

Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity — Lord Acton

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Marrone/Pinder our choice for some "student action"

It's going to be complicated next week. Harvey Pinder is not on the ballot for president of CYSF. But, if Mary Marrone gets elected, then Harvey may become president.

Ridiculous, eh? But it's a ridiculous situation that's been forced on us by the present CYSF and its Chief Returning Officer Garfield Payne, who has kicked Harvey off the ballot on a tiny and highly questionable technicality.

Marrone is running in his place, and if elected she will see that new elections are called where Harvey gets a fair chance to run, and the electorate gets a fair chance to decide, democratically.

And that is reason enough to vote for Mary Marrone for CYSF president next week.

But it's not the only reason that *Excalibur* is endorsing Mary Marrone, and through her Harvey Pinder. Pinder, Marrone and their group called *Student Action* are the only people in this election campaign with a record and a program

which makes us believe that they will actually provide some leadership on this campus.

And leadership and positive, immediate action are desperately needed. Our university is at a crossroads. The administration trimmed \$1 million from our budget this year: they're planning on axing \$4 million next year, and some original research published a few weeks ago in *Excalibur* revealed that based on the ninth-floor's own budget projections, there will be budget cuts almost as large for the two years following.

Cuts like that threaten York with becoming a glorified high school. It was Pinder who did that original research, and it's for his consistent record in doing that type of work that we are endorsing him.

It is also why we are not endorsing David Chodikoff. Harvey shouldn't have had to do that original research. If our student government - of which Chodikoff is a leading member - had had its act together,

they would have taken on that type of investigation.

After all, there are two-dozen people on the CYSF, and one of them is paid to be a full-timer. Pinder is just one unpaid Board of Governors representative, taking his courses as well.

It's no accident that Pinder was chosen by the Anti-Cutbacks Committee to chair the 800-strong anti-cutbacks rally a couple of weeks back. Pinder has been involved in anti-cutbacks work all year, both at York and in the Metro-Area Anti-Cutbacks Coalition. He has put many hours and tons of energy into it, and he was the logical person to chair the proceedings. We can only reiterate that that is probably something a CYSF president should have been doing.

We are endorsing Marrone — Pinder because we don't think they would waste their time on some of the silly issues that Chodikoff has this year.

For instance, in the middle of all the activity against the cut-backs last month, as the gloomy news spread about the looming shadow of the axe-man, Chodikoff was busying himself with the important and earth-shattering proposal that CYSF and *Excalibur* should switch offices. It is a proposal that is meaningless (there are no discernible benefits for either party) and expensive (at least \$2,000 to build a darkroom in CYSF), and a monumental waste of time. Chodikoff would better have spent his time sitting at a No-Cutbacks table in Central Square than spending long hours poring over the blueprints of our respective offices.

We don't think Marrone — Pinder would waste their time trying to solve their own budget problems by slashing to pieces grants to needed social services like Harbinger, while banking away a \$10,000 bond for a rainy day. Marrone, Pinder and *Student Action* unequivocally support Harbinger, and are pledged to fight for its continued existence.

But perhaps that's no accident Chodikoff is a member of an all-male executive and is running this year on a 12-man slate. Services like Harbinger, which are really

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A vote for Marrone is a vote for Pinder

important for the women on this campus, tend to be forgotten in an environment like that.

But what of dark horse candidate Arnie Bell? Well, he has some interesting ideas in his program, but he has little experience in the anti-cutbacks movement and that, after all is the key to this whole campaign. We hope that Arnie sticks around next year, because his outlook on politics is somewhat off-the-beaten-track, and it's good to be jogged now and again by an idea that's different and thought-provoking.

But for next year, we need action, and that is why Marrone — Pinder has our vote. Now it's no secret that Pinder is a staff member of *Excalibur* and well-acquainted with many of *Excalibur's* staffers. No doubt there are some who think our endorsing him is just a new twist on the buddy-system.

We would urge people who think

that — indeed we would urge everybody — to compare the platforms and records of the three candidates, between now and election time, and draw your own conclusions. Because we think, you will find a real difference.

As the *Student Action* campaign leaflet states, "We can't afford another do-nothing council of student bureaucrats. We need a council that provides leadership in the fight against cutbacks..... We need a council which recognizes that our only chance to stop the cutbacks is for students to work with faculty and staff in a united anti-cutbacks movement."

Our university is in crisis, and of the three candidates for CYSF president, only Marrone — Pinder of *Student Action* have the program and the record which indicates that they would lead a students' council that might actually do something about it.

On that basis, *Excalibur* is urging you to vote for Mary Marrone for President next Tuesday and Wednesday. And you never know, despite being kept off the ballot by a computer-loving CRO, a victory for Marrone might yet see Harvey Pinder become president of CYSF.

How we voted

The decision to endorse Mary Marrone for President of CYSF was taken after a marathon 2½ hour emergency staff meeting last Tuesday. Because nominations didn't close until Friday, we didn't know who the presidential candidates were going to be until Friday, and consequently could not decide until then when to schedule our screening session.

