

Excalibur

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Spectre of conspiracy remains

ULS still in race - but campaign must halt

By OAKLAND ROSS

The United Left Slate has been ordered by an election tribunal to pull down its campaign posters, to cease distributing campaign literature and to stop soliciting votes during a three-day period which will end at mid-night tomorrow.

For a while on Tuesday afternoon, it looked as if the ULS might be tossed out of next week's CYSF elections altogether.

EARLY CAMPAIGN

The tribunal, composed of CYSF speaker Bill Bain, chief returning officer (CRO) Henry Goldberg and student Bonnie Sandison, met on Tuesday in order to consider four separate complaints that the ULS had begun its campaign before the official closing of nominations on February 28.

The tribunal spent over an hour in Anne Scotton's Central Square office considering the issue. The tension mounted during the afternoon as worried ULS candidates and impatient campus reporters huddled in groups of twos and threes in the CYSF lobby, awaiting the decision.

Clutching his tape-recorder as if it were a rosary, Radio York assistant station manager, Bob Goodman sat quietly in a corner with presidential candidate Eggertson. Both had filed complaints against the ULS and had already presented their cases to the tribunal.

"Before long, the entire ULS will be sailing up the Mekong River, where it belongs," said Goodman, in anticipation.

People jumped to their feet at one point when Bain stuck his mustachioed head out Scotton's doorway.

"Hey, anybody out there got a coin?" he called. He paused, grinned and then closed the door.

Shortly after four p.m., he strode out into the lobby.

"Somebody get me Ritch," he demanded, sending several bodies scurrying out of the office. "We're going to give him a choice."

Ritch spent several minutes in the office with the tribunal and then stormed out. He refused to comment until he had gathered some of his party members and a reporter from Excalibur in a private office nearby.

"They've offered us a deal," he said. "They'll let us run, but only if we agree to halt our campaign for three days. It looks to me like we're getting screwed."

An emergency meeting of the ULS was held at seven p.m. that evening to discuss whether or not to accept the tribunal's decision.

Roughly 15 members of the slate gathered in the clubs room in Central Square as Ritch explained their position.

"UNFAIR DECISION"

"It's an unfair decision," he said. "They've no right to penalize us for a misunderstanding which wasn't our fault."

But there's nobody we can appeal to. It looks like they've got us over a barrel."

One by one, members of the slate expressed opinions in favour of accepting the letter, if not the spirit, of the tribunal's decision. The final vote was unanimous.

The slate also decided to form a non-partisan committee to fight for a fairelection.

The meeting gradually broke up as some members headed off to conduct a final campaign blitz of the residence, others to prepare a leaflet announcing the formation of the committee for a fair election, and the rest to begin the arduous task of pulling down the ULS posters and banners scattered across the campus.

But the spectre of a conspiracy to damage the ULS campaign still hangs over the events:

The minutes of the February 12 meeting at which the nomination period was extended were not prepared until noon on Tuesday. Contrary to the expectations of several CYSF members, including two vice-presidents, these minutes made no explicit reference to the dates for the campaign period, but merely mentioned the extension of the nominations.

"Anne (CYSF president Scotton) said at the meeting that the campaign opening date would be left as February 24," insisted finance

vice president J.J. Koornstra. "I'll swear to it because I was there."

The election tribunal was established as an appeal board independent of the CYSF. Although its hearings on Tuesday were held in private and closed to the press, Scotton was asked to sit in as its secretary during the presentation of complaints and defenses.

"They needed a secretary and I just happened to be there," said Scotton. "Nobody asked me to leave, so I just stayed."

Two Winters College students, Gord Travers and Kelly Allen told Excalibur on Tuesday that they had been presented on Monday evening

with a Winters College council petition protesting the ULS campaign violation. According to Travers, Scotton tried to persuade them to sign it.

Scotton, however, denied this. "I merely told Travers and Allen that if they wanted to protest the ULS they should do it right away because the hearing was the next day."

CAMPAIGN DATES

When York Party candidate Hal Tryhorn walked into the CYSF offices last week to enquire about the campaign dates, he was told by Council secretary Dianne Godsoe that the campaign would begin on February 24 and not, as the election tribunal now maintains, on February 28.

As it happens, the York Party also began campaigning before February 28. But, for some reason, there have no complaints about the York Party's violation.

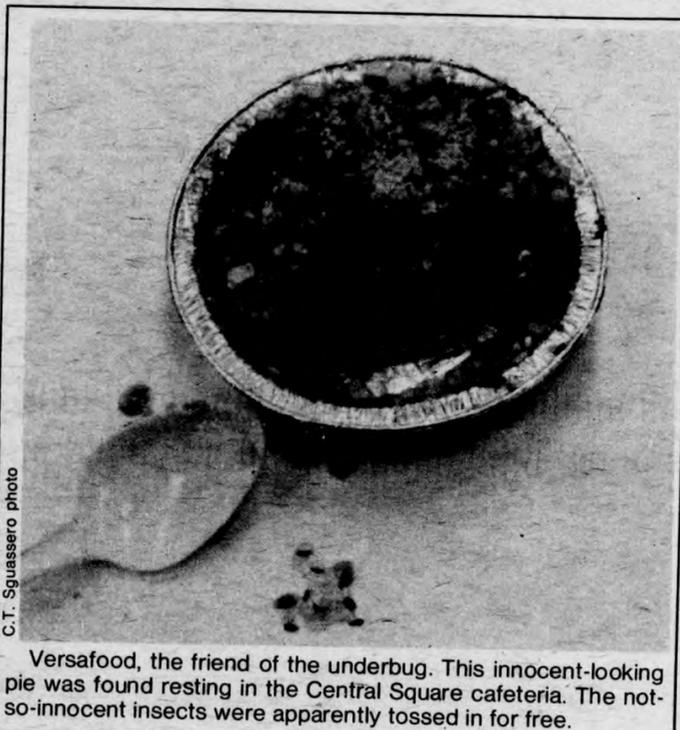
Presidential candidate Eggertson, who led the campaign against the ULS, told Excalibur this week that his main reason for running for president is "to defeat Dale Ritch."

