

# EXCALIBUR

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## Bevilacqua asks for Lakhani's resignation

At Tuesday's meeting of the Council of the York Student Federation, President Maurizio Bevilacqua informed the Council that he had asked Social and Cultural Affairs Director Bipin Lakhani, to resign this weekend.

According to Bevilacqua, "There are indications he will resign, but he has not given a formal letter of resignation." Lakhani, whose fate has been debated by the CYSF since the discovery of anti-Menachem Begin posters in office filing cabinet three weeks ago, was not present at the meeting, and *Excalibur* was unable to reach him for comment.

Bevilacqua told the Council that he made the decision to ask for the resignation "after examining the whole case", and added "It is an unfortunate incident that will set a precedent. Bipin can no longer function as a member. He has not made enemies, but people who seem not to be in accordance with his political views. I think justice was done to Bipin and to the people offended by the posters."

## Bear Pit confrontation

Greg Gaudet

Police were called to the Bear Pit Tuesday afternoon following a near-violent confrontation between several Jewish students and members of the York University Palestine Education Committee. The Jewish students attempted to prevent the screening of a film called "To Live in Freedom", which they said "calls for basically no Israel."

The film was part of a three and a half hour programme which included a speaker and the distribution and sale of some pro-P.L.O. literature. As a result of the flare-up, close to 250 spectators crowded in and around the Bear Pit. Although there was some pushing and shoving, police reported that no arrests were made and the programme was allowed to continue.

Cathy Moffat, Director of the Student Christain Movement, organizers of the programme, told *Excalibur* the film was shown to offer students a different perspective from what the committee, "a coalition of groups and individuals," felt had been presented to York students thus far. Moffat said, although she had not had time to screen the film, she understood that it "provides a good historical look at the (Palestine - Israel) situation and doesn't offer any solutions".

However, Danny Raziel, one of the Jewish students involved felt that the film was an attack against Jews. He said that it was "Jew-hatred; as if we're not allowed to have our own country. And we're not going to put up with it." Moffat, who admitted the film was biased said that "it's biased in terms of trying to understand the Palestinian situation, but also understanding the Israeli situation but I wouldn't call it anti-Jewish at all."

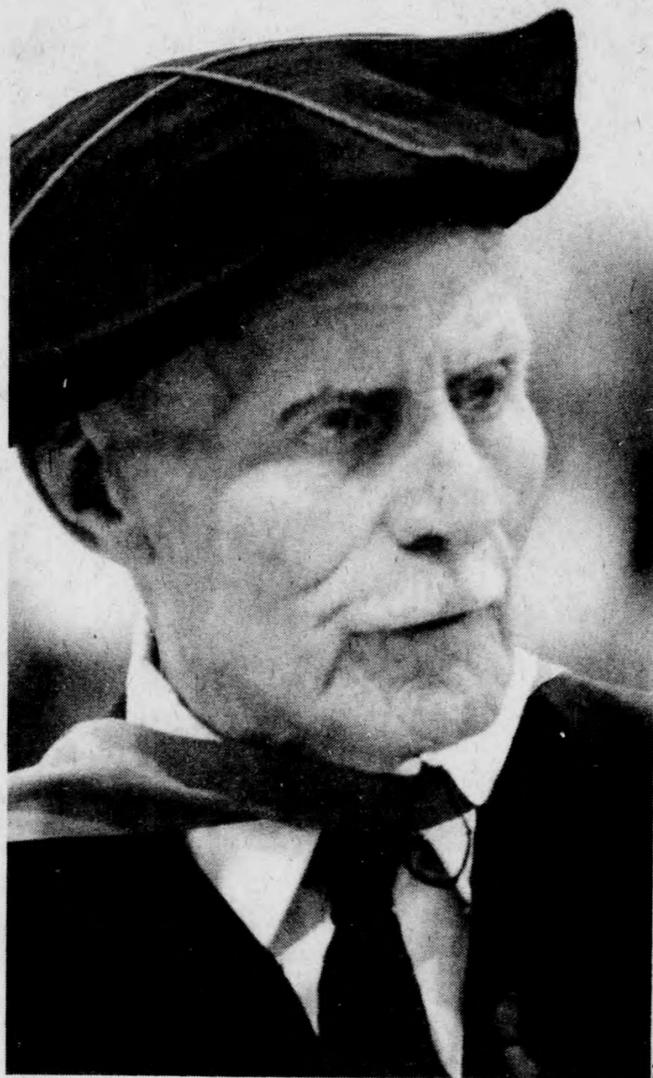


Photo: Mario Scattoloni

Among the students receiving degrees at Saturday's convocation ceremonies was Cyril Caunter. Caunter, who received an Honours Degree in English from Glendon College in 1980, completed a master's thesis for York's interdisciplinary programme: *Hydrogen: A Transport Aircraft Fuel as Applied to the Ontario Scene*.

