

York Tiny Tory delegates support leadership vote at Winnipeg convention

GREG GAUDET

This weekend, delegates from the York University P.C. club will vote in favour of a review of their party's leader, Joe Clark.

At a meeting held recently, club members elected three delegates to the annual Tory convention in Winnipeg; a convention which will be dominated by one issue—Clark's leadership. According to club member Cathy Katz, "At the delegate selection meeting, those who wanted to be delegates said they would vote in favour of a (leadership) review."

Outspoken critic

Club President Ted Paul suggested that more anti-Clark feeling may have been stimulated at the delegate selection meeting, where the guest speaker was John Gamble, the Tory MP for York North and an outspoken Clark critic. Paul, who is also a convention delegate, will vote for a review because he "believe(s) we (the party) can find a better leader."

When asked whether he

thought the party's youth wing looked more favourably on a leadership review than senior members, Paul said he did, explained that the youth "especially among Ontario campus clubs" seems more to the right than the rest of the members of the party and that "Clark's definitely a red Tory."

More to the right

Paul also pointed out that the Ontario Progressive Conservative Campus Association had passed a "near-unanimous resolution in favour of a review. There was only one vote in favour of Joe Clark." Paul believes Clark will accumulate approximately 60 per cent of the vote, but admits if the result is in the "grey area" of 51-74 per cent, it would be difficult to predict what a "pretty stubborn" Clark would do.

Those York club members *Excalibur* spoke with seemed to agree with Paul's assessment of the situation. Cathy Katz said, "Because of Clark... people don't respect the P.C.'s." Alternate leaders

suggested were Bill Davis and Peter Lougheed. Chris Kozan-chenko, another club member, also feels that the Worthington situation will work against Clark's chances of clearly winning a vote on a leadership review.

However, despite these views, various polls and other sources report that Clark will do well on the vote. Clark's career had been placed in jeopardy at the party's last convention. But he survived that challenge when 66 per cent of the delegates opposed a review.

Clark challenged

The existence of "pro-Clark money" has been reported, but no one with whom *Excalibur* spoke had encountered such funds.

There is no question that this weekend Joe Clark will face one of the biggest challenges to his political career. And if the party membership has the same sentiments as do the York "Tiny Tories", the P.C. party may find itself once more in the process of finding a new leader.

January 26th: Central Square skirmish



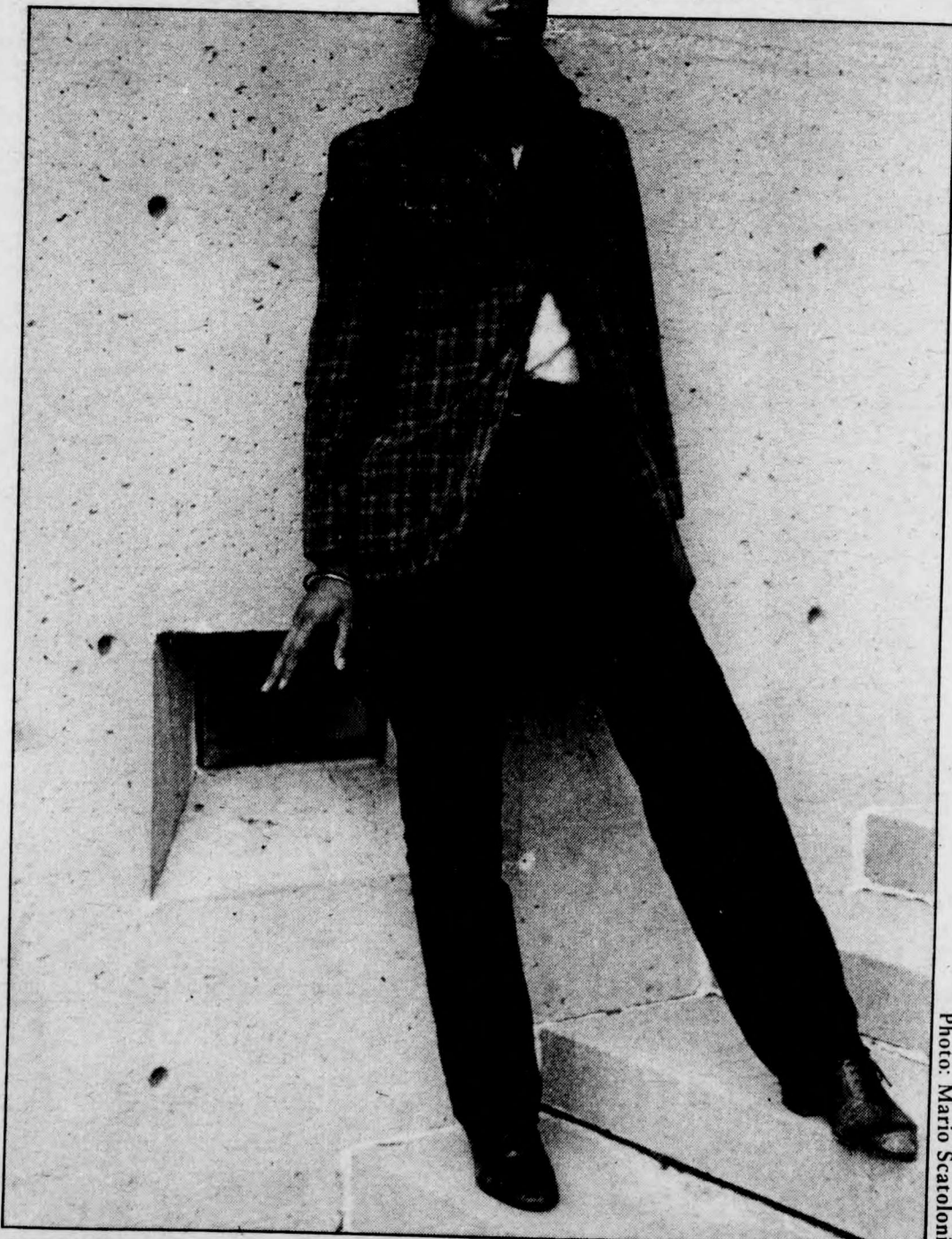
After *Excalibur* Photo Editor, Mario Scattoloni, snapped this picture, he was threatened by an angry supporter of The York University Palestine Education Committee which was involved in a debate with unidentified Jewish students.

