

# Constituent presidents back New Model student council

By LAURA LUSH

Most CYSF member constituency presidents are in favor of the proposed New Model of student government because they say it will give them greater representation and voice in Council.

The New Model, initiated by CYSF President Reya Ali last summer, proposes to create a centralized student government at York. It is currently in the implementation stage, pending the passing of the new constitution's by-laws. The first by-law was passed in principle in a January 29 Council meeting.

Vanier College Council President Paul Hammond said the New Model will allow constituencies greater representation in Council. "CYSF is finally listening to us; colleges are a viable political body," Hammond said.

In the New Model, elected constituency presidents will automatically be appointed as members of the Council or Board of Directors (BOD). In the present system, constituencies can elect up to three CYSF reps to attend Council meetings.

The New Model will also allow each constituency to elect three reps to sit on eight proposed Standing Committees: Academic Affairs, External Affairs, Internal Affairs, Services & Communications, Social & Cultural Affairs, Women's Affairs, and Bi-lingual and Part-Time Affairs, depending on whether Glendon and Osgoode colleges join.

Ali said the New Model proposes three structures. The first structure is the administrative branch, or the Executive Committee comprised of the president, treasurer and secretary. Within the first structure, is also the Management Committee, consisting of the Executive and the chairs of the Standing Committees. Ali said the Management Committee is responsible for carrying out the day to day programming and implementation of Council's policies.

The second phase of the structure is the actual Council, or BOD, comprised of the various presidents of

member faculties and colleges, plus two Board of Governor reps and one member of the Student Senate Caucus. Ali described this branch as the legislative arm of Council because most of the work is done at this level. "They act in the interest of the students at all times," Ali said.

The third branch is the General Members Meeting which provides a check on the BOD. "The General Members Meeting is a forum where each individual constituency can lobby for what they want," Ali added.

In discussions with CYSF Speaker Marshall Golden last week, regarding a related Council story, Golden said his main concern with the New Model was that it would not provide an electoral process for designating the new Council. "By virtue of being president of a constituency, you become part of the Council," he said. "Students won't be allowed to vote for their Council representatives."

However, Mike Nero, president of the Graduate Business Council said that the new method of appointing CYSF reps was not unfair because the system "will allow three members from each constituency to sit on the various Standing Committees." Nero also said constituency presidents would be adequate CYSF reps because they "are liaison people for their councils . . . they know what's going on."

Jill Rabjohn, president of Bethune College Council, also agreed with the New Model's method of appointing constituency presidents as CYSF reps, because it promoted voter responsibility. "It requires a lot of education of voters, in that they won't be just voting for presidents of their college, they will be voting for CYSF reps also."

Ali said the new Council has the choice to decide whether they will elect or appoint salaried chairs to the various Standing Committees. Hammond said he favored Council appointed chairs because it would ensure greater accountability. "The

chairs would have to answer directly to the Council or BOD," he said. "It's harder to remove elected chairs (then appointed chairs heads) if they are corrupt."

Ali said the chairs of the Standing Committees will not be allowed to vote in Council in order to keep an "arm's length" relationship between the two powers.

The main difference between the present system of government and the New Model, Ali said, is that "Bethune is going to join for the first time in CYSF history."

"Bethune is very excited about joining the New Model," Rabjohn said, "we've been participating in the implementation process since last summer." Rabjohn said one of Bethune's main incentives to consider joining the New Model was based on CYSF's successful incorporation of the now defunct Constituency Councils of York (CCOY) concepts into the New Model. The CCOY acted as an official "think-tank" for constituencies.

Rabjohn also said the New Model allows a "more responsible, active voice for colleges," because the presidents directly comprise the Council. "It's a much better model," she said. "It keeps everyone in touch."

Rabjohn said the estimated \$33,000 Bethune Trust Fund will be reverted back to the Council's budget. The reversion process will not make much difference to Bethune, Rabjohn said, because about \$24,000 is already allocated to centrally run student activities. "We'll just have to make sure we lobby (next year) to get funds for those clubs that benefit both Bethune and York," she added.

