



**SOON-TO-RETIRE BULLDOZER IN A REFLECTIVE MOMENT ON A CLEAR DAY:** This picture, taken two weeks ago, recalls bygone days. This barren landscape soon became the environs of the new Leonard Lumbers building, scheduled to open October 7.

## OFS pullout challenged in long debate

by GARY SYMONS

CYSF President Reya Ali's bid to end York's membership in the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) met its first setback last Wednesday after an hour and a half long political dogfight.

Ali's motion, which would see CYSF pull out of OFS without a referendum on the issue, ran into strong opposition at the scantily attended General Council meeting, mainly from representatives of the OFS, the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) and Board of Governors representative Pamela Fruitman.

After a prolonged and sometimes bitter debate, council finally passed a motion put forward by Fruitman to table all discussion of the issue until more council representatives could be gathered for a special meeting scheduled for October 9. Fruitman, angry that the CYSF executive wanted to pass the motion with only 13 members present, most of them executive members, said as she introduced the motion, "If we're going to perpetrate this mockery, let's at least do it right."

The main sticking point for most council members was not the intent of Ali's motion—to withdraw CYSF's \$30,000 membership in OFS—but that it was to be done without taking the issue to students in a referendum.

Fruitman, who said she basically supports Ali's pull-out bid, insisted that CYSF should hold a referendum. "If you're going to pull out, you can't do it the way they're doing it," she said.

Ali said two weeks ago that, after consulting his lawyer, he is sure CYSF has the legal right, according to the Ontario Corporations Act, to withdraw from OFS without a referendum, but Fruitman strongly disagreed. "The OFS has a case," she said. "This legal battle will cost a lot. OFS is losing \$30,000 and I think they'll be willing to pay five or six thousand for legal costs."

"It makes more sense to hold a referendum," Fruitman added. "You could hold the cost down to \$800 by setting limits on campaign costs...and the students would be better served."

GSA President, Terry Conlin, a vocal opponent of Ali's plan to withdraw membership at

all, agreed with Fruitman. "I would prefer they just stay in OFS," Conlin said, "but if there is a strong feeling in CYSF that we should pull out, then they should hold a referendum."

Ironically, Conlin announced last week that the GSA will attempt to withdraw its membership from CYSF, citing inefficiency and an insensitivity to issues that affect graduate students as reasons for the move, and he pointed out that the GSA must run a referendum to do so.

Conlin also claimed that OFS representation is the only worthwhile return on the money GSA pays CYSF for membership, and said OFS lobbying for a "grandfathering clause" annually saves visa graduate students more money than the \$30,000 CYSF pays OFS for membership.

CYSF Director of External Affairs, Sandra Antoniani, the prime mover behind the bid to withdraw membership, defended the executive council's plan to make the decision in council. "I was not happy to see the opposition to our plan (to pull out) without running a referendum," Antoniani said. "I've only got until April to build an effective external affairs system, and if we're fighting a referendum over the

next three months I won't be able to do it."

By installing its own full-time researcher and lobbyist, Antoniani insists, CYSF can do the job of OFS more effectively and less expensively. "I just don't think, at the price we're paying, we're getting what we should," she said. "We use the OFS, but it's not a necessity. We can do better here."

OFS Chairperson, Bernard Drainville, disagreed that CYSF could do better. "I don't think (CYSF) can lobby effectively at a provincial level," Drainville said. "The kind of weight one institution carries isn't much compared to the rest of the province. If you present yourself as the president of York student government, or as the president of OFS, there's an obvious difference." Drainville also confirmed the fears of some council members that the issue could be dragged through the courts. "OFS doesn't want a legal battle, or any kind of battle, we just want to work with CYSF and York students," Drainville said.

"But," he added, "if we have to become involved in a legal battle, well we will."

## Grad student referendum to decide on membership status in CYSF

By SUSAN SPERLING

A referendum will be held among graduate students next month to decide whether or not the Graduate Student's Association (GSA) will withdraw membership from the Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF).

GSA President Terry Conlin said that the GSA executive favors withdrawal because they feel that CYSF is poorly representative of the unique needs of graduate students and that the \$18,000 that GSA members presently contribute to CYSF could be better spent.

"There is a widespread belief that GSA members do not get their money's worth which their financial input warrants and that inefficiency is the hallmark of those services which do exist," Conlin said, charging that CYSF is "executive-dominated," and allows for "little input from constituent members."

Asked to respond to Conlin's charges, CYSF President Reya Ali that his organization is in the process of restructuring, and that the new structure will work for GSA.

"In the new model, GSA's needs can be more directly addressed because they will have both direct and indirect representation in both the legislative and executive arms of council. In the

new model, the executive of CYSF will not be top-heavy as Mr. Conlin claims they presently are," Ali said.

Further addressing the question of representation and services, Ali said that all positions of CYSF, including executive positions, are open to graduate students at election time, and that "all funding and services of council are open to graduate students."

"If grads would like a specific need to be addressed, I've seen no documentation of it, either past or present," Ali added.

Conlin cited an interest-free emergency loan fund and an equipment fund as examples of services that graduate students need and which CYSF does not provide for. "It would never cross the minds of CYSF to engage in these services," he said.

Conlin said that an independent government for graduate students will be hard to establish in face of pressure from the administration to centralize York student government. Also, according to the CYSF constitution, withdrawal from the CYSF is conditional on a 25 percent referendum turnout from the withdrawing constituency. Referendum response has characteristically been very low at York.

## Strike threat looms as talks fail

by LAURA LUSH

The York University Faculty Association (YUFA), consisting of full-time faculty and librarians are meeting today to vote on a strike mandate after mediation talks between the union and the administration broke down last Sunday. If the motion is passed a strike vote will be held on October 3 and 4 with a strike deadline of October 7.

Negotiating talks have been going on since April 30 when the union contract ended. YUFA has been in a legal strike position since September 23, 16 days after a provincially appointed mediator announced a No Board Report.

Since September 13, YUFA issued two Strike Alert leaflets as proof of member support and to invite the administration, if willing, back to negotiations. In response, the administration issued a Strike Avert bulletin.

"Both parties were happy to go back to the bargaining table," said Hollis Rinehart, YUFA chairman and member of the union's Negotiating Committee. But despite two days of mediation talks in a downtown hotel, both parties still couldn't agree on the main issues of compensation and mandatory retirement. "The administration didn't move at all on their stand on mandatory retirement," Rinehart said. "In compensation they moved about one quarter of a percentage point from 6.5 to 6.8 percent, and they didn't do that until the last few hours of negotiations." Rinehart said that YUFA dropped their compensation demands from 12 to 9.5 percent. The administration are offering a two year contract while YUFA is asking for a one year contract.

Rinehart said "he hasn't found any YUFA member who feels that our compensation demands are too high or that there shouldn't be an immediate end to mandatory retirement." The union wants to contract for an immediate end to mandatory retirement because discrimination by age is now unlawful according to Section 15 of the new Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms passed in April. Three York professors who turned 65 before July 1 of this year have subsequently filed a law suit against the university to argue that forced retirement violates the Charter of Rights. According to a September 23 *Globe and Mail* article, the three faculty members will take their case to the Supreme Court of Ontario in January.

The administration is proposing a flexible retirement policy conditional on the formation of a Joint Committee on Retirement Policy. The committee would try to resolve issues such as salary structures, pensions and layoff policies that would arise from ending forced retirement. During this time, the three faculty members who are 65 and those subsequent persons that will turn 65 will continue to work under the same tenure until the ratification of the Collective Agreement by the Joint Committee, or June 30, 1987, whichever comes first. The proposed flexible retirement policy is also

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