



Sweeping up the Fall: Much loved Central-Square custodian, Joe Carione, cleans up the last of autumn in preparation for another infamous York winter.

Photo: Nigel Turner

EXCALIBUR

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Council business stymied

Council sessions fail to resolve the poster affair

Michael Monastyrskyj

After debating the fate of Bipin Lakhani in three council meetings, the Council of the York Student Federation has yet to vote on whether to ask for the Director of Social and Cultural Affairs' resignation. Calls for his removal stem from the discovery of anti-Menachem Begin posters in Lakhani's CYSF filing cabinet.

The most recent meeting, held on Tuesday, was adjourned when some members of the audience engaged in a scuffle. This session and Thursday's emergency session, attracted a large crowd which cramped the classrooms used for the Council deliberations.

Winters College representative, Dave Kelly, presented a motion asking for Lakhani's resignation at an October 26th meeting, but the discussion and a vote on the motion was postponed "pending a written evaluation of the circumstances by the Director of Social and Cultural Affairs." Before asking for Lakhani's removal, Kelly informed the Council that Winters College had passed a resolution demanding resignation.

At Thursday's emergency meeting, Lakhani made a presentation, in which he referred to "slanderous accusations (that) have been hurled against me," and in which he argued that posters he had produced were not racist.

Flagrant abuse of post

Accusing the Council of hypocrisy, he asked why Director of Academic Affairs, Mark Pearlman, had not been punished for "a most flagrant abuse of a privileged position during the last election campaign. I refer in particular to Mr. Pearlman's use of a York Student Fund Advertisement which acted as a part of his electoral campaign."

"My 'abuse' may have amounted to only \$8.75 (which I have subsequently paid to Council), but his flagrant abuse amounted to nearly \$1,000."

At Tuesday's meeting Pearlman stated, "The truth of the matter is that the picture ran an eighth of a page, thereby costing under \$40."

Lakhani asked, "If they wish to accuse me of improprieties, then I ask you: who was snooping into my cabinets? What did they want from there? And what right did they have to remove anything from there that wasn't even theirs?" Some council members reacted loudly, prompting speaker, Greg Gaudet, to say, "I believe the questions are rhetorical."

Later in the meeting, Student Senator, Martin Zarnett, said he found the posters while searching for books in the filing cabinet. "I brought these posters to Council to let Council know what is happening in its filing cabinets."

'Truth is not important'

In Lakhani's opinion, he is being asked to leave Council connotations of it being anti-Zionist! I am no expert on Zionism, but from what I have read I know that it is called by many, including the U.N., a form of racism."

Following Lakhani's statement, Winters College representative, Ellen Leibman, said "It is not important whether or not the statements on the posters are true."

Board of Governors representative, John Weston, argued that the issue involved two questions: misuse of Council funds as well as the poster and the issues addressed by it. "The next question is what sort of punishment should be imposed. A more

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We'd laugh if it were funny

On Monday, November 1st, one of the University of Toronto's newspapers, *The Varsity*, published an article written by their City Editor, Marc (Tzvi) Huber, which reported the sale of buttons questioning the quality of York's academic standards and the intelligence of York students.

"If you can't go to University...Then go to York," proclaim the buttons which are being sold for one dollar each on the U of T campus. At the admitted risk of "taking this too seriously", the Editors of *Excalibur* offer what they feel is an appropriate response:

We think it is journalistically irresponsible of *The Varsity* to have given the item such prominence (it appeared in the centre of the third page of an eight page issue). The article was written in the same flippant tone as the buttons and the lead causes us to question the story's objectivity.

It is a juvenile way to stimulate school spirit and does not suit the university environment.

While it has been suggested that we respond in the same childish manner, we do not intend to promote this sophomoric activity.

It has the potential to seriously damage the reputation of York University.

At a time of education cutbacks, the publicity generated by such games could impair efforts to demonstrate the importance of university funding.

Two thousand attend

Unions lose boycott gamble to Casino York

Barb Taylor

While 2000 people turned up at Casino York last week, York Fund organizers and campus unions who called a boycott of the event differ on the success of the day.

Casino York was organized by the York Fund as part of a drive to raise \$15 million for the University. The boycott was called by union leaders opposed to five per cent controls and a York Fund hold on corporate fundraising.

The 2,000 who attended were able to gamble at 43 different tables while hoping to win a door prize. Air Canada don-

ated a flight for two anywhere they fly, American Express donated \$500 in travellers checks and there were various other draws.

Mark Pearlman, head of the York Student Fund felt that the Casino York was "very successful." He believed the boycott failed; "the numbers speak for themselves."

Karen Herrel of the York University Staff Association said, "the boycott served to raise the consciousness of people--people were not aware that the external fundraising campaign was on hold. I know some people who either just put in their tickets, returned

them, or didn't go."

Last year, Casino York attracted approximately 400 people. Pearlman commented, "The Casino last year was aimed at students, this year it was aimed at faculty, staff and students--the whole York Community."

Harrel pointed out that the boycott was announced only two days before the event and predicted that any future union actions would be planned further in advance.

Jill Teiman of the Canadian Union of Educational Workers agreed with Herrel, "Many people went and more or less just spent their free

chips." Teiman also questioned the amount of money put into the event's advertising campaign.

While boycotting the event, Herrel participated in an equal pay coalition presentation which followed a YUSA brief to the Queen's Park committee considering the wage control legislation.

Because of this legislation, there is still much controversy about the purpose of the York Fund and the ability of York community members to contribute.

On the subject of participation, Pearlman says, "giving to a charity comes down to an individual basis--how one feels about the University. Some faculty give a lot; some give a little. It isn't based on what they're getting paid."

Teiman differs, "CUEW thought the boycott was a good idea because we disagreed with corporate fundraising being discontinued while fundraising continues within the York community targeting low paid groups." But Pearlman doesn't feel fundraising was the main objective of the Casino: "It wasn't really a fundraising event. It was let's-get-together-and-promote-the-York-Fund event--if it raised money, all the better."

Figures on the amount raised will not be available until the end of the week.

CYSF examines constitution

Alison Bailey

The Council of the York Student Federation will revamp its constitution due to problems that have arisen from it.

Maurizio Belivacqua, President of CYSF, said the Council is planning to change the constitution because "the Council has had a number of problems because of the document's wording and punctuation."

"It's vague and the wording should be improved," he said. "We are going to break it down into small sections, small by-laws each dealing with specific items."

The constitution, adopted by the CYSF in 1980, deals with all policies and objectives of the council. It lists the members and their respective jobs.

Belivacqua said that problems arose during the summer and a constitutional committee was formed to "research areas that each individual thought needed to be changed."

They would report it to the committee as a whole, which in turn would make recommendations to the Council.

Belivacqua said one major area he is looking at is the appointment and the election

of officers. While four of the officers are elected from the student population, the other four are appointed and he questioned whether the elected should have the same power as the appointed.

"All executive positions should be elected at large," he said. "It's justice."

He said that the wording of the constitution is a major task for council, which will be voting on the changes section by section at each council meeting.

"It's not easy, it's a complex thing," he said. "Hopefully next year's council will have a new constitution."