

Candidates differ on definition of need

They agree - CYSF must meet students' needs

By Paul Stuart

If the candidates in today's CYSF (Council of the York Student Federation) by-election can deliver what they promised in Tuesday's noon-hour Bearpit debate, the future should hold no tuition hikes, cheap student-run stores in Central Square and a dazzling York social scene.

This is a gigantic "if", but the candidates for eight vacant seats in Founders, McLaughlin and Stong colleges had plenty of proposals.

Robert McMaster, ULS (United Left Slate) candidate in McLaughlin was first on deck. Noting the poor attendance at the Bearpit, he blamed it on the present "right wing CYSF". He claimed that though the council likes to "bill itself as being capable of great feats of

organization, it did not make students aware of the meeting".

"For this year the government has pledged not to raise tuition fees, which gives you an idea of what we can expect next year," said McMaster, in an attack on the Davis government's recent tuition hikes.

Steve Muchnik, candidate in Founders, said he was running because, "I'm concerned about student needs, not just students in residence but students as commuters."

Muchnik proposed the CYSF support projects, ranging from a student dental plan, to a student-run bookstore or grocery, "whether its a co-op or whatever can be worked out."

Linda Blanchet, Muchnik's ULS opponent in Founders, criticized the

student assistance program. While, she remarked, the program requires "ten per cent less of women in enforced summer savings, women's incomes are twenty-five per cent lower than men's, so we're already fifteen per cent behind."

Blanchet said a ULS council would support women's right to abortion and would work for an accredited women's studies program.

Brian Hayden, independent candidate in Stong, said that because he has lived both off-campus and in residence while attending York, he has "got an idea of what's going on in Stong, between residents and commuter students."

Hayden complained about "a lot of empty seats in council meetings" these days. He pledged to hold monthly forums in Stong "to help me get more public."

Leon Mitchell, Stong candidate who was recently acclaimed to the York senate, said he sees the need "for a strong, central student government."

"In Central Square there is hardly any place to get together, so I support a student building at York" Mitchell told the small gathering.

After the meeting *Excalibur* asked Mitchell how he would implement his proposals without the benefit of a like-minded coalition on CYSF. He replied he would "use my influence with other student representatives on council to see if we could create the type of government that would be very strong".

Joanne Pritchard, one of two ULS'ers running in Stong, explained the slate's strategy in choosing issues like the tightening of student aid and high unemployment.

"The ULS will fight within CYSF for highly visible campaigns which will involve all students regardless of college affiliations, because these issues cut across your college affiliation."

Ian Kellogg, the other ULS Stong candidate, said the slate made



Joanne Pritchard, ULS candidate in Stong

Bryon Johnson photos



Leon Mitchell, candidate in Stong

financial accessibility to university its priority because, "universities should be places where the poor as well as the rich can study".

He said the recently tightened student assistance program is "cutting poor people off from student aid and cutting them off from the best job prospects."

Hayden and Muchnik did not have kind words for the ULS. Hayden stated that he had organized a forum in Stong the night before which Pritchard of the ULS failed to attend.

"You people print ideas, but when it comes to backing them up you're not there because you don't participate", he told his opponents. Kellogg replied that the meeting had attracted only eight residence students, and was "totally divorced from day students", being held at 8 p.m.

Muchnik emphasized that as an independent, "I'm not going to have to take a leftist position" on a given issue due to ideology.

"I'll take each issue on its merits," he said.

Asked why the ULS should be given a second chance when it had power in CYSF two years ago and was decisively rejected, Joanne Pritchard replied the slate should be judged on their current programme and "as individuals."

Added McMaster after the meeting:

"If I'm to be tarred with the brush of the old ULS record, then I have the right to say to Hayden and these other candidates, 'then you're tarred with the brush of past CYSF's whose programmes resembled yours and failed.'"

Breakdown of talks is "real rather than strategic"

continued from page one

"At one point the university very much encouraged the use of part-time faculty because no full-time teaching posts were created. Part-timers were used to fill in the gap," she said.

"But there is no commitment to part-timers. If a course suddenly stops being popular, they are simply let go."

The union wants job security for part-time professors and open competition for jobs between part-time professors and graduate students. Now, jobs are offered first to York graduate students who, often with fewer qualifications, get \$500 a course more.

According to Paul Axelrod, the union also wanted to introduce a formula which would "protect the graduate students as well, and would guarantee them four years employment with the university".

The union wants a limit of twenty-five students for each discussion group. It also proposes the university pay for extended health and dental care, in an arrangement similar to existing ones for professors.

"We have not considered the university's offer of 6.5% seriously," Axelrod said early this week. "If we were to give all the money to part-time faculty, it still would not be enough to bring them to the level of graduate students," he said.

