

# Lakhani retains CYSF cultural post as impeachment vote fails to pass

John P. Schmied

At an emergency CYSF meeting held last Tuesday, Bipin Lakhani survived a vote to impeach him from the position of Director of Social and Cultural Affairs.

The vote stems from an incident in which posters depicting a \$48,000 reward offered by the British government in 1948 for Menachem Begin were found in Lakhani's office filing cabinet. Lakhani

had used a CYSF photocopier to reproduce them.

According to one of the arguments for impeachment, the printing of the posters went against Lakhani's mandate to deal with the various cultural groups on campus.

In a short council meeting, attended by some CYSF representatives not present in a long while, and punctuated by laughter and boisterous talk, the vote came up after a

two-person debate of the motion.

In a recorded vote (Winters College representative Ellen Liebman requested the recording), the tally was 16 yes votes, one no vote, and three abstentions, but the motion needed the approval of 19 voting members (two thirds of council).

The failure of the motion lead to renewed discussion of Lakhani's future at CYSF. Liebman asked if it was

constitutional to hold impeachment by referendum (speaker Tye Burt replied that as far as he knew there was no such provision), and BOG rep Pamela Fruitman argued that if a letter could be obtained from Stong College council stating that Lakhani was not one of their members, he could be declared an illegal member of the CYSF executive.

Terry Conlin, CYSF representative from the Graduate Students Association, was the only person to vote against the motion, and, he says, the GSA felt so strongly about the issue that last Tuesday was the first time in five years that one of their members attended a council meeting. Although he questions Lakhani's actions in his position as Social and Cultural Affairs officer, he sees no irreparable damage having been done by him and he saw nothing in the actions that called for impeachment.

Conlin said he attended the emergency meeting because he feels there is a terrible amount of hypocrisy in the Council, and he also feels the reasons for the impeachment motion were largely political.



Photo: Nigel Turner

Portrait artist paints in Central Square Bearpit.

## McLaughlin student representatives divided over dissolution of their Council

Alison Bailey

McLaughlin College's Junior Common room turned into a political courtroom last night with council members, Master Doxey and college students rallying different and numerous issues stemming from the dissolution of council.

McLaughlin Student Council was dissolved November 4 by Master George Doxey because he felt "the College would suffer" if he did not intervene.

One hundred and thirteen students listened attentively while concerned students and others involved voiced their opinions, with a few cat claws picking at straws.

The major issues were whether the student council proceeded correctly with the election situation, had students rights been violated and whether a Master should have the power to dissolve the Student Council.

The debate saw former

members of council divided into different parties. Ameen Kashavjee, former speaker, and former Internal Affairs rep. Steve von Allmen stated the reasons for their resignations and questioned whether council had proceeded correctly. Other former council members, including President Lisa Feldman and CYSF rep. Randy Dobson questioned the Master's power.

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## York speakers examine Canadian anti-semitism

Gary Fluxgold

"Not fire is so easily kindled as anti-semitism," said York Professor Irving Abella at this weekend's seminar, "Anti-semitism: A Historical and Contemporary Perspective," held at Moot Court in Osgoode Hall.

Among the topics discussed during the conference was "Anti-Semitism in Canada and the United States." York University professor Ramsay Cook chaired the discussion in which the speakers were Irving Abella, Leonard Dinnerstein of the University of Arizona. Commentary was done by David Bercuson of the University of Calgary and Irwin Cotler, Law Professor at McGill.

### Doctors walk out

Speaking first was Irving Abella, professor at York and author of the book *None is too Many*, which deals with Jewish refugees to Canada. Abella's topic was, "Anti-Semitism in Canada in the Inter-War Period". In his speech, Abella reminded the audience of a situation that took place in June 1934: Sam Rabinovich who had just graduated at the top of his class in medicine at Montreal University, was forced to leave his appointment at Notre Dame Hospital because, "the rest of the Doctors walked out refusing to work with a Jew." According to Abella, the Doctors even refused to tend to emergency cases.

Abella also discussed the Christie Pits riots, which took place in August, 1935, and during which Jews fought Gentiles for six hours. For most of the time, said Abella, "Toronto Police did nothing to intervene." He added that "these were obviously isolated incidents as Canada was not Nazi Germany."

### Politicians attacked

Abella claimed Quebec was the most intensely anti-semitic region in Canada. He described Quebecois nationalism as, "defensive and inward". According to Abella, anti-semitism in Quebec had its roots in

Church and government practices; "Religious leaders looked at Jews as parasites", and he called Le Devoir, "the leading anti-Jewish propaganda instrument." According to the speaker this was not the product of, "fringe members of Quebec society; these were its leaders and teachers." Abella went on to attack some of Canada's most "distinguished" politicians. Men such as Lester Pearson and Vincent Massey were cited by the speaker as "privately practising anti-semitism and letting it affect their political responses."

