

Pinder's three bad breaks

Harvey Pinder had three bad breaks in the CYSF presidential election. Had any one of the three gone the other way, he probably would have won.

The first disadvantage was being taken off the ballot for allegedly having incorrectly filled out his nomination form. The question here wasn't whether Pinder was a Calumet student and thus eligible to run - no one questioned this - but that Pinder wrote "Calumet" in the spot for college affiliation on his nomination form, while the print-out provided to the Chief Returning Officer by the registrar's office said "Bethune". The print-out was out of date by seven months on this particular because of Calumet's

failure to inform the office.

Thus the CRO, in an overzealous attempt to stick to the letter of the law (CYSF regulations regarding elections) miscarried the spirit of the law - that only CYSF members should be allowed to run. And as Masters Virginia Rock and Eric Winter and Registrar M. Bider have made clear, Pinder was clearly a CYSF member.

With Pinder off the ballot, his Student Action slate ran Mary Marrone as a surrogate. In literature they explained that "a vote for Marrone is a vote for Pinder" and that upon winning, Marrone would be president in name only, appointing Pinder as full-time coordinator. A new election would be

held in the fall, hopefully to confirm the electorate's choice of Pinder.

The bad break in this business was that the eleventh hour Marrone - Pinder confusion probably affected a lot of voters adversely. It may have looked fishy, and some no doubt asked themselves, "Who exactly am I voting for?"

The second bad break was Vanier College Council member Andrew Cardozo's decision to drop out of the race. Had he stayed in, he probably would have taken more votes from fellow moderate Chodikoff (the victor by a mere 35 votes) than the activist Pinder.

Arnie Bell's decision to stay in the race, when he knew he had no chance of winning, was also a bad break for Pinder, who would have stolen most of Bell's votes.

Chodikoff won the election when he pulled ahead on the home-town vote from McLaughlin College, where he lives in residence. The Calumet home town vote was probably split between Arnie Bell and Marrone-Pinder - all three are Calumet students.

More importantly, Bell's platform was much closer to Pinder's than Chodikoff's. Both Bell and Pinder had no kind words for the current CYSF, and sought to "democratize" it. Chodikoff stood by the record of this year's council, of which he is a vice-president.

Chodikoff won by 35 votes, a slim lead out of 1,126 cast. Had even one of Pinder's misfortunes not befallen him, he would have won.

How the election would have turned out had there been a more substantial turnout is anyone's guess. There was a considerable decline in votes cast this year. Compare the total number of votes cast in the elections of Chodikoff and his four predecessors: Chodikoff (1,126), Hayden (1,592), Edson (1,503), Ritch (1,337) and Scotton (1,344).

The campaign period was the shortest in six years, which may have influenced the turnout. The brevity of the campaign gave *Excalibur* only one issue to bring the election to the voters' attention. **Ted Mumford**

New prez. faces paradox

The interesting thing about the CYSF elections is the paradox confronting the new president. For he is the only salaried person on council and has the most time available to put his finger in all CYSF business. He is in the prime position of receiving and dispensing information, votes on all committees, draws up agendas and chairs the CYSF. He is in effect an editor in position to put forth most easily what he considers the "correct" and most important view. Used extensively the position is one of great influence over the CYSF.

Our representative system prides itself on upholding the greatest good for the greatest number. The view of the greatest number is said to be placed before council. Mr. Chodikoff has been elected to present the majority views of the student body. Mr. Chodikoff was elected with 47.5 per cent of the popular vote. A vote in acknowledgement of his skill in regards budgetary balancing and for his desire to make the *Excalibur* editorship a political office.

A majority of the vote, 52.4 per cent, was cast for persons concerned with leaving *Excalibur* as it is and for funding social services well enough to survive.

These services are, among others, Harbinger and *Excalibur*. Logically the views Mr. Chodikoff

should present are these same views, tempered with his budgetary skills. Such a strength of spirit is necessary to present a view that is larger than one's own and in which one does not believe leaves me understanding why persons in positions of power throw up their hands in failure and say-L'etat est moi. Then the voices of 52.4 per cent of the people all calling for social services are cast away. All should be in despair.

Eight per cent of the popular vote, while agreeing that there should be those social services, thought that there was a major structural fault with the CYSF. The fault being that a minority can be represented as a majority, as is the case. Dictatorial rule is a minority holding the reins of power. Eight per cent of the people ask Mr. Chodikoff how he will change CYSF to remove the danger of a minority holding the majority of power.

52.4 per cent think that for a start CYSF meetings should be held in a place where students naturally congregate rather than in a foreign place, ninth floor Ross.

The last thing on my mind is answering an often asked question with a simple yes or no. The question: do you think the latest election was fair. The answer: how could it be when all the views have not been accounted for.