An expert on airplane engines, he is the author of some 30 books including scientific and technological works, aviation histories, novels and short stories.

Caunter, 82, is a former curator of old motor cars at London's Science Museum.

## College representatives shocked

# Master Doxey dissolves McLaughlin student council

Alison Bailey  
Incorrect procedure in a by-election and the resignations of Speaker Ameen Keshayee and Internal Affairs representative Steve von Allmen has resulted in the decision of College Master George Doxey to dissolve the McLaughlin Student Council.

Professor George Doxey, who would no comment to *Excalibur* about his actions, said in a November 10th letter to McLaughlin students that "Council's actions in overruling the CRO's (Chief Returning Officer) decision in a by-election and their subsequent decision to destroy votes cast while at the same time continuing with a ballot, was wrong."

### Assumes functions

In a November 4th letter to council members he said he was "satisfied that there is sufficient substance for this action, as is reflected by recent events culminating in the resignation of your speaker Ameen Keshayee and Internal Affairs rep. Steve von Allmen."

The council was dissolved November 4 with Doxey assuming all functions of council.

Randy Dobson, the council's CYSF rep., said the council's actions began with a misunderstanding of council procedure. He said Keshayee suspended college elections for first-year representative and social affairs representa-

tive October 28th, because only first-year students were being allowed to vote for the first-year representative. This misunderstanding of procedure stemmed from the CRO John Avgeris, who was informed by Fared Kahn, external affairs representative.

### Emergency meeting

An emergency meeting was called that evening where council agreed to extend the campaign period for one week with advanced polling on November 8 and the election November 9 and to destroy the ballots of that day.

Dobson said the two positions were badly needed and the council wanted to fill the positions as soon as possible. He said letters were sent to the students to inform them of the changes.

Another problem occurred November 2 at their regular meeting when council voted not to accept the CRO's report.

Lisa Feldman, president, said they were unaware at that time that the ballots could not be destroyed if the CRO's report was not accepted.

"The whole thing comes down to the vagueness of our constitution," she said. "If we had clear outlines it would not have gotten this far."

During their regular meeting Keshayee left his chair to express his concern over the matter. Dobson said Keshayee

suggested the election should be run again but council overruled him and reaffirmed their previous decision.

Keshayee said he was concerned because "had anyone decided to contest the election they would have grounds to do it."

He said he had spoken to students and many were upset because "it was shoved under the carpet."

Dobson said while there were allegations that council tried to cover up the situation, he did not find any dissent among students.

"There was no tampering with the aim to change the results." He said, council was "trying to erase the mistake and start over."

Keshayee and von Allmen resigned their positions November.

While von Allmen said he did not voice any concerns during the meetings he said he was bothered by the number of small issues and that the election issue was just the icing on the cake.

### Resigned on principle

"I resigned on principle because of the fact that as a student government I didn't feel the student council, as a whole, was fulfilling its responsibilities to both the students and themselves." von Allmen said there was a tendency to conceal certain aspects and there were some council members who were

not doing their jobs.

"People did not understand what the College council was for," he said. "And people were prevented from understanding."

He said it came to the point where he felt he could do more for the council as a student than as a student council member.

Keshayee said, "In terms of the way they handled this election incident I think it brings a certain amount of questioning to their integrity."

### Very disappointed

"I was questioning the legality of the election," he said. "They had not looked carefully enough into the gravity of the situation."

Dobson said he felt it was a minor incident and the dissolution of council was unnecessary.

"I feel very disappointed in what happened," he said. "There is no way an elected student body, run by students with student money, should be dissolved by a Master. I don't think the Master has a right."

"When this thing happened, had council asked for his resignation it would have been resolved," he said. "Had he resigned it would have been okay."

He said he and Doxey had both, at different times, asked for his resignation and there were members of the college who were in the



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process of petitioning for a general meeting. Feldman said she felt those members who were not doing their job should have been dealt with, not those who were doing theirs. continued on page 3