



Candidate hopefuls at the bearpit meeting last Thursday.  
L. to R.: Candidates Lily Contento, David Blair, Oriet Angel, Paemela Fruitman, Chris Summerhayes, Michael Strapko, Larry Till, Valance Ellies, and Alex Riha.

## Candidates campaign at bearpit

Visa students, deficit main issues disputed at candidates meeting

By VALERIE MACIOCE

Some outraged visa students attacked the present CYSF administration for the handling of last summer's sit-in at President H. Ian Macdonald's office as the CYSF all-candidates meeting got under way last Thursday.

"Why didn't CYSF support us in our struggle against differential fees?" asked one York student.

CYSF President Chris Summerhayes acknowledged that \$100 was given to Assistant Vice-President (Student Relations) John Becker on visa students' behalf.

All five presidential candidates were present at the meeting, which was held in the bearpit. Incumbent President Summerhayes, Alex Riha, Michael Strapko, Valance Ellies, and Larry Till are all vying for the president's seat.

Riha and Board of Governors candidate Pamela Fruitman expressed concern for the visa students' plight. In the meeting, Riha proposed a "York student's communication commission" and a "York Unitary Committee" that would help to "foster communication among not only visa students but all York students."

Riha, Till, and Ellies were all in support of more funding for Radio York, saying the station was "greatly" underfunded this year.

The three also attacked the present administration for "mismanaging" funds. Till believes much money was spent solely on CYSF and not enough went to the students. "Thirty thousand dollars of our money was spent towards the deficit and it is time for change," said Till.

Riha and Till also stressed that there was no communication between CYSF and students this year and each offered solutions. Till proposed to write a weekly column in the school newspaper and broadcast regularly on Radio York. Riha plans to publish a bi-monthly newsletter and set up two different committees to receive input from York students.

All presidential candidates spoke of building a Student Union Building, and Strapko is proposing that a Yeomen Stadium be built.

Fruitman and the other BOG candidate, Oriet Angel, wanted improvements made to cafeteria food. Fruitman, who is running for reelection, offered "competitive bidding" as a solution. Angel proposed a student-run co-op so that students can eat better and at the same time create jobs for residence students.

David Blair, a candidate for director of external affairs, urged students to "turn away from books for a while in order to concentrate more on the sleeping giants: CFS-O and CFS." He believes that these "sleeping giants" are invisible on campus and that York needs to develop a strong external voice. Lily Contento, the other candidate, felt the need to "inform and familiarize students to what is happening to our university." She told the 100-plus audience that Education Minister Bette Stephenson should "stop treating us like puppets" and proposes to lobby for a two to three-year freeze on tuition fees.

The two director of women's affairs candidates agreed that their office should be more accessible to students. Paula Luna, one of the candidates, stressed the need to improve the Daycare Centre on campus. "It is too expensive and the waiting list is very long," she said. Elise Hallewick, the other candidate, thought that "security should be more visible" to discourage attacks on women.

All candidates urged students to vote in today's polling, which is open from 10 this morning to 8 p.m. The winners won't be announced until late this evening or tomorrow.

## CRO denies Radio York poll

By GARY SYMONS

CYSF's Chief Returning Officer (CRO) James Crossland says Radio York's independent referendum, scheduled for today alongside the CYSF elections, is illegal, and he plans to stop it.

Originally, Radio York wanted its referendum sponsored by CYSF, its parent organization, but the plans were upset when an Election Tribunal denied their request two weeks ago on the grounds that the CYSF executive failed to officially inform the CRO within the required seven days prior to election day.

Radio York then announced its intention of running the referendum independently of CYSF on the same day as the elections, but Crossland said this too could not be allowed.

Crossland said the station cannot legally hold the referendum on election day without his prior consent.

On Tuesday Radio York news director Robbie Sheffman said the station would nevertheless go ahead as scheduled, but on Wednesday station manager Jack Cales informed *Excalibur* the referendum was being changed to a survey.