And in the immediate aftermath of Tuesday's hearings, after the ULS candidates had rushed off to the clubs room to consider the decision, after the Radio York reporter had hurried back to the station to tip off the Toronto radio stations, a glum Eggertson sat in Scotton's office, his head in his hands.

He looked up at tribunal chairman Bain who was just leaving.

"Dammit, Bill," he moaned. "You were that close to kicking them out, and you blew it."

Bain merely shrugged, and said nothing.



C.T. Squassero photo

Versafood, the friend of the underbug. This innocent-looking pie was found resting in the Central Square cafeteria. The not-so-innocent insects were apparently tossed in for free.

CYSF presidential candidates pp. 3,14

YUFA may walk out

By WARREN CLEMENTS

Talks have broken off between the university and the York University Faculty Association, and the union executive has announced its intention, should the stalemate continue, to propose a week-long study session to the YUFA membership.

The faculty association's negotiating committee terminated negotiations last Thursday following an administration offer of a 12.5 per cent wage increase. YUFA, which is asking for 23 per cent, termed the offer "completely unacceptable."

"Unless the offer is renegotiated by March 18," the YUFA executive committee moved Tuesday evening, "the executive will recommend to the membership that it hold one week of study sessions, starting March 24."

This, said negotiating committee chairman Paul Evans, would mean not only that most of York's professors would refuse to teach, but that many librarians, who joined the YUFA ranks last year, would walk out from the library.

The administration negotiators — President Macdonald, and vice-presidents Bill Farr and Bill Small — and the negotiating committee — Evans, Virginia Hunter, Harvey Simmons, Jack Granatstein and

Jack Sokolov — have agreed on a basic cost of living increase of 10.5 per cent.

However, in addition, YUFA wants to catch up with wage settlements agreed to in other universities; the Trent faculty association, said Evans, has been offered 17 per cent, and has not agreed even to that, while the U of T faculty has been offered 15.1 per cent.

"That offer would give U of T a deficit of \$1.6 million," he commented. "If an institution like that decides to create a deficit, surely York can do likewise."

The negotiating committee has indicated to Macdonald that it is ready to consider any revised offer.

Status of women study session

Members of the York community will have the opportunity next Tuesday to meet with members of the senate task force on the status of women to discuss their recently released report.

The time is from noon until 2 p.m.; the place is Burton Auditorium. The meeting is sponsored by the Atkinson women's faculty caucus and the York women's faculty caucus.

CYSF incorporation no real advantage according to corporate law professor

By AGNES KRUCHIO

"There is no magic in incorporation as such," said Warren Grover, professor of corporation law in Osgoode Hall, in answer to an Excalibur query regarding the upcoming CYSF referendum on whether or not to incorporate.

"The significant aspects of a corporation depend on the attributes with which the corporation is endowed; that is, it is its constitution that matters."

Grover gave an example: "If a constituent college opts out of the federation, (according to the student council constitution), it still pays the student per capita grant to the corporation; there is thus a strong incentive for constituents to stay within the organization."

"A corporation is a form of organization only; there is nothing that I can see that CYSF would gain from incorporation, except that CYSF would acquire an identity separate from its members and vis-a-vis the administration. As such, it might help overcome an existing apathy among students, but there is no more reason to see it as a focus

than any other form of organization."

There are three major reasons listed for incorporation. The first and foremost is the ability to hold land: an incorporated body has this ability while the student council at present does not. This would come into consideration, said Anne Scotton, if the Student Union Building, originally part of the design of the university, and now a victim of budget cuts, was ever built; consideration of land ownership also came up for CYSF when the Green Bush Inn was under discussion last — property for a central pub was under consideration at the time.

"As it has no real estate, nor is it about to acquire any, (in the light of provincial trends in education spending), I see this point as totally irrelevant," Grover said.

The second aspect of incorporation, limited personal liability, is the single most important aspect of incorporation; individual members of the CYSF would no longer be liable for any damages incurred by CYSF. Not so, says professor

Grover. In a normally incorporated body, the directors can be held personally liable for up to six months' salaries and one year vacation pay to their employees.

Another major reason for incorporation is that it would, according to a feasibility study compiled by CYSF lawyers, introduce better business practices into the management of the student body. This, says Grover, will only create more and more bureaucracy, and it will be harder to get people to help out with the kinds of work a student union needs to get done for free; if the channels exist for getting paid at a certain rate, the trend will be to take advantage of this fact. At present, the CYSF spends \$20,000 of its annual \$87,000 budget on its own administration.

The cost for incorporation, estimates Grover, would be some \$100 to \$125 payable to the province; legal expenses would probably involve another \$400 to \$500, depending on the time it takes the lawyer to handle the various items involved.