

GSA wins vote to withdraw from CYSF

By DAVID BYRNES

In the biggest threat yet to the Council of York Student Federation's (CYSF) plan to centralize student government at York, the Graduate Students Association (GSA) won their bid to withdraw membership in a referendum held last week.

Twenty-seven percent of GSA members voted in the referendum, barely more than the 25 percent demanded by an article in the CYSF Constitution which sets out the conditions for the legal withdrawal of membership. Of the 352 ballots cast, the pullout was overwhelmingly supported by 339 GSA members.

"The demands of the CYSF Constitution are incredibly difficult to meet and we met them," said GSA President Terry Conlin, who estimated that 25 percent of the GSA membership spend little time at York and could not be expected to have voted. "That vote is phenomenal," Conlin said. "I didn't expect that kind of result."

CYSF President Reya Ali said that he will wait until the Student Relations Committee (SRC) of the Board of Governors (who have the final say in student government matters) makes a ruling regarding the referendum before he will act.

"I'm sorry they had to do this," Ali said. "I would have preferred they remained with CYSF until the issue of central student government has been resolved."

Asked for his reaction to the GSA move, Provost Tom Meininger called the GSA executive "mis-

guided" and said that a GSA pullout would "weaken student government at York." Meininger said that he will be "very much against" the GSA's independence when the question is brought up at the next SRC meeting.

"In terms of us being misguided, I think the vote speaks for itself," Conlin retorted. "You can't say that result is the side effect of some kind of misguided executive."

Conlin said that although he supports Ali's plan to restructure student government, he believes that graduate and undergraduate interests are qualitatively different, and that any future student government structure should be "two tier." Particularly, Conlin said that the CYSF "is on the other side of the fence" every time employment or unemployment is at issue.

Conlin said that because of a provincial restriction on how many hours a week graduate students are permitted to work, GSA members make less than poverty line wages. As a result, Conlin said, the GSA has different priorities than undergraduate students, such as an emergency loan fund, which he said the CYSF has not sufficiently recognized.

The GSA informed CYSF and the administration of its intention to hold a referendum last May 1, exactly six months before the results were tallied last Friday.

Although the final say will be the administration's, Conlin said that since the GSA has fulfilled the conditions for withdrawal specified by the CYSF constitution, "I don't see how they can stop us."



ROBERTA DI MAIO

ON THE HOT SEAT: Sun publisher Paul Godfrey was at York Tuesday to address the Urban Studies Department. He was met by a group of students protesting Sun columns on South Africa's apartheid system.

Anti-apartheid protesters confront Godfrey, accuse Sun of publishing 'racist literature'

By ELLIOTT SHIFF

Toronto Sun publisher Paul Godfrey was confronted by an angry mob of York students last Tuesday protesting recent columns in *The Sun* regarding the apartheid system in South Africa.

Godfrey had been scheduled to speak to students in the Urban Studies Department at York on "City and Urban Interaction." Upon hearing of his arrival, 25 students packed the Urban Studies office located in S765 Ross, accusing *The Sun* of "being a channel for racist literature."

The students were particularly upset with columns by Barbra Amiel and Mackenzie Porter which made references to the blacks in South Africa as "sacred cows," "subhumans," and "semi-savages."

Godfrey replied to the charges by defending his past record in Metro Council on race relations as being

"impeccable." He went on to say that columnists for *The Sun* and the paper's editorials, which he said have on at least three occasions in the past year condemned the apartheid system in South Africa.

Following heated exchanges with various students at the meeting, Godfrey still maintained that, "*The Sun* is not a racist newspaper" and challenged charges that the columnists in question were racist. He said, "if *The Sun* was racist, I would resign."

Student Greg Wellington responded by saying, "the paper has your name on it," adding, "the elements in the columns by Porter and Amiel amount to nothing more than hate literature."

Godfrey said that he did not agree with Porter or Amiel on this issue and indicated that there is a space in the paper for people to respond to

anything they disagree with. On the issue of refusing to run the columns Godfrey said, "where do you stop? First you ban Porter then you ban Amiel. Who do you get rid of next?"

