

## Nehemiah Richards home for Christmas

# Government revokes deportation order

By PAUL KELLOGG

A week ago today, an Air Canada jet left on its daily flight to Jamaica — without Nehemiah Richards. An eleventh hour decision by the Immigration Department saved the nineteen-year-old from deportation, at least for now.

Threatened with deportation because he was not his father's "legitimate" son, Richards' case had become the centre of a growing swirl of protest that eventually forced the government to allow him to remain in Canada.

Richards has lived with his present family most of his life. His mother is the "only mother that boy has known" according to his father. Richards has no friends or relatives

## GAA takes dollar grievance to Macdonald

By GORD GRAHAM

Seventy five people attended the GAA membership meeting in Curtis "B", Tuesday, and heard president H. Ian Macdonald give what the meeting's chairperson, Ilene Crawford, called "very general responses" to questions on pay rates and other issues.

Topping the agenda was a discussion of the GAA's longstanding demand, put forth originally in October, for a \$360 cost of living catch-up that would bring pay levels, substantially unchanged since last year, up to date with a year of inflation.

"We're coming up to negotiations in January and Macdonald intends to deal with this and a lot of other things at the bargaining table," said Crawford.

Contacted later, Macdonald agreed "the outlook is not all that bright" for York workers seeking raises this year. He blamed government cutbacks for the tight money situation.

"Since we are about to begin formal bargaining that was one thing we couldn't talk about at the meeting," he said.

Mark Golden, an executive member of GAA, said he "expected the university to hide behind a legal smokescreen." He added that the demand "would be kept alive, so when we present a complete wage package, we're going to start with the assumption we'll get a cost of living allowance (cola)."

Golden was critical of York's administration, saying "when the government announces cutbacks in education, we expect the administration instead of rolling over and playing dead, to fight along with us..."

Macdonald, awaiting the announcement of next year's Ontario funding levels for universities, commented that the provincial government "has said quite explicitly that the universities will be governed by wage controls" that set a ceiling of 10 per cent on all salary increases.

"We've had wage controls at this university for years, they're no good and they aren't going to help York in the 70s," argued Golden.

Asked how she viewed their January bargaining prospects, Crawford replied, "Our bargaining strength is going to depend on how much our membership supports us."

She described how the structure of the GAA has progressed with the election of shop stewards in most departments, who will "act as intermediaries to translate membership demands into concrete terms for the relatively few people going to the bargaining table."

Shop stewards will also gather grievances from GAA members.

in Jamaica and all of his family in Canada have a legal right to stay in Canada. Yet, because of an immigration department technicality, he was ordered to leave the country.

The move that caused the government to reconsider its position was sparked by Tory M.P. Tom Cosset. Speaking in the House of Commons on December 1, Cosset asked that the house put aside all other business until Richards' case had been dealt with. He did not get the unanimity such a move would require, but the next day, Immigration Minister Robert Andras announced that Richards could remain in Canada at least until his appeal had been heard.

"Everybody was happy about the matter," Richards' father told Excalibur after the decision was announced. "We don't know how long he can stay — they (the Immigration Department) haven't told us when the appeal will be heard, but at least he's with us for Christmas."

The Immigration Department changed its position on the Richards' case numerous times. At first, it was adamant he had to go. Bob O'Bright, an Information

Officer with the Immigration Department, told Excalibur 10 days ago that "there is no choice but to execute the order...we have to abide by the law."

However, two days later, Ralph Errington, assistant to Robert Andras, was quoted in the Toronto Star that, although Richards had to be deported, "every consideration will be taken to bring him back to Canada."

The December 2 decision to postpone the deportation is history.

Students at York helped to stay the hand of immigration authorities. On hearing of Richards' plight, members of the United Left Coalition, in cooperation with members of the Third World Students Union and CYSF, hastily drew up a petition that was circulated on and off campus.

When it was mailed to Andras, it contained over 200 signatures and more have been added since.

Gord Graham, one of the ULC activists who carried out the petition campaign, was glad that Richards could stay in Canada, but thought the government's methods were questionable. As it stands now, the most likely outcome of the

affair is that Richards, at some later date, will be flown to Jamaica, have an application filed, be accepted for landed immigrant status and come back to Canada on the first return flight.

"It's a chickenshit solution to a very human problem," said

Graham. "It's ludicrous for government authorities to deny they have any power, especially when the slightest public embarrassment is sufficient to make them back down. We're going to be keeping an eye on the case to see that Andras keeps his word."

## BY-ELECTION RESULTS

Just under 1,200 students turned out to vote in last Wednesday's Board of Governors by-election and NUS and food referenda, the largest number to vote in a non-presidential election.

The two student positions on York's Board of Governors were won by Jay Bell [811] and Shelley Rabinovitch [751]. Robert Kasher [393] and Hemraj Rambath [348] representing the ULC, fell far short.

Students also voted, by the margin of 567 to 343, to increase the per student allotment to the National Union of Students from the present 30 cents to \$1.00. CYSF president Dale Ritch said

that he will ask the Board of Governors that tuition rates be increased by \$2.50 next year, to reflect last Wednesday's NUS referendum and last year's Ontario Federation of Students referendum, which increased the student fee to OFS to \$1.50 per year.

All four food referendum passed easily, the closest margin being Question No. 3 which would re-hire unemployed former Versafood workers to operate a university-run food service. Ritch said he was gratified by the food referenda results and added that his council will "continue to press forward for a restructuring of the food services at York."

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