

excalibur

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York students to decide today whether or not to stay in OFS

By LORNE MANLY

Frenzied campaigning by both sides marked the last few days before today's referendum which will decide the fate of the Council of the York Student Federation's (CYSF) membership in the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS).

Those working for the Yes and No campaigns continued to put up posters and hand out pamphlets to unsuspecting students in a last ditch effort to educate as well as motivate an apathetic student body at York. These valiant attempts at converting the politically ignorant may actually pay off in an unusually large turnout, according to several major figures in York politics.

Gerard Blink, the coordinator of the No side (which is in favor of York remaining in OFS), feels that the

voter turnout will be higher than York's normal level. "The advertising is pretty highstrung," Blink said, "and the issue is so simple—it's yes or no." Because of this visibility and the single choice students have to make, Blink thinks that there will be a larger turnout than usual.

Paul Hammond, President of Vanier Student Council, also believes the participation in the referendum will be higher than in CYSF elections. "Both sides are getting into a dogfight," Hammond, who is helping the No side, said. "The campaigners are posterizing well and really talking it up with the students." As a result, Hammond is expecting a pretty large turnout.

Others, however, are not so optimistic. Sandra Antoniani, who is the Director of External Affairs for CYSF

and running the Yes (pulling out of OFS) side, doesn't think that the "students are very aware of the issues" and feels that this does not bode well for a strong student turnout. "Another week (of campaigning) and we would have a better informed student body," Antoniani added.

Steve Morel, president of McLaughlin Student Council, is also a pessimist about the referendum turnout. "There's a lot of ignorance towards the issues," Morel said. "Many people don't even know what OFS is."

Morel and his Student Council have made available to the students of his college both sides' literature but is still quite sure that "from this college the apathy is going to continue."

Ali, Golden spar over constitution

By LAURA LUSH

The new constitution for the proposed New Model of student government at York is being implemented without adequate time and measures to inform students of the change, according to Marshall Golden, Speaker of the Council of York Student Federation (CYSF).

Golden said CYSF President Reya Ali is trying to "steam-roller" the proposals for the by-laws of the new constitution by the Council and students. Ali's administrative method "is a willful attempt to get the new constitution passed with as little fuss as possible," Golden said.

Ali said the implementation process began last November and that each of the five college and three faculty member constituencies have had numerous chances to discuss the plan for the New Model. Ali, who began the initiative for a centralized student government last summer, said that he met with various constituency presidents six times last

summer, and about four or five times since September. "If this isn't sufficiently democratic, then I don't know what is," Ali said. The sixth and final draft of the New Model came back from CYSF's lawyers in November and was circulated to every constituency member for perusal.

Golden said he put forth a request to the Council at the last general meeting on January 29 to discuss the best method of passing the by-laws. Although every by-law must go through a series of three readings, Golden said he was concerned that the by-laws would be pushed too quickly through Council without enough consideration given by members to the effect of these changes. Golden said he asked Ali to explain to the Council the definition of the first by-law so it could be open to Council for discussion and debate. "You can't just throw a huge document at people and expect them to understand all the implications of each by-law," Golden said.

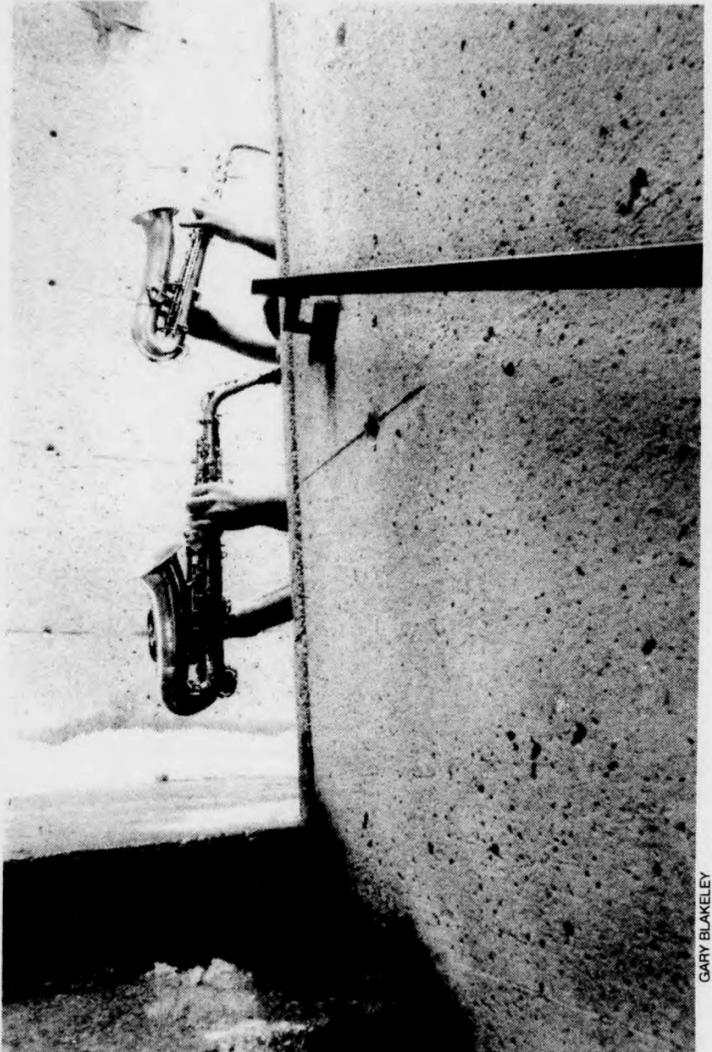
Ali said that ideally all the by-laws should be passed within two general meetings because all constituency members have had adequate time to discuss the nature of the by-laws in special meetings. The New Model "should have happened in November to put it into practice" before the end of this academic year, he said. "This government will barely have time to put it to test," he added. "The college presidents have been getting on my case, asking me why it's (the New Model) taking so long to implement." Ali estimated that the New Model could be implemented as early as March depending on how long it will take to pass all the by-laws.