Brian Davidson, president of Founders College Council said the greatest benefit of the New Model is that "we'll (colleges) have a senior voice" in Council. Traditionally, Davidson said, CYSF college reps have been first or second year students with limited student council experience. "They don't usually voice much at CYSF meetings because

they are too inexperienced," he said. "Having the presidents of colleges as CYSF reps will guarantee a more experienced Council," Davidson added.

Hammond said the present system fostered a "lot of apathy with CYSF reps," because they did not always attend or voice their opinions at meetings.

Lesley Garrant, chairman of the Calumet College General Meeting (CCGM) said Calumet is "taking our time to look at the new structure of government," before deciding whether to rejoin CYSF. The CCGM left CYSF after the 1978/79 academic year.

"We do support a central government," Garrant said, "but we don't want to rush into things." Garrant said the CCGM would wait all the by-laws are passed before they make a decision to rejoin or not.

Andrew Roberts, president of Atkinson college, which has over 7,000 registered students, said Atkinson has "no position" on the New Model because CYSF has yet to produce a concrete offer. Roberts said he last talked to Ali about the New Model in September. "As soon as he (Ali) shows us the benefits of joining, then we'll be in the position to discuss it with them," he said.

"We must be guaranteed we're going to get the equivalent in services back," Roberts said, "when we'd be giving up some of our revenue and our autonomy if we joined." Roberts added, "We're happy as we are now . . . if Ali can show us we'd be happier, we'd be foolish not to listen."

Cathy Kay, president of the Osgoode Hall Legal and Literary Society said the last time she discussed the New Model with Ali was in the summer. Kay said they have not been in contact with the Council since this time because of their own ongoing business and "disenchantment" with previous dealings with CYSF.

"We'll make an effort to contact them, if and when the New Model is implemented, or we hope CYSF will approach us," she said.

Ali said the success of the New Model depends on the cooperation of all the constituencies at York. "I wouldn't have bothered going t this stage unless I was assured that at least one new constituency would join," he said. Ali estimated that the New Model could be implemented as early as March depending on how quickly the remaining by-laws could be passed in Council.

## York MP Kaplan criticizes federal Tories' performance

By NAOMI PASCOE

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney was compared to Phillipine President Marcos last Monday during a talk at York by the Liberal Justice Critic, in reference to Mulroney's handling of the recent Neilsen scandal.

Robert Kaplan, MP for York University's York Central riding, spoke to a small crowd in the Administrative Studies Building.

Kaplan was questioned about the allegations made last week that Deputy PM Eric Neilsen listened in on Liberal caucus meetings during the Diefenbaker years. He said while there is no evidence of any taped meetings he knows of two technicians who could prove the Conservatives knowingly bugged the Liberals in 1963.

According to Mulroney, though, these technicians are on vacation in North Bay. Kaplan said he feels this is too convenient and stated that "Mulroney is borrowing tactics from (Phillipine) President Marcos."

Commenting further on the Progressive Conservative party Kaplan called the Conservative MPs who

won seats in the 1984 federal election "surfers" because, he said, they "came in with the tide."

Kaplan also said the PCs are not consolidating their positions in their ridings and that this will bode well for the Liberal party in the next election.

Kaplan said he was very involved in the passing of the Young Offenders Act. He was asked about the recent Toronto case involving a 15-year-old boy who killed a family of three and was sentenced to three years in prison, which is the maximum sentence under the Act. Kaplan called the decision to try the boy in Youth Court a "terrible decision." "They should be careful about who they take to Youth Court," he said.

Kaplan also expressed concern that the sale of DeHaviland (an airplane manufacturing company purchased by the Liberal government and sold by the Conservatives to Boeing, an American company) will be a loss to the culture of Canada. He said he believes Canadians will only see the technology and designs the Americans want.

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