According to Ilene Crawford, teaching assistants at the University

of Toronto last year received \$3100 more per course if they were doctoral students, \$2700 more if they were undergraduates.

The breakdown of conciliation came as a surprise to union representatives.

"We thought the talks were going well," Axelrod said. "The university took the initiative to break off conciliation. They called our offer an 'insult'."

D.J. Mitchell, York's personnel director, says the administration has not ruled out further talks.

"As of this moment we have no plans," he said late last week. "There will be further talks and I don't want to jeopardize either party's position."

Fifteen days after the minister of labour received the conciliation officer's report (which now is tomorrow at the earliest), the union is permitted to strike.

Vice-president in charge of personnel relations, Bill Farr, told a Board of Governors meeting early this week that "the current difference between offer and demand indicate it will be a long time before the parties will come to an agreement."

"The breakdown is a real, rather than a strategic one," he added.

The failure of conciliation talks comes at a time when York university is in the process of chopping \$1.5 million from its current budget to avoid a deficit, and has imposed a faculty hiring freeze.

YUSA and admin.

continued from page one

YUSA executive assistant John Lang declared, "I'm convinced the money is there." "It's time to change the order on the totem pole," he added, in regards to university spending priorities.

Lang pointed out the York University Faculty Association (YUFA) has already received a wage increase offer of 9 percent from the administration. (Like YUSA, YUFA initially requested a 13.5 percent increase for 1977-78.) "If they can afford more for YUFA, they can afford more for us," he told the meeting.

Lang also pointed out that the health benefits YUSA receives from the administration are inferior to YUFA's.

Avens told the meetings that the university's offer of 6.5 percent plus 50 percent of the dental plan works out to 6.78 percent under Anti-Inflation Board guidelines. The AIB limit on a one-year wage increase is eight percent.

Lang told the members, "We're at the most crucial point in the negotiations." He stressed the importance of union solidarity in determining the outcome of the negotiations.

"The university listens when they see we're united," he said.

Besides wages and the dental plan, some of the issues still in dispute after last week's conciliation meetings include displacement due to technological change, benefits for part-time employees, and hours and overtime.

Items settled in the contract included union duty leave, the university job evaluation system, bereavement leave, a paid holiday on Heritage Day (when proclaimed)

and vacation credits.

Progress was made on a YUSA proposal that "the University recognise the principle of equal pay for work of equal value", regardless of the sex of the worker.

YUSA withdrew some proposals during the meetings. The university refused at one point to continue negotiations unless YUSA dropped a proposal that employees not be required to do work of a personal nature for their superiors.

Another significant article withdrawn by YUSA proposed a guarantee that the workload of employees would not be increased if the workforce in their department was reduced.

Both Lang and Avens stressed that YUSA was not capitulating on these points. They said YUSA members must show their support for the proposals "on the job" so they will be written into future contracts. Lang said, "It's necessary to show the university that YUSA means business."

YUSA also withdrew proposals regarding pregnancy, paternity and adoption leave, free tuition for immediate family, free use of athletic facilities, the university pension plan, two paid holidays on Easter Monday and Remembrance Day, the introduction of a sick leave bank and the protection of YUSA members who refuse to cross a picket line of another York union.

The university dropped a proposal to restrict the allocation of YUSA area representatives.

The next conciliation meeting is tomorrow.

BOG's new embargo

continued from page one

George Bell, executive vice-President, told the board the university

will have to cut out as much as \$1.5 million instead of the previously predicted \$1 million of its current budget in order to avoid a deficit.

The increase in a 'potential deficit' has come about as a result of further drop in enrolment at York, Bell said. Instead of the previously expected drop in the number of 500 full-time students, York this year has 800 fewer students.

"This will mean a loss of fees of about \$612,000", he stated.

The effect of the collective agreements will cause further cuts in the general budget, he said. Supplies, general operations, travel allowances, overtime, part-time, and casual work and academic salary reserves will be the budget categories affected.

In answer to a question by student representative Pinder, Chairman Gerstein said in earlier years, when the general outlook for universities was bright, York did "embark on a road to deficit finance."

This is no longer possible, he said, because now "there is no light at the end of the tunnel."

President MacDonald added he is trying to force the university to determine its priorities. "It is only within the community that these financial problems can be solved," he said.

Enrolment at York dropped by about 4% this year compared to a provincial average of 1%, Bell said, and was most pronounced in the faculties of arts, fine arts, science, and in Atkinson and Glendon colleges.

Vice-president Bill Farr reported that in regards to negotiations with the three major unions at York, an official impasse was reached with the Graduate Assistants Association, a substantive impasse with the staff association, and that negotiations are continuing with the faculty association.