

# ELECTION EXTRA

# EXCALIBUR

THE YORK UNIVERSITY WEEKLY

February 13, 1973

Vol. 7 No. 20

## CYSF goes to polls

The electioneering has been low-keyed, so not many may have noticed there's an election happening at York.

There are 28 positions in all now open on Council of the York Student Federation. These will be filled in part by one of three presidential candidates and 21 of 31 candidates for councillor at-large.

Nominations closed Tuesday and since then some posters and the odd debate have been token gestures of political activity.

Voter turn-out has been traditionally low at York, but this year the chief returning officer is hoping for big returns from the seven polling stations around the campus.

The polls will be open for full-time undergraduates from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. tomorrow and from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Thursday. Atkinson college students, who began voting yesterday, will be able to vote tonight and tomorrow from 6:30 to 11 p.m.

Students can vote for a presidential candidate and their three college representatives on CYSF. A sessional validation card is all that's required to get the chance to make your mark on the ballot.

Inside are campaign statements by 29 candidates.

## New act applied

The rules of the CYSF's new elections act will be applied for the first time in the elections this week.

The new act designed to sew up the loopholes of the old act was passed by CYSF in September.

It limits election expenditures to \$50 for college candidates and to \$75 for the presidential candidates.

No party or slate affiliation is allowed on the ballot under the new rules. All election polls must be manned at all times on election days.

No publicity is allowed 24 hours before polling, and any candidate receiving "partisan political coverage" as opposed to "news coverage" in any campus paper will be assessed at ad rates for expenditure reports. The coverage doesn't apply to editorial pages of the newspapers.

Because of the constraints imposed by the timing of the election, Excalibur was unable to interview all candidates and write-news stories about their platforms. Nominations closed too late for last week's edition and chief returning officer Kevin Anstey advised us that candidates might protest unfair or impartial coverage during the period of polling if we included stories in our regular Thursday edition.

This election special, sponsored by the CYSF, was intended to provide all candidates with the same opportunity to outline their ideas and goals and to inform the electorate.

Candidates were asked to limit to 500 words their answers to three questions: What should student government do? What is your program to represent the interests of students at York? What do you intend to do to democratize York?

## What's a CYSF?

What's a CYSF? The Council of the York Student Federation — York's central student council.

Composed of a president and three representatives from each of the member colleges plus students from graduate and business faculties, it has operated in the past as a co-ordinating body for campus-wide activities and services. It has a powerful potential to represent campus-wide student interests.

This year was CYSF's first under a new constitution — hammered out between the college councils and the federation last spring. This constitution established CYSF as a viable political student body in its own right, expanding its original role as caretaker of student services to a recognized role as a central political body with responsibility for campus-wide issues.

There has been a long tradition of feuds between CYSF and the college councils. It has been a fight over the division of power. When student representatives from the colleges and the federation sat down last spring, it was to bury the hatchet and come up with a system of student government at York that would leave the colleges in charge of college activities while CYSF handled services and matters of a campus-wide nature.

The 28-member council is run chiefly by a five-man executive. Most of the executive power is in the hands of the full-time president. Each of the executive have assigned work areas — culture, communications, external and academic affairs. The rest of the council is consulted at weekly or bi-weekly meetings.

With an \$80,000-\$100,000 budget to administer, CYSF has potential to mobilize and support many student activities at York. The funds come from a compulsory student fee paid at registration. Of the \$27 collected, \$10 goes to CYSF and \$17 to the college councils.

This year, the council has spent most of its time housekeeping. Mismanagement of funds over several years left the council \$40,000 in debt. Debt repayment was set as the priority and the cramp for funds left clubs and services across the campus hard hit for funds.

Council also endorsed occupations, moratoriums and publicity expenditures for the fee strike, a province-wide action against government raises in tuition fees that, coupled with raises in the loan ceilings, are cutting back accessibility to university.

In budget expenditures this year, CYSF has spent \$25,000 for full-time salaries and office expenses; \$25,000 for campus media; \$4,620 on clubs; \$2,500 on the fee strike; and \$11,500 for part of its accumulated debt. It'll take another three years to repay the whole debt owed to the university, according to estimates.

Student government at York has a long history of election by indifference; last year, just 14 per cent of the student body turned out to vote and the year before that, only nine per cent put the student politicians in office. But electioneering took an upward trend at York this year when 25 per cent of the student body voted on the fees strike issue.



## POLLS OPEN

**When**

Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 6:30 - 11 p.m.

**Where**

- (1) Bank
- (2) Drugstore Central Square
- (3) Vanier lobby
- (4) Vanier-Founders ramp
- (5) MacLaughlin-Winters ramp
- (6) Stong near coffee shop
- (7) Calumet near coffee shop