

Two resignations, one firing, one re-hiring mark the beginning of the year for the Council of the York Student Federation

Michael Monastyrskij

It was a summer of changes for the Council of the York Student Federation. The Federation fired Business Manager, Tony Finn, only to negotiate a new contract in September, and two directors, Ellen Liebman and Dave Kelly, resigned.

Charging that Finn did not keep regular office hours, did not file regular reports and had violated a clause concerning the structure of the CYSF, the Executive Committee dismissed him at a July 26th meeting. Former Director of Student Services and Communications, Dave Kelly, says the third charge may be interpreted as "becoming involved in the politics of the organization."

Finn had threatened to sue the Council for wrongful and unlawful dismissal, but has since returned to work on what CYSF President Maurizio Bevilacqua calls "an unexpected clean-up operation. Bevilacqua denies there is any connection between the reinstatement of Finn, whose new contract has yet to be approved, and the suit. "I was opposed to the dismissal from the start.

Tony was re-hired because the political forces that promoted his dismissal are no longer on the Council. I only wrote the letter of dismissal out of a feeling of solidarity with the Executive."

Kelly, however, says, "They had to hire Tony back. He was the only person in the office who had a handle on what was going on. None of the Executive knew. There was a consensus of the Executive to remove Finn. Some of the people who wanted him to leave are still there."

Finn has refused to comment on his dismissal and re-hiring.

At an August 5th general meeting of the Council, Bevilacqua read a letter from Finn's lawyers, which stated Finn would be suing for the balance of his annual salary and easement. Bevilacqua said the amount involved was "close to \$15,000." Introducing a "motion that Council accept the Executive's decision and its implications to dismiss Tony Finn as Business Manager", Bevilacqua asked for "100 per cent backing from the Council."

He added, "We were very nice to Tony Finn, I find this surprising."

"Perhaps, we should consider keeping Tony Finn," said Judith Santos, Director of the Women's Commission. When she went on to suggest the CYSF "get a lawyer", Bevilacqua replied, "I think there are no grounds on which they (Finn's lawyers) can base their case." Academic Affairs Director Mark Pearlman, who earlier said the possibility of a lawsuit was "heavy duty", stated, "We should call CLASP."

Bevilacqua's motion was withdrawn because of the objections of several council members, who desired more information.

At the same council meeting, Finance Director Ellen Liebman resigned. Liebman says, "I felt I had to resign because the executive officers were denying me my duties." She was particularly angered by the "closing down of the businesses, without considering the recommendations of the Business Affairs Committee. They closed down Soundproof and

the Typing Service during the (time allotted to the) report of the Director of Internal Affairs; it should have been done under my portfolio--Finance."

Bevilacqua says, "It's not true that the recommendations of the Business Affairs Committee were not considered. They were to be brought up by the Director of Finance when she presented her report, but she refused to do so after we closed the businesses."

Bipin Lakhani, Director of Social and Cultural Affairs, says the recommendations were discussed by the Executive, and that Liebman presented the recommendations during the debate that preceded the vote on the closing. "The Business Affairs Committee's recommendations were not ignored, they were considered."

Pointing out that Liebman had pushed hard for the firing of the Business Manager, Bevilacqua asserts, "The timing of the resignation hindered development in the business and finance areas of council." Because of



Reinstated CYSF Business Manager, Tony Finn.

the two vacancies, CYSF was unable to issue cheques for "a couple of weeks", until the signing authority was changed by the bank.

Kelly who also opposed the closing of the businesses said

he resigned for personal reasons. "I want to concentrate on academics. I have been involved in student politics for three years already and it's time to say enough is enough."

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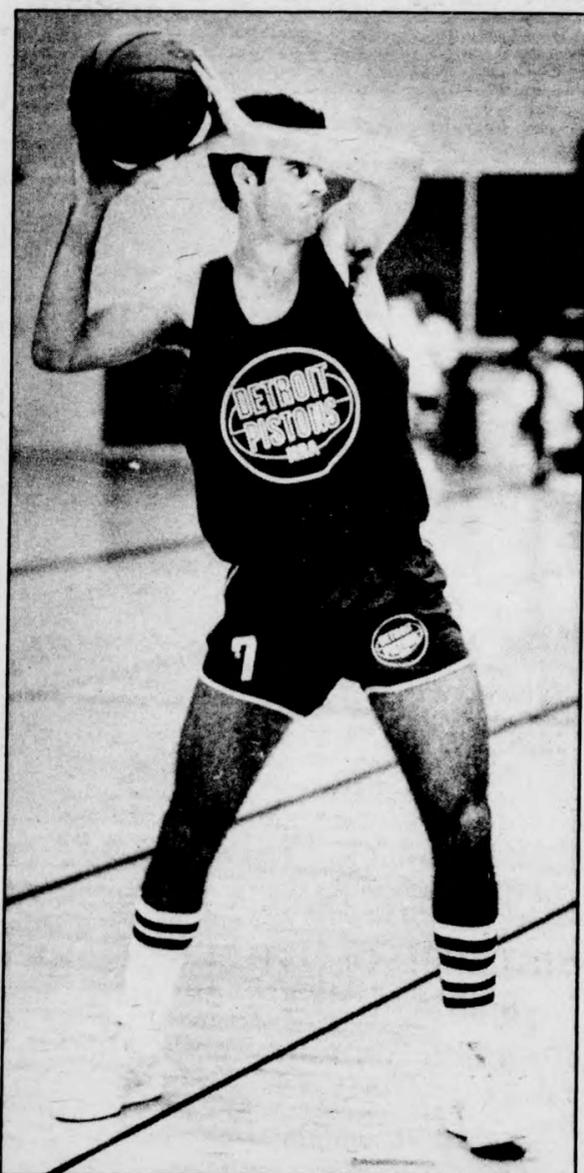
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What's Inside:

