

## Some council reps call for Lakhani's resignation

# CYSF calls emergency meeting

Paula Todd  
After a heated debate about Director of Social and Cultural Affairs Bipin Lakhani's use of CYSF facilities to make posters attacking Menachim Begin, the CYSF called an emergency meeting, during which Lakhani must present a formal explanation of his action.

His resignation was called for by Dave Kelly on behalf of Winters College, by Pamela Fruitman, Board of Governors representative, by Jacque Altman, Student Senate representative, and by Mark Pearlman, CYSF Director of Academic Affairs. Before

presenting his motion, Kelly told the Council that Winters' student government had passed a resolution asking for Lakhani's resignation.

"I think it is a really difficult question," said John Weston, Board of Governor representative. "There seems to be two questions here. One, is a person entitled to points of view considered hatred by the other council members and still be a Director? And two, should we use the CYSF facilities for personal reasons? If council wants to take such a dramatic action as to ask for a resignation, he (Lakhani) should be asked to prepare a defense. We are imposing a

great injustice against him."

Chris Winter, a representative from Environmental Studies Students Association, echoed Weston's sentiments. "We're having a Kangaroo Court. We have not given Lakhani a fair trial. I was at both council meetings I still am not sure what is going on. I have made mistakes before too and I think we must remember that we are all student politicians and we are responsible, but we are still learning. I think this is why I would like to see a written defense. Certain things he said tonight do not jive with me either, but I'd like to give him a fair hearing."

Bipin Lakhani did not stay for the entire meeting, but confirmed that he would write a letter of apology as requested by CYSF President Maurizio Bevilacqua. "The literature was printed by me," he said. "I made 125 copies. They were not intended for distribution anywhere on campus. They were left overnight in the office and taken out upon request of a non-CYSF member. I feel I have a right to my political opinions. I have every right to express my opinions as I feel I should. Unless I state that I am working on behalf of the CYSF then I feel I am not. This does not, will not and did not conflict with any decisions I have made in Council or will make in the future."

resignation. "Excalibur, like any good newspaper, used a bit of sensationalism. I think the members are talking from that article. We should look at the publication in question."

### Sensitive issue

Bevilacqua addressed the council after the discussion had officially ended. "It is a very sensitive issue. I know exactly what is going on here. The press and other people come in and tell me this is a good way to show leadership." He was interrupted by Burt who explained he was not entitled to speak. "Look, I am the president here and I can talk," he said, but stopped when Burt insisted.

### Emergency meeting

The Council agreed to hold a special "emergency meeting" on Thursday October 28th to allow Lakhani a chance to defend himself. "It will be an open meeting in the sense that the rule that a member can speak only once on a motion will be waived," explained Leibman. "Tye (Burt) gave notice of Impeachment in council which means council will vote on Bipin's impeachment as soon after the 14 days have passed there is a council meeting. Unless, that is, he resigns."

Bevilacqua has not yet received a letter of apology from Lakhani.



Bipin Lakhani under investigation: "No comment."

### Empty directorships

Weston urged Council to consider that "we do have two empty directorships. It is very relevant. The fact that he has done something that smacks of impropriety doesn't necessarily call for resignation."

These comments elicited boos and hisses from other council members. "It is not a kangaroo court," said Ellen Leibman, Winters College Representative. "People are expressing their concern about this issue and this seems to be a fairly orderly discussion. I think that I am being fair."

Darren Chapman, another Winters College rep, was concerned that his constituents would be unhappy if the matter was not dealt with at the meeting. "We have to respond to this now. We have no reason to wait."

### Letter of apology

Altman pointed out that Bipin had already had a week to write an official response and had not defended himself. She felt the delay was unnecessary. And Pamela Fruitman likened having a Cultural and Social Affairs Director who had made the posters to "Hiring a known embezzler as a Director of Finance."

### Fourteen days

Tye Burt, the CYSF speaker, explained that a notice of request for resignation would allow Lakhani 14 days before Council could vote on the action. He said that the constitution demanded a 2/3 majority of the entire council, "not just those who are here."

Kelly said, "We are not condemning him today. He has the 14 days cooling off period that the constitution provides." But Weston argued that "the request for resignation was a condemnation." And Randy Dobson, a McLaughlin College rep, felt that council members did not have enough information to judge Lakhani. He referred to last week's *Excalibur* editorial calling for Lakhani's

## Council of Ministers of Education Conference

# Students and faculty walk out

B Taylor  
Students and faculty walked out in the middle of a banquet speech at the Council of Ministers of Education Conference in Toronto last week.

The speech called for the closing of universities, limits on accessibility, stricter criteria for university entrance, changes in tenure, and curtailing part-time study.

The CMEC is a group representing all of the Ministers of Education in Canada as well as the federal government. Last week's conference was called, "Post-secondary Education-Issues in Canada for the '80s."

Brenda Cote, Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of

Students said "CFS cannot endorse such a presentation. We cannot accept that universities and colleges are being called upon to not hesitate in closing their doors, departments etc."

York President, Ian MacDonald also criticized the speech, "all of that assumes that quality is somehow diminishing-that is not my observation or experience. Students are better today-the participation rate is higher and we need more not fewer students."

Laurel Whitney, external representative of CUEW said, "its fragrantly anti-democratic and elitist, and if this represents the attitudes of government ministries, all of us have to get on the streets now and tell the government

that education must be made accessible to the working people of Canada before it gets any worse."

Cote also criticized the conference for not allowing enough student and faculty input, for limiting discussion and for not covering topics that students and faculty are concerned about.

As a result, CFS and the Canadian Association of University Teachers put on 2 alternate sessions. "Barriers to Accessibility" focused on access for native women, disabled and low income groups. "Financing and Planning of Post Secondary Education" focused on cutbacks which are occurring and their effect on accessibility, faculty hirings and student and faculty action.

## Weekend conference at York

# Writers and disarmament

Gary Fluxgold  
On Friday, several hundred peace activists gathered at York's Burton Auditorium to hear a Writer's Panel discuss "Disarmament: The Emerging Global Mandate."

Among the speakers was Margaret Laurence, author of *The Diviners*. Laurence, who is Chancellor of Trent University and is presently working with several disarmament organizations, called disarmament a "pressing, practical, moral and spiritual issue in our time."

In her talk, she described the fallacy of what she called the "precipice theory",

whereby, "the closer we come The panel, which was chaired by Jim Stark of Operation Dismantle, also included Ernie Regehr, on of the head of Project Plowshares and author of *Making a Killing*; and Dr. J. Paula, a U of T physics professor who replaced the absent Tom Gervasi.

Regehr's focused on what he felt was the inconsistency to the edge of a cliff, the less likely we are to fall to our deaths." Speaking as a writer, Laurence argued that "artists have a moral responsibility to work for disarmament. "I believe that it is imperative that artists join their voices."

of the pronuclear arms argument. "It is a myth that nuclear weapons have been implemented into our society systems because they will not be used." In fact, he says, nuclear technology such as Canada's Candu reactor, is used to determine strategic political policy.

"Canadian response has been to sit on the fence," he said, the "Canadian governments rationale is that they have an obligation to NATO."

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The Beckett at Beckett Festival: *Excalibur* critic, J. Brett Abbey, thinks there should be more interaction between theatre students and faculty. See story page 13.

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