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MARIO SCATTOLONI

External affairs director Contento failed in mandate

Cont'd from page 9

What happened later is all a matter of public record, and in a way it is all irrelevant, since Contento's emergence as a political figure at York resulted in, quite simply, a still-birth. Suffice it to say that, for various reasons, some justifiable and some not, she never came even close to adequately carrying out the portfolio she fought so hard to win.

She rarely showed up to council meetings, her reports to council were sporadic and superficial (in one case Contento admitted in council that she had hurriedly written her report the afternoon before the council meeting), she was not involved with the battle to oppose university underfunding, did not attend any of the numerous Ontario Federation of Students meetings concerning the government's educational policies and the Bovey Commission, and during the entire period she was even involved with her portfolio, it is difficult to point to a single major achievement.

Contento's own explanation, and in many ways it is not far from the truth, is that because of her leftist politics, she felt isolated on a council filled with people she considered extremely conservative and would therefore be unable to gain the support she needed to initiate the changes she felt cysf needed, and very quickly became disillusioned with her purpose on the council's executive.

This article, however, is not meant as an apology for Contento's failure to carry out her duties as director of external affairs, no matter what the underlying reasons may be, for when she absconded from her responsibilities, she betrayed not only herself and the people that worked so hard on her campaign, but every student at York.

Despite the fact that she was disappointed in her ambitions, Contento took upon herself the responsibility to represent York students, and student interests, to the world outside. And now, especially when university students all over Ontario are in a time of crisis, facing as they do funding cut-backs, a decline in accessibility, and poor prospects for a summer job to help fund their education, Contento cannot be exonerated for her failure, since that failure came, for whatever reason, from her own lack of commitment.

Contento could have persevered, even in the face of the lack of cooperation and outright opposition she said confronted her on the executive. To put it simply, she could have done her best to carry out the task she was elected to perform, but instead she simply gave up.

Worst of all, her surrender to the pressures she felt on council left cysf with no one to carry out her portfolio, a portfolio which in these times is surpassed in importance only by the president's.

Perhaps in this case, even though I feel a great deal of sympathy for Ms. Contento's position, for her disappointments and disillusionment, it's better for everyone that the Ghost of cysf has finally been laid to rest.

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