Himbara, a student organizer of the Anti-Apartheid Coalition of Toronto, said he recognized Godfrey's distinguished background in Metro politics but charged him with trivializing the matter. He said, "It is an important issue when people are compared to sub-humans."

After 45 minutes the session broke up with Godfrey inviting those interested in pursuing the matter to come down to his office at *The Sun*.

Himbara was pleased with the turnout, commenting "the important thing is that we turned out in force, despite the fact that he didn't answer any of our questions."

Mac, Vanier reconsider membership in Council

By LAURA LUSH

Vanier and McLaughlin college councils have reconsidered their proposed motions to leave the Council of York Student Federation (CYSF) because "the restructuring of a new central student government is so close," said Vanier Council President Paul Hammond.

The colleges threatened to withdraw their memberships from CYSF because they disapproved of how the Council withdrew its membership from the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) on October 24 without holding a referendum first.

After several discussions with CYSF President Reya Ali last week, Hammond said Vanier "recognized the need to work within the existing system," adding that "if we (Vanier and McLaughlin colleges) leave, it could basically destroy CYSF."

McLaughlin Council President Steve Morrell also said that discussions with Ali had "been positive." Morrell presented a proposal to Ali last Thursday asking him for a written commitment to begin the restructuring plan as soon as possible. "We've always been in favor of a new system of student government to alleviate the difficulties in the present system," he said. "If we don't get that promise from CYSF," Morrell added, "then I won't make a motion to table the vote to leave the Council at our next meeting." Ali presented a letter to Morrell on Monday saying that "notice of motion about the New Model will be done on the meeting on November 6th." Morrell said that McLaughlin council passed the motion to table

the vote to leave CYSF on Tuesday until further results could be seen in the next couple of weeks. "I'm confident that students will see that the New Model is adequate," he said.

Hammond said the motion to hold a vote to withdraw from CYSF will still be held on November 7, but is also confident it will be tabled. "I don't think the motion to have the referendum will be defeated," he said, "It probably will be tabled, so it can be called back again as an issue."

Ali said planning for the New Model began in May, adding that he received the New Model's by-laws from the Council's lawyers last Friday. "All progress on the New Model depended on receiving the by-laws," Ali estimates an implementation date of January because of likely amendments to the by-laws after receiving feedback from students and council members. The by-laws will be read at a Council meeting on November 13.

Hammond said that the "new system will favor council constituencies" because it will allow council representatives direct involvement in the planning and decision making policies.

Even though Hammond and Morrell are not in agreement with the present system of government, they feel that pulling out now would only hinder the restructuring plans. "It would mean calling a referendum to leave CYSF, then having to call another referendum to rejoin the new government when it is formed," Hammond said.

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US policy on Nicaragua based on "rule of might"

By KEVIN O'NEILL

American policy regarding Nicaragua is based on a "might makes right" mentality, according to Nicaragua's former Justice Minister.

Carlos Arguello, currently the Nicaraguan Ambassador to the Netherlands, told a Toronto audience Friday night that Ronald Reagan, President of the United States, is using the "rule of might as opposed to the rule of law" in dealings with Nicaragua.

Arguello used the example of US backed Contras as evidence. He said Reagan "is violating international laws with training camps of Contras in Miami and California." Because of this and other apparent violations Nicaragua has filed a formal protest

with the World Court in The Hague.

Nicaragua's protest is three-fold. It feels the US is violating international law in its dealings with Nicaragua; it wants the US to cease and desist in these activities; and Nicaragua wants the US to repair damage done to Nicaragua.

Arguello said Nicaragua went to the World Court after diplomatic attempts at reaching agreement failed following two incidents, one in October 1983, the other in 1984.

"Up to October, 1983, the Reagan administration had been preparing and implementing a war in Nicaragua, with large numbers of mercenary armies, and it was initiating terrorist attacks and sabotage in the

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