Since the first by-law was passed in principle at the last Council meeting, Golden has issued a memo to all Council members stating that "certain provisions of by-law one relating to the amendment of the constitution have not been met." According to CYSF constitution, article 19, the memo reads, each council member must receive a copy of the proposed by-law at least seven days before the meeting. Golden said this constitution was violated because copies of the proposed constitution were sent to each council office and not to each member.

However, Ali said that Golden has interpreted the reading of the constitution incorrectly. Ali said a member is defined as the constituency and not the individual rep. "Council doesn't recognize individual members, it recognizes constituencies," he said.

Golden said he would like to see public notices and announcements in university papers informing students of when the specific meetings to discuss the by-laws will be so they may attend. "This is the most significant change in the history of student government at York," he said. "It is irresponsible, undemocratic and morally wrong for the Council not to take these steps to ensure that all students are informed of the magnitude of the change that the restructuring of the student government will bring," Golden said.

Ali said that there has been coverage of the New Model in student papers, and that college reps were also responsible for informing students of the issues. He said there are copies of the constitution for the New Model available in the CYSF office and in every constituency office for students' perusal.



GARY BLAKELEY

These phantom saxophonists helped kick off the Creative Home Decorating Show, sponsored by Fine Arts' Icecube Committee.

Study examines York's poor retention record

By KEVIN O'NEILL

A study done in the summer of 1984 examined statistics for first-year students from the faculties of Arts, Science and Glendon College. It found markedly high loss rates of first year students; Arts-21.74

The study, prepared by Liz Dolan, the Student Programmes Officer at the Faculty of Education, and commissioned by Sheldon Levy, the Associate Vice-President for Management Information and Planning, took a year to ready and tries to find out why York's retention record is poorer than other Ontario universities.

The study examined statistics for first-year students from the faculties of Arts, Fine Arts, Science and Glendon College. It found markedly high loss rates of first year students in the summer of 1984: Arts-21.74 percent; Fine Arts-31.58 percent; Science-25.93 percent; and Glendon-30.11 percent. These figures represented only students stopping-out (i.e., those who drop out but later reenter) or dropping-out of the University. The average rate for Ontario universities is 15 percent.

The study identified three types of students: students who come to university right out of grade 13 (40 to 60 percent of total first year students in the four faculties); students admitted on a basis other than having graduated from grade 13 in the previous year (mature students, out of province students and grade 13's who graduated one or more years prior to proceeding to university: 15 to 40 percent); and the third group is students who had been previously registered as Year 1 students at York and had remained classified at a Year 1 level (5 to 36 percent).

The third group had the highest

drop/stop out rate; between 35 to 45 percent, depending on the faculty. As well, 90.74 percent of these students in the Faculty of Arts who dropped/stopped out in 1983/84 and who had originally been admitted directly from grade 13, had been admitted with less than a 70 percent final grade 13 standing.

Levy said this may be avoided if the students were given more advice coming out of grade 13. "If the hypothesis that the grade 13 marks (are related to drop out rates) is correct . . . people let in with less than, say, 68 percent, may be advised to take a lighter load of maybe three courses. Five courses may be too much," he said. "(The advisor) must look at what types of studies the student has taken . . . look at the background (of the student) in high school to see what the student has taken."

An earlier study completed by the

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York's flag at half mast for founding member of BOG

York University suffered a major loss with the death of honorary Board of Governors member John Stewart Proctor.

Proctor, who died at Wellesley Hospital in Toronto last Saturday, was a founding member of the Board of Governors, and served as its chairman from 1979 until 1982. He chaired York's Property and Building Committee from 1959 until 1979, when he was appointed Chancellor of the University following the death of John Roberts.

During his years at York, Proctor was bestowed with three major honors. In 1977, he was granted an honorary Law Doctorate, and in 1984, he was made the first honorary member of the Board of Governors. On October 18, 1985, Proctor was one of six non-athletes inducted into York's Athletic Hall of Fame. All six of the inductees were instrumental in the founding of the Hall.

Proctor was very active in the community, in addition to his association with York. He was an honorary director of Wellesley Hospital and sat on the board of the Hugh McMillan Medical Centre (formerly the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre).

Proctor was an executive Vice-President and director of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce until 1962, when he joined the Bank of Nova Scotia as the Deputy Chairman of the Board and Executive Vice-President.

Proctor was a widower, and is survived by a daughter, son-in-law, and five grandchildren. He was 81.



John Stewart Proctor