

Stubbings stands alone after student government elections

Gershbain group takes four out of five YFS executive positions

by Doug Saunders

After election results were announced last Wednesday night at the Underground, four of the new York Federation of Students executives danced together in Doc Marten boots. The fifth, wearing brown loafers, shook hands and patted backs by the bar.

It looks like it will be a difficult year for Ron Stubbings, the new YFS vp-external and the only winner who wasn't a member of Nikki Gershbain's progressive-left coalition.

Gershbain, currently vp-internal, won a four-way presidential race with only 46 votes more than her nearest contender, African Student Association president Diamond Tobin-West.

She'll be sharing the executive offices with running mates Christopher Waghorn (vp-finance), Heather Dryden (vp-equality and social affairs), Jeff Zoeller (vp-internal) — and with Stubbings, a self-proclaimed "moderate."

But an excited Stubbings downplayed the political conflicts he will face when he assumes office in May.

"I was just speaking with Nikki and we're going to sit down and have a talk and hopefully we can work something out," he said after hearing the results.

Gershbain said this won't be as difficult as it sounds, in spite of Stubbings' right-wing reputation.

"I think it will be fine. Knowing that Ron believes there can be no



Nikki Gershbain, York Federation of Students President-elect, congratulates her new Vice President of Internal Affairs Jeff Zoeller last Wednesday night at the Underground. Photo: Alok Sharma

financial impediments to post-secondary education, knowing that Ron has said he wants to work towards eliminating sexual discrimination, knowing that Ron wants to work very closely with OFS [the Ontario Federation of Students] and CFS [the Canadian Federation of Students], I think it'll be an OK year."

Most observers said it will be a more difficult year for Stubbings than for Gershbain and her running-mates, since Stubbings' actions will be ruled by a vote of the YFS executive.

Other notes from the March 10-11 elections:

• It was a fairy-tale election for Cindy Reeves, who competed with Mike Bagley and Chris Eecklor for a stu-

dent seat on the York's all-powerful Board of Governors.

Reeves, who won by a margin of 99 votes over Eecklor, spent most of the evening consoling herself over her loss. Rumours coming from vote-counters in Vari Hall indicated that Eecklor had won by a landslide.

Shortly after 1:00 am, Reeves learned she had won — after she had watched Eecklor celebrate his victory for more than an hour.

"I was quite prepared to have a real life outside of student politics," Reeves said, "and then somebody told me I won. I thought 'oh my God, I'll have to stick around York!'"

• There was no competition for the 11 Faculty of Arts student senator positions. Five of the original 16 candi-

Winnipeg police harass track & fielders

by Riccardo Saka and Josh Rubin

A York sprinter has launched a human rights complaint against the Winnipeg police department following an incident after last weekend's national track and field championship there.

Among other allegations, York runner Dexter John says he was assaulted by one officer after accompanying Windsor sprinter Carl Folkes to a police station across from the Holiday Inn South where many teams were staying.

Folkes was arrested when two officers came up to the third floor of the hotel at approximately 3:00 am to break up what John says was a "very subdued" get-together after a tournament banquet. Both York coach Sue Wise and assistant coach Vickey Croley, who were on the same floor, managed to sleep through the party and subsequent disturbances.

According to John the officers ordered the athletes back to their rooms, citing excessive noise and an earlier visit from hotel management. At this point, John says, the officers became physical and jostled several athletes, including York pole vaulter Kevin Lake, into their suites.

Folkes told *Excalibur* that at this point he was thrown up against the wall by one officer. Folkes said that this officer's partner then drew his billy club and pointed it to his chest, saying something in a foreign language to his partner that a passing athlete who understood them later told Folkes was a racial allusion. Folkes is Black.

Winnipeg Police spokesman Eric Turner said that Folkes had been verbally abusive to the officers, a charge that Folkes denies, claiming that the only time that he spoke negatively to the officers up to the time of his arrest was a complaint he made to Windsor coach Dennis Fairall about their conduct in the officer's presence.

Turner refused to divulge the names of the officers involved.

Folkes then said he made his way to his girlfriend's room, at which point the officers kicked in the door as he was closing it. They surrounded Folkes, pushed him face-down onto the bed and formally arrested him for disturbing the peace. Folkes says that one of his fellow athletes, Anthony Black, was told by one of the officers to "go back to Africa."

Afterwards, Folkes was taken to the lobby and handcuffed by a third officer. John says when Folkes was arrested, he asked why the charges were laid. An officer replied that if John wanted information, he'd have to come to the police station. John also alleges that one officer said a crowd of athletes which had gathered should "go back to your country."

But when a contingent of athletes following Folkes got to the station, they were locked out, said John.

John says that as the crowd of athletes formed in front of the station, an officer came to the door and ordered the crowd to leave, then pushed an athlete and punched John in the face.

At this point, John says he became angry, challenging the officer, who in return taunted him.

The athletes dispersed back to the hotel, and John says he called Police headquarters to lodge a complaint.

Carl Folkes meanwhile was kept detained for four hours until \$500 bail was posted for "causing a public disturbance." Folkes filed a formal complaint against the Winnipeg police upon his release. However, as of Tuesday, it had not yet been received by Manitoba's Law Enforcement Review Agency, spokesman Des DePourcq told *Excalibur* Tuesday. *Excalibur* was unable to reach Fairall, but spoke to Dr. Jim Weese, Windsor's interim director of athletics and recreation.

"We're still in the investigative stages, and we've been in contact with Manitoba and other places (including director of Women's Athletics at York, Mary Lyons) to get all the

information," Weese said, adding that the campus' race relations officer, Dr. Subhas Ramcharan was investigating the incident's possibly racial motives.

Folkes was vocal about the role of the hotel in the incident.

"This whole thing happened because the hotel management went about it the wrong way. To say that the hotel blew the whole thing (the athlete's party) out of proportion is an understatement," Folkes said.

Holiday Inn South manager Bert Kitzler refused to answer queries over the phone.

At York, Sue Wise said that she is planning at least to issue a formal letter of complaint to Winnipeg Police on behalf of the York track team. Besides Lake and John, Yeowoman hurdler Angie Coon also claimed she was jostled by police. Besides John though, Wise doesn't know which other athletes will be filing formal complaints.

dates for the influential York Senate seats were dropped from the race after Chief Returning Officer Stephanie Infurnari discovered they weren't Arts students.

• Voter turnout for this year was 2,157 students, well under 10 per cent of eligible voters. This is down from 2,516 last year and a record 3,426 in 1990.

YFS President	
Nikki Gershbain	851
Diamond Tobin-West	805
George Sanghera	231
Joe Marcellino	164
Declined	64
Spoiled	42
Total	2157
VP-External	
Ron Stubbings	1088
Boris Cibic	658
Declined	280
Spoiled	113
Total	2139
VP-Internal	
Jeff Zoeller	687
Tony Tumillo	628
Grant Wagman	487
Declined	256
Spoiled	91
Total	2149
VP-Equality/Social Affairs	
Heather Dryden	1102
Sheldon Bergson	691
Declined	267
Spoiled	97
Total	2157
VP-Finance	
Chris Waghorn	703
Paul Brienza	552
Dennis Garces	396
Declined	262
Spoiled	119
Total	2032
Board of Governors	
Cindy Reeves	838
Chris Eecklor	739
Mike Bagley	223
Declined	302
Spoiled	129
Total	2231
Student Centre Corp. Board of Directors (3)	
Adam Szweras	762
Monty Abdo	725
Javed Khan	579
Ade Thomas	553
Sanjayan Jeganathan	396
Declined	448
Spoiled	170
Total	3633



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