

Referenda, B. of G. elections will test ULC strength

By ROSS FREAKER

York University students will face the most important elections of the academic year, next Wednesday (December 3), when they will be asked to decide two referenda and elect two members to the Board of Governors, the governing board of the university.

Because the United Left Coalition is endorsing two candidates for the Board, and has a declared stake in both referenda, the election will mark the first test of Dale Ritch's leftist council.

The ULC thinks so much of this election, that is putting together a four-page newspaper to try to gain support for their candidates and their policies.

In one referendum, students will be asked to endorse or reject continuing their membership in the NUS (National Union of Students) at an increase per student fee from the present 30 cents to \$1.00.

The second referendum will centre on the food issue, which was a prominent part of the ULC-controlled CYSF council's activist policies, this September. The plan to bring the question to a referendum in December was decided at a mass rally at the Central Square Bearpit in mid-October, after a two-day boycott of the Central Square cafeteria met with only partial success.

The referenda will ask:

● Are you in favour of abolishing the compulsory scrip system? Yes... No...

● Are you in favour of removing Commercial Caterers as the operators of Central Square cafeteria and replacing them with a non-profit cafeteria service, run by the administration under the supervision of an elected body of students, faculty and staff as the first step towards establishing student, faculty, staff control of the

food services at York? Yes... No...

● Are you in favour of forcing the catering companies to offer jobs to those Versafood workers who lost their jobs in the shift in catering companies and who still are seeking employment at York? Yes... No...

● Are you in favour of phasing out the United Cigar Store outlet in Central Square, Oasis, and replacing this store with a food co-op? Yes... No...

● Are you in favour of our continued membership in the National Union of Students on the understanding that this shall include a required fee increase from the present 30 cents to \$1 per student, per year, commencing in the 76-77 academic year? Yes... No...

There will be an advance poll on Monday and Tuesday of next week for the election of the two Board of Governors student representatives, opening at noon and closing at 2 p.m. Wednesday, the day of the election, polls for the B. of G. candidates and the referenda will open at 9 a.m. and close at 6 p.m.

Candidates split into two groups

The four candidates for the B. of G. positions have split into two opposing groups, each bringing forth unified platforms.

Jay Bell and Shelley Rabinovitch are running as one team and Robert Kasher and Hemraj Ramdath compose the other.

Presently, meetings of the Board of Governors are held in secret. Bell maintains that the key of their platform is to get the Board's meetings open to the students, with the exception of meetings that require confidentiality.

Bell, who has studied at Glendon

College, Osgoode Hall, the Faculty of Administrative Studies, and was formerly president of the York Liberal club, said they plan to fight the increase in tuition fees, and the cutbacks in government grants to students.

Rabinovitch, who is a third-year English student and an Excalibur reporter, said there should be more funding from CYSF for vital services, especially childcare, which should also be available to Atkinson students.

They both feel that there should be a budget for research and a budget for education in order that priorities be decided in advance so that students don't suffer.

"York was set up to be a teaching university, unlike University of Toronto, and now we're a research university," said Bell.

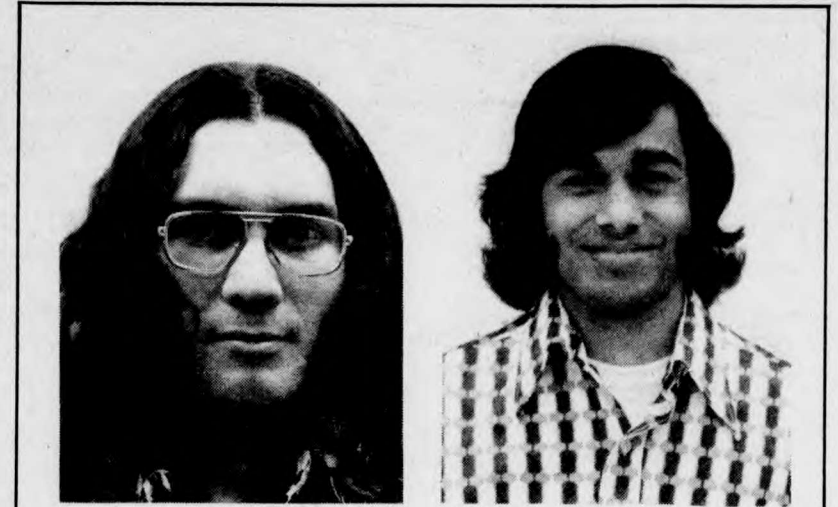
Although Rabinovitch and Bell are running on the same ticket, a vote for either of them doesn't mean that one has to vote for the other.

The United Left Coalition (ULC) has fielded two candidates for the election, Robert Kasher, a graduate student in the History department, and Hemraj Ramdath, a fourth year Economics and Political Science student.

Their platform is a three-fold one: to abolish the Board of Governors; end the secrecy of the board; and to replace it with a student, staff, faculty and community council.

Kasher said the Board is composed of people who essentially have no contact with York, yet play a crucial role in university life.

"They are the legitimate body that the provincial government works with, and they decide the amount of money we will spend and how we will spend it, and they also appoint important administrative officers," said



Robert Casher

Hemraj Ramdath

ULC candidates versus



Jay Bell

Shelley Rabinovitch

united independents

Kasher, of the Board.

The new council would alter the basic framework of the university and would be composed of representatives of such groups as YUSA, YUFA, CYSF, unions and tenants' associations.

Kasher doesn't feel that the demand for the abolition of the Board and the creation of new

council is radical, and pointed to U. of T. as an example of a university where, Kasher said, the board of governors has been abolished.

Ramdath doesn't believe the Board is qualified to make decisions that affect students' daily life and education.

"Our basic aim is to educate students and inform them how the Board's decisions affect them," he said.

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