"The CRO has no authority to even comment on our survey," Cales said, "and the election by-laws in no way cover the holding of a survey."

If support is expressed for Radio York funding, the survey will then go to the Board of Governors (BOG) for consideration.

Crossland said, however, "they can call it (the survey) what they want, but it's still the same thing."

"Holding a referendum the same day as the elections could also cause problems with the CYSF election," Crossland claimed.

"Really I think they're being totally unreasonable. I'm totally for their having it on any other day, and we'll pay for it," he added.

Sheffman argued that such a compromise was unfeasible. "We've got momentum going right now," he said. "It's difficult to get people out to vote on this campus and changing the date now would make it doubly difficult."

Former CYSF president Greg Gaudet said a private referendum held by Radio York couldn't be disallowed by the CRO.

"The referendum would be illegal only as part of a CYSF-sponsored election or referendum," Gaudet said.

"If CYSF had said Radio York can't have a referendum, that would make sense because CYSF owns the station," Gaudet added. "But the CRO has no jurisdiction over Radio York. That's the crux."

According to Crossland, he had originally planned to send a report to the Vice-President of Academic Affairs and BOG saying the referendum was illegally held. Now that Radio York is holding a survey, he said "I'll just have to wait and see how they handle it before I'll know what to do."

## Radio York stages debate

By CARLA CESTA

Four out of the five CYSF presidential candidates participated in Radio York's debate Tuesday despite the Chief Returning Officer's request that they not participate because "the debate was not an official CYSF function."

CRO James Crossland said, however, no punishment will be laid against those candidates that did participate. Incumbent President Chris Summerhayes complied with Crossland's request and was absent.

Crossland said his position was that he "wanted the candidates informed that this (the debate) was not an official all-candidates meeting and that CYSF was not sponsoring it."

In the debate, each candidate was given three minutes to discuss each of the four issues—Radio York funding, Bovey Commission, visa students, and the CYSF budget—mediator Robbie Sheffman directed to them. The 90-minute confrontation was broadcast live on Radio York.

All candidates stated that Radio York had been underfunded under Summerhayes' administration. "I don't know why Mr. Summerhayes decided not to fund Radio York. The money was available and priorities have to be set in the right spot," said presidential candidate Valance Ellies.

Larry Till, another candidate, also criticized the present government saying "the dispute (over Radio York's referendum) is indicative of the attitude Summerhayes has taken to Radio York."

"The reason why Radio York is in desperate need of money is because it would like to get a transmitter to get out into the airways. If Radio York is granted the referendum and is given support from CYSF it would make it feasible for Radio York and the station would be able to

display real talent," said candidate Alex Riha.

Candidate Michael Strapko said the station is part of the school's culture and his administration would encourage people to listen to Radio York and would vote YES on a referendum.

Ellies said he would increase the station's budget, "working out a plan to get Radio York on the FM dial." Riha said he would "get a transmitter and payments incurred in the purchase would have to be negotiated with CYSF."

On the Bovey Commission, all candidates said action should be taken to make Education Minister Bette Stephenson and the Ontario Progressive Conservatives aware of the issue with Till saying "if we let them (Stephenson and the PCs) know that, they will have to take note."

In other issues, Strapko said it was unfortunate that visa students had to protest last year to get media recognition for their plight. He said he would organize lobbying groups and help to get the government and administration to "recognize them."

"(Visa students) are being denied this (representation and recognition) by the present CYSF administration," said Riha. He said visa students are important to York because "they will expand our culture into their homeland."

"We will sit down with the foreign groups and work out a plan to go to the administration (with)," said Ellies. Till said that York has to make visa students feel a part of the community.

All candidates present said CYSF's budget was "misspent" and that money should have been allocated more effectively. Till said he believes in "deficit spending" and would cut back on the President's salary—by half—and put it back into CYSF's budget.



York employee David Bloom and an unidentified pedestrian narrowly escaped serious injury yesterday when Bloom lost control of his Honda.