Connecting on Campus	3
The Spoons	8
The Ceedees	9
Maja Bannerman	9
Festival of Festivals	10
Yeomen Football	13



Dave Coulthard takes aim at a professional career. Excalibur's Zwol has the details on page 14.

Union and administration file for conciliation

Barb Taylor

After a summer of negotiations, the University and the Canadian Union of Educational Workers, representing York's tutorial assistants and part-time faculty, filed for

conciliation last week. A representative of the Ontario Labour Relations Board is now assisting with the negotiations.

Conciliation is the last stage before arbitration,

during which CUEW would be able to strike. The union and the Administration are currently far apart on several issues including, class sizes, wages and seniority in hiring. Given the many rumours from Queen's Park of a 5 per cent limit on university funding next year, Charles Doyon, CUEW Chairperson believes, "The membership will be keen about a higher settlement this year."

With departments reporting first year enrollment increases of as high as 65 per cent, class size, a major issue during last year's strike, remains a point of contention this year.

CUEW proposes tutorial limits of 15 students for a one hour group, twenty for a one and a half hour group, and 25 for a two hour group. They also propose that each department be limited to an average of 20 students per tutorial group. Doyon feels, "the overall package is to better the quality of education at York, and with the enrollment increase, CUEW's demands will benefit the learning experience at York."

Referring to class size, Bill Farr, Vice-President in charge of Employee and Student Relations, says "there isn't an ideal--there's an impression that it's too big." He also says the Administration is not prepared to commit itself to limits on tutorial sizes, but the University is prepared to offer additional marking

assistance when the number of students in a class reaches 35. Marking assistance is presently given when a class has 37 students.

Regarding wages, Doyon believes, "TA's are grossly underpaid, especially given the fact that they have to pay \$1,000 to go to school." International students pay \$5,000. CUEW is asking for an overall increase of 30 per cent, which would bring Course Director wages to \$6180 and Tutorial leader wages to \$2060, with others ranging in between. The CUEW proposal would bring the unions total wages to \$2,700,000, which is 1.4 per cent of the universities total budget of \$191 million. When compared with other universities, York CUEW's wages fall below those of the University of Toronto as well as those at McGill, where TA's receive \$5800 plus tuition costs. The administration has increased its across the board offer from 11.5 to 12, and proposes a 15 increase for college tutorial leaders.

CUEW feels that the Administration hiring proposal "could result in the Administration setting criteria for the person they want to hire as opposed to those with most seniority." Farr says, "we want more discretion to select among candidates." CUEW is suggesting a point system which would take into

continued on page 2

York lucky to have some bank service says Small

Keiren Smith

The reduction in Toronto Dominion's on-campus banking services was raised at Monday's meeting of the Board of Governors.

Asked by student representative John Weston for his opinion, William Small, Vice-President in charge of University Services, said, "In terms of advance warning and timing, I feel the bank acted inappropriately by not making us aware until July 6 of the change in services." Small told the Board that he and his department were only informed of the changes one month before they were to take place.

In Small's opinion, the bank compensated for the late notification by establishing a transitional programme, which includes the addition of six employees for ten days to handle fee payments and OSAP loans; information tables at which TD staff will explain mechanized banking and

assist with Green Machine Card Applications; personalized service for handicapped students; and utilization of campus media and information services to explain the exact nature of the change.

Many chartered banks have withdrawn from other major universities, and Small believes York is lucky to have some service in the form of four Green Machines.

Professor Joyce Zemans, one of the Board's two faculty representatives, suggested that the green Machines be moved to another "less central, but equally viable space". Small replied, "I believe centrality is useful and convenient for all of the bank's customers."

Weston explained that he had talked with TD Manager of Sales and Personal Banking Services for the Metro West Division, and felt "the bank is in a conciliatory mood and might be persuaded to extend its services."