

Editorial

pSUEdo democracy

One might think of the events surrounding this year's CYSF election as a joke but for two reasons.

First, jokes aren't funny when you have to explain them. It's difficult to say just what the problem is without a rather drawn out talk about the complexities of statutory interpretation and petty student politics.

Second, few of us laugh at jokes at our own expense, especially when the issue is a serious one. David W. Chodikoff and the CYSF Election Tribunal have made York's student body look ridiculous. Really, we don't find that funny.

This is the third consecutive year in which student elections have been interrupted by technicalities. Last year, Peter Brickwood's election as student rep to the Board of Governors was declared invalid because members of the Revolutionary Workers League distributed literature supporting him after the official campaign period had ended. It was clear to all parties that Brickwood was not responsible for their actions.

Two years ago, Harvey Pinder was declared ineligible to run against David W. Chodikoff (heard that name before?) for the office of CYSF President. A clerical error had left Pinder's name off the list of Calumet students. (Calumet was a member of the CYSF then.) Despite the declaration by Calumet Master Eric Winter that Pinder was indeed a Calumet student, the Election Tribunal refused to allow his campaign, on the grounds that he was not registered at any CYSF college.

This year's Election Tribunal was convened to decide the issue of Andrea Doucet's eligibility following a complaint by David W. Chodikoff, former campaign officer for Doucet's opponent Donald Sugg.

We, for our part, don't like the tribunal decision and we don't like the way they reached it. Chodikoff had a few days in which to prepare his brief and presented it in the company of a law student. Andrea Doucet has claimed that she was unaware that she was to make a presentation to the tribunal and had no time to prepare one. She



"I'm thinking of running for CYSF but I can't afford a lawyer!"

had no council, save Keith Smockum, who spoke for what she estimated to be two minutes on her behalf. It's not surprising then that the members of the tribunal held unanimously that Chodikoff's interpretation of the relevant statutes is the only one possible.

What is surprising is that they have cancelled the election. We can't imagine what would motivate the tribunal to call off a campaign already a week under way. To his credit, David Young was the one member of the tribunal who dissented from this ruling. In his opinion, the election should go on as planned.

We believe that the election must go on. There simply is not enough time to properly conduct another one this term. Now we'll probably have to wait until next fall.

In cancelling the election, the tribunal has robbed the important summer months from next year's president. Because summer's a time when a lot of CYSF work gets done, he'll be inheriting a lot of half-started, half-finished business. Hardly an appealing situation for those who would consider running next fall.

What is disturbing about the whole matter is the way that the complaint was put forth.

Chodikoff has used legal threats to bully his fellow students—including an *Excalibur* reporter—and therefore not only made a farce of the Canadian legal system but created a climate of fear that has restricted any rational discussion on the matter.

The democratic process at York, and, we fear, those who make up its student government are rapidly sinking into a sophistic concern for obscure legalities. This certainly does not help our credibility as a body in our dealing with the Board of Governors or the Ontario Government. It is an embarrassment to us all.

CHAIRPERSON OF ENGLISH SOUGHT

The position of Chairperson of the Glendon College Department of English falls vacant as of June 30, 1980. The Principal's Committee for the selection of a new Chairperson invites applications and/or nominations for the post, which is for a term of three years with the possibility of renewal. The post carries with it a stipend of \$2000 and one-third release time.

The Glendon College Department of English focuses on four areas — Literature, Linguistics, Drama, and English as a Second Language. The position of Chairperson offers considerable scope for involvement in outreach activities.

Applications and/or nominations, which are requested from all quarters of the York community, should be sent to the Secretary of the Search Committee, R. Handscombe, Glendon College Department of English. Last date for the submission of applications/nominations is March 31, 1980.

Hasidism Then and Now Aspects of a Religious Revolution

Leonard Wolinsky Lectures on Jewish Life and Education at York University

Arthur Green, University of Pennsylvania
March 20, 1980, 10 a.m.
Curtis Lecture Hall A, York University, Steeles Campus
Hasidism and Its Literature, Then and Now

March 20, 1980, 8:15 p.m.
Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 3080 Bayview Street
Understanding Hasidism in Our Time

Eliezer Berkovits, Hebrew Theological College
March 23, 1980, 8:15 p.m.
Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 3080 Bayview Street
Zionism and Hasidism: The Thought of Rabbi Abraham I. Kook

March 24, 1980, 1 p.m.
201S Ross Building, York University, Steeles Campus
God, Man, and History: The Idea of Cosmic Unity in Hasidism

Emanuel Goldsmith, University of Connecticut
March 24, 1980, 8:30 p.m.
Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 3080 Bayview Street
A Modernist Reevaluation of Hasidism: The Writings of Y.L. Peretz

March 25, 1980, 11 a.m.
Stedman Lecture Hall D, York University, Steeles Campus
Hasidic Mysticism in the Works of Sholem Asch

Sponsored by the Faculty of Arts, Programme in Religious Studies and the Faculty of Education, Judaic Studies Option, in cooperation with the Toronto Board of Jewish Education and the Toronto Jewish Congress.

All lectures open to the public free of charge.
For further information, telephone 667-3525.

THE CLASS OF 45.

