.G.	,
Fruitman	559
Gritti	204
Doldrum	152
Schasmin	103

INTERNAL	
Chang	343
Lakhani	243
Till	156
Strah	112

The Election Tribunal has confirmed the results as originally released. Copies of the tribunal decision are available at the CYSF Offices.

FREE SPEECH

Student believes that smashing the Sun will help fight the Right

Robert Spenceley

A classmate of mine recently commented to me that he thought it funny that of the three major newspapers sold on campus the boxes dispensing the Toronto Sun should always empty first. I agreed that it was ironic that, at an alleged institution of higher learning the Sun should be so popular. I would, however, like to suggest that the popularity of the Sun demands a response other than mere laughter.

Renaissance International

Recent years, characterized by a worldwide economic crisis, have seen the "New Right" rise to power in both Britian and the United States. The New Right has also been on the rise in Canada. A variegated array of right-wing groups - from Renaissance International to the National Citizen's Coalition, from Positive Parents to the K.K.K. — have stepped up their efforts to turn the clock back. They have not been without success. Admittedly, the New Right has had less electoral impact here than in the United States. However, this is partly because our "liberal" federal government has already instituted many of the basic economic policies of the New Right; i.e., general cutbacks in social services, scraping of consumer and environmental protection agencies, granting of carte blanche to state security forces, purposely increasing unemployment, reduction of foreign aid...In short, the Trudeau government has gone a long way toward instituting the economic programme of the New Right.

Anti-lesbian

How does the Toronto Sun relate to all this? Quite simply. the Toronto Sun is the model point of the Canadian New Right. It is the most powerful single weapon of the New Right in its struggle for political, cultural and moral hegemony. With a daily circulation of a quarter of a million, the Sun is the centre of an extensive network and maintains formal and informal ties with numerous right wing groups. We all know that the Sun celebrates violence — in particular, violence against women - on almost a daily basis. A cursory examination of the Sun, also, reveals it to be stridently anti-union, antifeminist, anti-Quebecois, antigay, anti-lesbian, anti-nonwhite, anti-abortion, anti-China ... The Sun can, in truth, be said to propagate every antidemocratic/anti-progressive sentiment conceivable. It is no surprise, then, that Sun editorials are regularly reprinted by far right publications.

Community action

In light of the growing strength of the New Right and the continuing ecomonic crisis, it is time we recognized the political significance of the Sun. Of course, it is not yet time to panic. But, the Reagan government exerts a strong influence on the tenor of politics in Canada. Moreover, we should not forget that there are

structural limits to the ability of a government to simultaneously undertake anti-popular economic measures while continuing to elicit support on the basis of a popular liberal-democratic ideology, (see James Petra's essay; "Repression in Advanced Capitalist Countries"). I suggest the function of the New Right movement, composed as it is, of entrepreneurs of moral indignation, is to create a

Moral indignation

climate of moral panic which would facilitate the imposition of an authoritarian/rightwing solution to this contradiction.



Barbara Amiel came from Maclean's to bolster the editorial offices of the Sun.

We should recognize the extent of the threat posed by the New Right. It is a threat to women, racial and ethnic minorities, users of social services, lesbians and gays, ... Students, because we depend heavily on social expenditures, should be in the forefront of the fight against the Right. What can we do? If the fight against the

New Right

Right is to be effective, it must begin with autonomous community action. This means, as university students, we should clean up the university. We could begin with a campaign to ban the Sun from being sold on campus. Pornographic magazines should also be banned since they espouse the same patriarchial ideology that the Sun does.

These might sound like drastic measures, but the New Right is a threat that sound like drastic measures, but the New Right is a threat that demands an active response on the part of progressive forces. The banning of the Sun is within our power and, within the context of a wider fight against the right, it would be a significant achievement.

Robert Spenceley is a York student. The views expressed are not necessarily those of Excalibur.