

Aftermath of a month of squabbles

Glendon recovers from political body blows

By JULIAN BELTRAME

Political stability has gradually returned to Glendon, following a hectic month of squabbles which ended with the resignation of student union president Pat Smith, and with a mass rally called by the executive to support its remaining in office.

Following a week in mid-October when Smith was under attack for his handling of the student union during the summer months, the executive and a general assembly of the student council called for a vote of non-confidence. Smith, who was beginning to feel fed up with the entire affair, knew of the vote and refused to defend his actions.

The vote was 8 to 3 in favour of non-confidence, and on October 21, Smith officially resigned as president.

SUSPECT

Whether the executive had the right to call for a non-confidence vote against their president was put into question, and was especially suspect when the general assembly voted that it had no confidence in its executive as well, by a 3 to 2 margin.

Rather than resign, Marc Duguay, vice-president in the old council and now acting president, represented the executive in front of from 300 to 400 students to state why the entire executive should not be forced to resign. Only 14 voted non-confidence at the meeting, although close to half abstained.

Duguay stated that Smith too could have taken his case to the students, and that the vote of non-confidence in no way forced his hand.

Duguay told Excalibur Monday that at the centre of the controversy was a lack of communication

between Smith and the rest of the council.

"Pat was doing work, but one of the problems was that Pat could not relate to the council and state what work he was doing," said the new student union president.

ANTI-EXTENSION

One of the things Smith did which the council was aware of was to lead an effective campaign against the proposed extension of Lawrence through Glendon. The proposal was later scrapped.

While the executive is made up of seven members, five of these reside in Quebec, which left Smith alone during the summer months. As the fall semester opened, the executive discovered its president had made a number of crucial mistakes in its absence, and its confidence in Smith was never renewed.

Among these mistakes was Smith's failure to hire a business manager to handle the council's money, a type of work he himself admitted he was inexperienced at. A second was an expenditure of \$800 to a researcher studying the feasibility of an independent Glendon (separate from York).

Duguay explained that the report was useless because the researcher worked independently without being given direction. "The council felt Pat (Smith) should have checked up on him during the summer," said Duguay.

MINI-SCANDAL

But possibly the most controversial of Smith's actions was a move later termed the Beder travel incident. During the summer, Smith spend approximately \$400 travelling to different campuses to publicize E.A. Beder's book Missing Political

Party and the Student Union, in return for Beder's promise to leave an undisclosed amount to the Glendon council in his will (upon his death, of course).

Among the complaints was that the action contravened the constitution, and that there had been no document, receipt, or council authorization to give credence to a future claim.

HOLD BAG

"As far as the summer is concerned, Pat was justly or unjustly left holding the bag," Duguay admitted that in the future, council should seek to ensure that the executive is around the campus during the summer months.

"The blame must be shared by the executive," Duguay remarked.

Duguay saw a deeper explanation for the vote of non-confidence which went against Smith.

"Councils in the past were very much concerned with the external political scene, quite independent of Glendon; but this year, the majority of the executive members are very much concerned with the internal scene, such as the concept of bilingualism in Glendon.

STUMBLING BLOCK

"That was the main stumbling block for Pat — being unable to fit in with the general pattern of the council. One person called it a gut feeling of non-confidence."

Specifically, the council is trying to publish a list of the names and number of professors up for tenure this year, so that students can voice their opinion concerning the merit or non-merit of certain faculty.

The executive is also seeking to increase the number of French language courses offered at the bilingual college from the present 18, publish course evaluations, host the National Union of Students and attempt to attract French representatives to the conference for the first time, as well as launching a campaign against a senate (York) committee's study into the possibility of allowing faculty the option of loaning books for an extended period of 100 days.

MISTAKES MADE

Pat Smith said Monday he didn't

know whether the non-confidence vote was justified. "I've made mistakes, but I think they were blown up — people were just looking for an excuse."

Among the mistakes Smith admitted to was his failure to take into account the inexperience (including his) of council members.

"I said things thinking they knew what I was talking about, without realizing they didn't know the background."

He added that "the vote of non-confidence could have arisen from one of two things: they didn't like what I was doing, or they were out to get me. Either way a non-confidence vote was a good way to do it."

AVOID CONTROVERSY

Seeking to avoid the controversy

and secrecy which plagued Smith's regime, Duguay sought an outside body to decide the constitutional issue of who takes over the presidency. COSA (Committee on Student Affairs), the final judge on the constitution, ruled in favour of the vice-president's assuming the duties of the president, and the remainder of the \$3,500 yearly presidential salary not already claimed by Smith.

Wine and songs

What goes better with wine and cheese than good music? Show starts tomorrow night at 8:30 p.m. in the Bethune dining hall, with music courtesy of Dave Bradstreet and Michael Lewis. Admission is \$1 with Bethune ID, \$2 without.

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Dominion grapes still here

TORONTO (CUP) — Dominion Stores don't care how many of its customers signed petitions; they are still going to sell non-union grapes and lettuce from California.

That was one Dominion executive's response on November 5, when presented with a 35,000 name petition calling for the company to boycott these products in support of the United Farm Workers.

The petitions were gathered in a period of twelve days in 35 city Dominion Stores.

The group sponsoring the petitions, made up of Toronto labour and religious leaders, found Dominion's doors locked against

them and three police cars parked nearby when they arrived to deliver their documents, although they had made an appointment previously.

The group finally entered the back door and after an hour's wait, were allowed to present their petitions.

Chain of bread means high cost

TORONTO (CUP/CPA) — Bread prices may be hiked soon again, and the scenario may run something like this.

Loblaws will announce their bread price must rise because "their major supplier" has upped their price.

Loblaws will not explain their major supplier is George Weston Co., which owns Loblaws.

Weston will explain they raised prices because "their major suppliers" of milk, sugar and flour upped prices to them.

Weston will not explain they own Donlands Dairy, Royal Dairy, West-cane Sugar Refinery in Oshawa and a flock of milling companies, including McCarthy in Streetsville and Soo Lines in Winnipeg.

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