Arnie Bell

...says Stong master

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of evidence available — Harvey would again have been disqualified.

Something is wrong in the state of York when the letter of the law forces a person concerned with administering the law into a position where he must ignore the realities of a situation based on other valid, indeed true, evidence.

The response the CRO gave to my query of why the Master's statement could not be sought as valid, up-to-date evidence might appear quite persuasive if one were not aware of the realities of this particular situation. By his own admission, Payne said only one candidate's nomination form showed a discrepancy; only one call would have been necessary. The technicality for invalidating Harvey's nomination was "legal" but ill-considered, not truly just.

Finally, I have a proposal which would redefine the criteria of eligibility for nomination for CYSF President. Since the person in this office is supposed to represent a larger view than a representative of a particular College, since he should encompass a campus-wide perspective, does it make sense to insist that a candidate for the CYSF must be a member of a particular kind of College constituency, one belonging to the CYSF?

The CRO maintained to me that since a non-Canadian, for example, cannot expect to vote in an election unless he takes an oath of allegiance (becomes a citizen of Canada), by analogy, a Bethune student should not be permitted to stand for the CYSF Presidency since Bethune is not a constituent member

of the CYSF, as it defines constituent. This is a false analogy in two contexts: first, when a student becomes a member of a college, he is not thinking about whether he would be eligible to run for a non-college political position. A student may simply be assigned to Bethune because of available residence space or because the apartment suite arrangement is cheaper, and saving money is important for continuation in the University. Yet a Bethune student, according to present regulations, is denied access to the campus-wide highest office. Still they are York students, and the CYSF presumably is concerned with York students at large, not individual colleges as colleges.

One more point needs to be made on the non-constituency analysis. Garfield Payne was not aware last week that the money ordinarily going to CYSF is not Bethune's but is held in trust for joint negotiation and invariably at least half — in some years more — of the total is allocated to campus (not just College) activities and organizations. Bethune students are a paying part of York University. Perhaps the newly elected CYSF President, Dave Chodikoff, would with the Council and various colleges make this a subject for serious consideration and debate. The present amended election regulations have one claim to an important value: they have forced into the open how constitutional provisions ostensibly established to insure democratic and responsible elections may be used to insure other ends. **Virginia Rock**
Master, Stong College

Demonstration was great but leadership was lacking

The no-cutbacks rally and march at Queen's Park last Thursday is an impressive beginning to our fight against the government.

But it is only a beginning. In the minds of thousands of activists who were there and the hundreds of thousands we represented no clear perspective or strategy has emerged. The march showed there is not yet an effective leadership.

The Ontario Federation of Students' "leaders" at the podium could only limply say, "Go back to your campuses and organize for the next rally." The incredible energy of the march was not focussed or directed.

For one, the march itself was much too short. A longer march perhaps down Bay or Yonge St. would have given us a greater dose of inspiration.

In marching 6-8,000 strong we can gain a glimpse of our collective power. The usefulness of a rally is not only to impress the politicians and the public, but more importantly to impress ourselves.

Having mobilized thousands of students, teachers, and workers against the cutbacks it was necessary to celebrate our strength more fully. A march demonstrates that we are not alone; that together first we can make a lot of noise and an impressive spectacle; and then maybe, second that we have the power to turn back the government offensive on education.

But at the rally no one addressed themselves to how we can stop cutbacks. No one even mentioned the possibility, partially realized, of a student, staff, faculty alliance with other social service workers in a more powerful movement.

More importantly, no specific concrete proposals for action were suggested.

It seems all effort was spent in building March 16, and none in planning beyond that. No wonder there was evident dissatisfaction with the "leaders" as the rally began to fizzle out, directionless.

A proposal should have come from the Metro Coalition perhaps like this: with 8,000 activists here before us we should vote to organize fee strike committees in all college and university campuses to provide the pickets and informational leaflets to set up an airtight fee strike over the summer. The strike's purpose would be to withhold our tuition until the Tory government comes up with additional emergency funding that would at least keep up with inflation.

Other tactics such as student-teacher-staff strikes, occupations, etc. could have been discussed. But no leadership was forthcoming so good opportunities were missed.

Still it was a fantastic day: the largest post-secondary march in Canadian history.

The anti-cutbacks committees and the OFS should realize they have not yet mobilized the people or the ideas to win. The committee meetings must be more widely publicized and made more democratic with voted upon agendas and leaders, not just those chosen by the "activists" in the back rooms.

The purpose of our movement is not simply to manoeuvre angry people out to demonstrations, but to stop the cutbacks. And to win this ambitious project we must soberly advance militant and wide ranging tactics which will effectively direct us in our thousands against the government. Otherwise, it will be the government's turn to celebrate next and not ours.

Ian Kellogg
Student Action



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