Leonard Dinnerstein of the University of Arizona, author of the paper, "America and the survivors of the Holocaust", discussed American anti-semitism in the war and post-war periods." Dinnerstein said the peak of anti-semitism in the United States occurred "somewhere between 1945-1947." According to the speaker much of the anti-semitism of this period came during the F.D.R. era and the time of what many called the "Jew Deal". In fact F.D.R. was admired by Jews more than any other Christain politician in America. F.D.R. surrounded himself with more Jews than any other American political figure to that date. Dinnerstein summed up by saying that the major concern of American Jews of this period was "the lack of effective organization" among the Jewish peoples.

### Sentiments re-emphasized

Commentary was given following the two speakers by David Bercuson and Irwin Cotler respectively. The commentators generally redefined and reemphasized the sentiments of the two original speakers. Cotler however, introduced several new points concerning the, "new anti-Jewishness" and, "what we mean when we speak on anti-semitism". On the statement from the United Nations that, "Zionism is racism" Cotler answered that "one must guard against using the brush of anti-semitism indiscriminately."

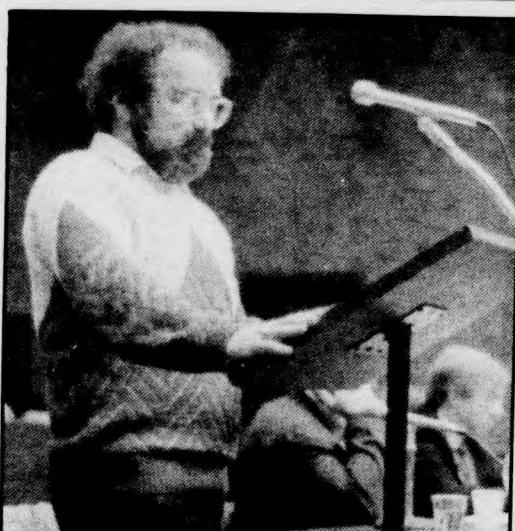


Photo: Mario Scattoloni

Top: Irving Abella, York prof and Irving Abella and Irwin Cotler

## Women and Art Week focuses discussion

Barb Taylor

A Women and Art Week sponsored by CYSF and the Women's Centre has raised many questions about women's art, its history and future. Central to the discussions was a statement made by Judith Santos, CYSF Women's Commissioner: "Women have very limited chances to express themselves because every channel in this society is geared towards men."

Following a film about Judy Chicago's "Dinner Party", Maryon Kantaroff, a Toronto sculptor, expressed the same feeling. "Our real history started with women working together--agriculture, weaving, pottery. This is the basis of all art, but our museums are not full of it."

Members of the audience suggested that society has attempted to limit women's creative role to the family and the home. Kantaroff agreed.

### Lecture examines anti-semitism

Elizabeth Santia

A lecture concerning "Anti-Semitism in the Church" was held last weekend as part of a conference sponsored by the Harry S. Crowe Memorial Lecture Series.

As part of his opening statement, York Professor Howard Adelman said, "Christianity is at the root of anti-Semitism."

There has been "a corruption of Christianity in the modern era," said Alan Davies, a University of Toronto theology professor. In the nineteenth century there existed a myth that the Aryans, a white race in Northern India, were ancestors of white Europeans, including Germans and the Anglo-Saxons. The term Semite (Jew) was defined as inferior Aryans who had mixed their blood with the blacks. Chamberlain elaborated on the myth: "Jesus is the supreme hero. . . possesses

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"A woman who attempts to be an artist is a contradiction in our society."

An audience member said that all political statements made by artists in our society are suppressed. Kantaroff countered by saying that this is even more the case for women.

Also voiced was criticism of the Chicago show because of its emphasis on Chicago as opposed to the hundreds of workers that were involved. Participants in the discussions and in the Art Show felt that there had been an artificial distinction drawn between art and craft. Margaret Drew, a batik artist whose work is on display in the Bearpit, said, "My understanding is that it's a relatively recent distinction made within the last 500 years." Drew pointed to industrialization and mass production as a factor in the separation of "art" from what used to be made at home for use in everyday life.

The Bearpit show features a variety of women's art--traditional batik, pottery and handmade wool items are displayed along side sketches and paintings, some of which are strong social statements, such as "Dundas St., Toronto" by Constance Johnston and views of the subway, market, and women sitting on porches by Gail Gregory.

Giselle Silvetri, a third-year York Fine Arts student, says that her art is "mainly my outlook on society." This attitude is reflected in such works as her painting of a Toronto bag lady. Another unusual selfportrait by Silvetri utilizes denim and other fabrics in a technique similar to traditional quilting.

The week of Women's Art concludes today with a slide show and lecture called "The Great Goddess" at 1:00 p.m. in the Bearpit, followed by a poetry reading at 3:00 in the Women's Centre.

This is the first time that a show of this nature has been organized at York and Santos and Fay Nemani of the Women's Centre hope that it will become a tradition.