When a time was worked out, the *Excalibur* staff was contacted by phone. In order to vote, a staffer had to have contributed to two issues this term, and had to either attend the entire screening session hearing all three candidates, or listen to a tape of the proceedings. The vote was done by secret ballot, and the final results were 11 in favour of Marrone, one for Bell, and none for Chodikoff. Five staffers thought we shouldn't endorse anybody.

Dirty work afoot in Pinder dispute

The decision to exclude Harvey Pinder from the CYSF presidential election ballot is a horrifying triumph of bureaucracy and political conniving over the spirit of democracy.

Chief Returning Officer Garfield Payne has ruled that because Pinder was not listed as a Bethune student, and hence not a CYSF constituent as of 10 am March 6, his nomination for the Presidency is invalid. In a March 7 letter to Pinder he explained his decision stating: "at the date of the dispute the evidence of Pinder's college affiliation was membership in Bethune College." He goes on to say that he was informed that Pinder was still registered "in Bethune as of 2:00 pm March 7, but a request to amend these records has been received."

The reason the request was received is that those records were wrong.

On March 7, B. Pillar, Administrative Assistant to York's Registration officer wrote CYSF that:

"Mr Pinder has been a member of Calumet since July 25, 1977. Mr. Pinder enrolled in a College tutorial in the Calumet College. Upon enrolment in a college tutorial the student automatically becomes a member of that college, in accordance with the regulations and practices of the college. The change had not been corrected by the home faculty."

If Pinder has in fact been a Calumet student since July, he is in fact a member of CYSF and eligible to run.

If Payne's evidence of Pinder's ineligibility has been proven wrong, the assertion of ineligibility should be withdrawn.

While we have no doubt that Mr. Payne has acted in an effort to ensure that all candidates "play by the rules," we can only convey our deepest regret that his performance takes the form of passive acceptance of a faulty filing system, rather than a firm defence of the right of York students to fair and open elections.

However Payne would not be in his present unenviable position if it were not for the current CYSF leadership. Payne wrote to Pinder that CYSF's *Resolution to Govern the Conduct of Elections* "says that the evidence of the registrar at the time of the dispute shall be determinative." The relevant section formerly stated:

"A 'member of a constituency' is a student who is a full member of a constituency of the Council and who is recognized as such by the Master or Dean of the College or Faculty to which the constituency corresponds."

Had this section stood, the present fiasco would not have occurred. But CYSF, just two days before the close of nominations, made the change, with Harvey Pinder's electoral threat being the only apparent reason. Not once in the build-up to this affair have we heard a member of the CYSF executive voice the slightest concern for the fairness of the election in which a leading contender has been disqualified due to a dubious technicality.

Could this be because Pinder is not a member of the ruling clique at 105 Central Square and poses a threat to the career goals of that clique?

Much to his credit, presidential candidate Arnie Bell has said of Pinder's disqualification, "Harvey's a York student and should be allowed to run just because we want democracy." He has told *Excalibur* that he has worked to see that Pinder be kept on the ballot. He deserves our gratitude.

Much to our disappointment, David Chodikoff, a CYSF vice-president and the other presidential candidate, has refused to comment on the technicality which is being used to silence Pinder. In view of the fact that the CYSF President sets the tone of for the council, we must leave you, the reader - and the voter - with the following question: Can someone who would rather play the politician and keep silent on such a critical issue — rather than take a stand for democracy — can such a person be trusted with the CYSF Presidency?

meeting, 2 p.m. today

Elections for editor in chief for 78-79 are coming up later this month. Anyone who has accumulated six credits, minimum of two per term, is eligible to vote, provided they attend the screening of applicants or listen to the tapes thereof if they absolutely cannot make the screenings.

Staffers who are already eligible are listed below in italics in the staff box. If you're not there, ask Paul or Ted about your status; if you're not eligible by election time, you can appeal and the staff will vote on whether you can vote for editor at a meeting just before the election.

Editor in chief
Managing editor
News editor
Photo editor
Sports editor
Entertainment editor
CUP editor
Contributing editors

Paul Kellogg
Ted Mumford
Paul Stuart
Byron Johnson
Kim Llewellyn
Cynthia Wright
Denise Beattie
Agnes Kruchio
Laura Brown

Staff at large, currently eligible to vote for editor in chief:

all of the above, John Brunning, Tony Cheung, Michael Christ, Scott Clayton, Mary Desrochers, Alan Fox, Bruce Gates, Annette Goldsmith, Gary Hershorn, Sue Kaiser, Ian Kellogg, Maxine Kopel, Pam Mingo, Andrew Nikiforuk, Harvey Pinder, Cynthia Rantoul, Jeff Rayman, David Saltmarsh, B.J.R. Silberman, Colin Smith, George Trenton, Michelina Trigiani, Eric Walberg, Ian Wasserman, Hugh Westrup, Sandy Zeldin, Norm Faria.

Sandy Bullock, Tracy Teeple, David Himpara, Mary Fraker, Peter Tiidus, Lisa Woo, Catherine Clemens, Al Bell, Lynn Snelling, Peter Hibbard, Rhonda Salsberg, Steve Collins.