

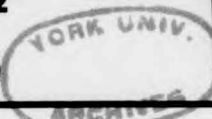
# Election Extra

# EXCALIBUR

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**Theobald wins by 39 votes**

## Belfont, Petrelli ask new election charging 'election irregularities'

By ANDY MICHALSKI

John Theobald beat the United Left slate's Bryan Belfont Friday by a 39 vote margin in the election of president for Council of the York Student Federation.

But Belfont and Phil Petrelli have demanded a new election due to alleged election irregularities. The fourth candidate Chuck Brand said Saturday the election was handled as well as could be expected given

"the typical CYSF fashion."

The four meet at 9 am today with chief returning officer Bob Williamson and his two deputies to discuss the election results.

Theobald received 618 votes, Belfont 579, Petrelli 362 and Brand 146. These figures and invalidated votes from Atkinson show a 14 percent voter turn-out compared with last year's nine percent turn-out.

Although Williamson said the election was

fairly run, some of the alleged irregularities were:

- no voter lists for returning officers to check off voters;
- an Atkinson Student Association executive letter supporting Theobald allegedly read out to classes just before voting at Atkinson despite a CRO ban of the practice after Monday's Atkinson votes were disqualified

for that reason;

- unlocked ballot boxes;
- no required identification at Atkinson to vote;
- polls allegedly run by political candidates in their own constituencies;
- some polls allegedly accepted plastic identification cards instead of the paper sessional validation cards. The paper cards were pen marked after voting, the charge is that ink could be rubbed off the plastic cards;
- no CRO check on non-MacLaughlin or non-Stong students voting in those college elections (all other colleges were acclaimed);
- ballots left in an open box in a locker instead of the CYSF safe;
- ballots from different colleges not kept separate as in past elections.

The CYSF is holding an emergency meeting at 8 pm to accept the results or to handle any recommendation from the CRO.

ULS lawyer Harry Krypto said the ULS would take whatever legal action is necessary to get a new election. He charged "the people who administered this election were not concerned with democracy."

The ULS has promised a massive agitational campaign until a new election is called.

Theobald said Friday "I accept the results and consider myself the next president of the council. Despite defeat of Belfont one ULS candidate was elected to CYSF and five were acclaimed."

Although he had no comment on the charges of election irregularities, Theobald admitted he would contest the results if he was one of the other candidates. He said he was disappointed at the low turn-out and at the high level of support Belfont received.

Williams said there is no definite way of counting Atkinson votes but he estimates that some 380 votes were cast.



**Something funny here**

Voters hand in their ballots at the Central Square polling station. Note the open box at the table which remained unlocked throughout the election. This is one of the many irregularities claimed by Bryan Belfont and Phil Petrelli. Photo by Lerrick Starr.

## Abortion law repeal passed, News Act and SUB not

The referendum to support removal of abortion from the criminal code passed by a 70 percent vote last week with 28 percent saying no while 2 percent said they didn't know.

The York University Newspaper Act with a \$2 fee increase was defeated with 25 percent saying yes, 70 percent no and 5 percent didn't know. The Student Union Building with a \$10 fee increase was also defeated with just 18 percent saying yes, 76 percent no and 6 percent didn't know.

The Student Clinic got the most backing on the opinion poll with 84 percent saying it was very important or important. The daycare centre was next at 76 percent and Excalibur at 70 percent.

Student representation on university committees and the production of a counter-calendar were next at 66 percent; academic course unions 52 percent, Association of Ontario Student Councils service and production of a student directory 48 percent; winter carnival, 42 percent; Radio York, 38 percent; Manus student handbook was last at 24 percent (See Pages 3 and 4.)

## Ont. Fed. of Students starts again

By CARLA SULLIVAN  
and MARILYN SMITH

Sponsored by \$1,000 provincial government grant, some 50 delegates from post-secondary institutions across Ontario met at the University of Toronto over the weekend to form the Ontario Federation of Students.

The reason for initiating yet another wide-base student organization after the failure of so many others was succinctly stated by former Western student council president Rob MacKenzie.

"For the last few years students have been saying we don't want to be co-opted. We weren't. And we didn't know what was going on at Queen's Park," he said.

The founding members reviewed past failures to share in decision making at Queen's Park through the now-defunct Ontario Union of Students and formulated a base to regenerate joint student action.

Minister of Universities and Colleges George Kerr told the group Friday that in view of the past failures of student organizations, if OFS is to succeed it must have the mandate of the students.

"There has always been some input and some influence on government by student organizations. I'm not eliminating the idea of some financial support," he said at one point, "but if you have a projected budget of \$25,000, you should not be expecting 50 to 60 percent of it from the province."

Member institutions have pledged 15

cents per student towards financing the new organization.

Mackenzie stressed actual involvement in the issues as vital to OFS legitimacy at Queen's Park. It is not enough he said, for members to "just dabble in provincial affairs." They must know the issues-how financial aid for example is related to the provincial tax base.

"So far, there's been no depth. We'd say, this is the OUS stand and they say big deal. Why? We have to face the realities — the government is a structure and we have to deal with it as such."

Mackenzie says he favors involvement

in issues directly affecting student status. He and others see consensus on priority issues as crucial to success.

One delegate envisions the probable future of the organization without it — "it's great to see you kids but who do you represent?"

The group hopes to mobilize right now around common issues such as the Wright Report. While Mackenzie recognizes the need for dissent within the organization he and others emphasize the importance of solidarity once priorities have been set.

"Regardless of our own stands we must bow to consensus opinion, to make it apparent to the government that the member institutions are committed to their stand."

How widespread this commitment will be on each campus is uncertain. Mackenzie at least is disenchanted with the notion of a grass roots movement.

"Ideologically it's nice but nothing's happened. It hasn't worked."

Yet none of the delegates foresee OFS becoming an elitist organization. If not generated at the campus level, its activities will be defined as nearly as possible by what students on those campuses believe to be crucial issues.

And the results of those activities channeled to campuses throughout the province will lay the groundwork for wider involvement. One delegate summarized that ultimately the group will be as strong as its component parts.



George Kerr