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Poet Clifton Joseph came back to York for a reading of his dub poetry. Story page 7.

Union says company sees job as an extension of the home

BARB TAYLOR

Last Thursday, Elizabeth Hale and Arlene Gunn, representatives of striking Cawthra daycare workers, spoke at York about the Ontario Service Employees' strike against Mini-Skools, a U.S. based corporation specializing in daycare.

The union charges that low wages, poor working conditions and inadequate child care are the issues in the strike which started October 18. Mini Skool wages currently range from \$3.68 to \$4.28 per hour, and there are no benefits.

"Their attitude is the job we do is just an extension of the home," says Gunn. "We consider ourselves professionals and require a decent wage to live."

The negotiations have been suspended because the Mini Skool lawyer is on a six week long vacation in Florida. When the strike began, workers at six schools were bargaining with the corporation, but agreements have been reached at four of the institutions and another has been shut down. OPSEU has advanced \$10,000 to the local whose school was closed down, so that workers might establish a co-operative daycare centre.

Photo: Mario Scattoloni

At the Cawthra centre, ten of the eighteen striking teachers are looking after children. "If the children were going to be caught in the middle," said Gunn, "we didn't want to have anything to do with it, so we worked very hard to set up alternative day-care." Gunn charged that Mini Skool had provided the children with inadequate food, and the children often went hungry during the day.

Some groups have questioned the quality of Mini Skool's daycare. In 1979, the NDP social services critic, Ross McLennan, documented a number of charges that had been made against Mini Skools including chronic food shortages, violations of worker/child ratios set by regulation and a lack of sanitary standards - open poison at one centre, and cockroaches, mice and silverfish at another.

A year earlier, the Fraud Squad of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Department investigated an allegation that Mini Skools had over-charged Metro Toronto by \$200,000 for subsidized daycare. The police discovered that the records needed for the investigation had been destroyed.

Although parents, according to Gunn, were not fully aware of the conditions at the school, they have been very "supportive" of the strike, and "have been bringing supplies for us - coffee, etcetera." The usual number of children in the daycare is 192; there are now only 30. When the strike started, Mini Skool reduced its prices by half. Gunn said, "This was precisely to encourage parents to cross the picket line."

Parental aid supplements OPSEU support for such things as food and supplies for the alternate centres, a trailer and a phone on the picket site, and creative supplies for children. "If this goes on much longer," said Gunn, "we will require support from others." A hat was passed at the York event and \$46 was collected for the strike.

A number of York students, faculty and support staff have been marching on the picket line and on Monday, a solidarity picket attracted fifty people including several from York. OPSEU representative Peter Slee said, "The support was well appreciated." At the York meeting Janice Newson, Chairperson of the York University Faculty Association, pledged to encourage more support for the strike.