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NEW BOY ON THE BLOCK: CYSF President-Elect Gerard Blink, captured moments after learning of his victory.

Christie receives stern warnings from Golden

By GARY SYMONS

The CYSF elections, already marred by a poster smear campaign against presidential candidate Gerard Blink, almost ended in the disqualification of most of the candidates for CYSF executive after a campaigner was accused of illegal campaign tactics.

Chief Returning Officer Marshall Golden said he had considered disqualifying presidential candidate Vicky Fusca and three other candidates after twice catching John

Christie, one of Fusca's

campaigners, handing out campaign

literature and trying to influence

voters near a Central Square polling

booth: an action directly contraven-

ing the constitutional by-laws

Golden said he first caught Chris-

tie distributing campaign literature

promoting Fusca, Finance Director

candidate Bryson Stokes, External

Affairs candidate Annita Antoni-

anni, and Reya Ali, a candidate for

Board of Governors representative.

Golden said he was told he "couldn't

prove a thing," but then, according

to Golden, after being warned that

his actions could result in all four

candidates being disqualified, Chris-

Golden said he then warned the candidates to ensure no similar inci-

dents occured, but shortly after-

wards he was alerted by polling

clerks that students were being given

campaign literature and escorted to

Golden said that when he again

spoke to Christie another altercation

ensued, and Christie threatened him,

saying he'd like to throw Golden

through a window. Christie then

pushed him twice against a window,

tie agreed to leave.

the polls.

When he first confronted Christie,

governing CYSF elections.

in front of several witnesses, Golden said, despite being warned that he would be charged with assault.

Golden then left to call York Security, but Assistant Returning Officer Moris Barmherzig persuaded Christie to leave before security guards arrived.

When asked to respond to Golden's allegations, Christie told Excalibur, "I have just one thing to say: Fuck you. And you can quote

Blink new president in narrow victory

By LORNE MANLY

Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF) President-Elect Gerard Blink squeaked to victory in last night's annual general student election.

Voter turnout dropped about 40 percent this year. 978 student cast ballots in the presidential race where Blink defeated Vicky Fusca by a mere 42 votes.

"I feel fantastic," Blink said. "I really want to thank Bill (Anderson, his campaign manager) and all those people who came out and pushed for me. It's something I couldn't have done on my own by any stretch of the imagination."

Fusca accepted her defeat graciously. "Close but no cigar," she sighed.

The outcome of the close election was in doubt until the last ballots were counted.

"Before the advance polls (which were counted last), Blink was up by about 20 votes [16 actually],' George Johnston, Blink's scrutineer, said. "The feeling, though, was that

Vicky could take it. Vicky got 10 votes right off the bat, but then all of a sudden Gerard took it." Blink ended up winning the advance poll 111-79.

Chief Returning Officer Marshall Golden lauded the efforts of the election team following the announcement of the final totals. "Aside from a minor case of assault and battery." Golden said, "this was the smoothest election that I am aware of." Golden was referring to an incident earlier in the day when he asked a Fusca campaign worker about questionable tactics and was shoved twice against a window at one of the Central Square polling stations.

Blink's first priority as President is 'to get Council back together. We have to prove to (Paul) Gilmor (the Guelph Provost who is conducting the review of York's student government) that we're going to make Council work," Blink said. "It's been a year of shambles: it's time to get things going again."

"I'm going to set up an appointment with Gilmor. We need a consensus to present to him," he said.

Arthurs tells law students combined graduation on

By DRAZEN BULAT

Four Osgoode Hall law students met with York University President Harry Arthurs March 27th to contest the proposed graduation ceremony which would combine Osgoode Hall Law School and the Administrative Studies Business School.

Kathy Kay, president of Osgoode Hall's Legal and Literary Society, president-elect Atul Tiwari, Pam Chapman, chairperson of Osgoode's Faculty Council and John McCormick, a member of Osgoode's Ad Hoc Committee on Convocation, presented Arthurs with the petition signed by about 600 students, protesting the proposed combined convocation. "We made sure that Mr. Arthurs realized the concern felt by a

goode's identity is being threatened by the change."

The dual ceremony will involve a combined welcoming address and then a speaker from one faculty will speak and the students from the faculty will receive their degrees. The same procedure will then be repeated by the students from the other faculty. Chapman said that Arthurs admitted that the ceremony will be a little longer but felt that this was a reasonable sacrifice the Osgoode students were being asked to make in return for a much better ceremony. "He stressed that he, above all others, has Osgoode's best interests in mind," Chapman said.

McCormick, however, expressed disappointment. "We went to the top and Mr. Arthurs said no. There is nothing more that we, as representatives of Osgoode students can do," he said. "I don't know what the Convocation Committee will dowe haven't had a meetng yet. We can't ask the students to boycott the ceremony, it wouldn't be fair to them."

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Golden said that after the second incident he notified all polling clerks that Christie was banned from polling stations.

After the second incident, Golden said he was considering the disqualification of all four candidates represented by Christie, but later told Excalibur that he had decided to postpone making a ruling until the election results came in, and then only rule to disqualify candidates if the results were extremely close or if their opponents appealed the outcome.

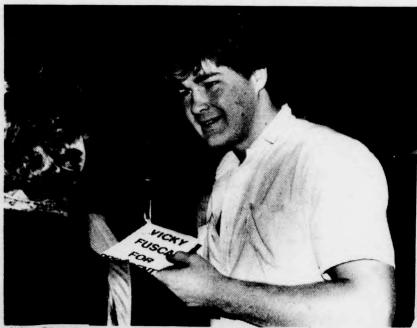
Golden added that he was reluctant to disqualify the candidates. believing that none of the candidates had any knowledge of Christie's activities. He added, however, "if I. thought they knew all about it I would disqualify them immediately."

While Fusca and Stokes both lost in the election, making any disqualification proceedings a moot point, Golden said, he would have to consider appeals by the opponents of Ali and Antonianni. "I'm not on a witch-hunt," he said, but added that he would have to consider any appeals from Marg Evans, the other BOG candidate, or Hayley Olliverre, Antonianni's opponent for the External Affairs position.

ge number of Osgoode students. Chapman said.

"It quickly became clear, however, that the decision to hold the convocations at the tennis centre is not reversible," Chapman said. "It finally came down to a basic disagreement. Mr. Arthurs feels that the combined ceremony will eventually prove to be beneficial to Osgoode, while we feel that Os-

The combined ceremony format is experimental and will be reviewed after this year's convocation.



John Christie