

CYSF election irregularities

Monday Atkinson vote declared invalid

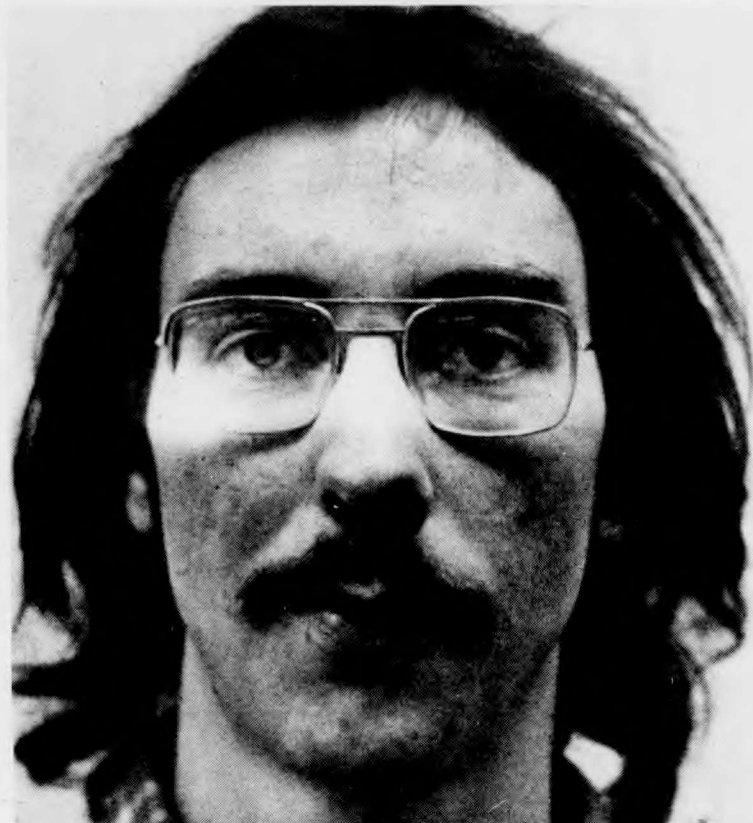
Over 200 Atkinson votes in the Council of the York Student Federation elections were declared invalid Monday night by chief returning officer Bob Williamson. He said on Tuesday that the Atkinson College Student Association executive had printed a statement supporting John Theobald for president which was read by professors just before ballots were distributed in the classroom. Theobald says he had nothing to do with the statement.

Williamson said he saw the ballot for the first time on Monday night although both he and ACSA director Gerry Griffiths had arranged to have ballots distributed in classes instead of operating polling booths. Griffiths said the statement of support was printed and handed to professors after the Atkinson newspaper Balloon failed to print it. Williamson said, "The only reason the ballots were invalidated was because of the biased statement read out to the classes."

It reads, "After a careful study of the candidates, the executive of your Student Association endorses the candidacy of John Theobald." Williamson said the rest of the statement was purely informative saying this was the first time Atkinson could vote in the CYSF elections. Griffiths said neither CYSF nor Atkinson could supply the manpower to operate the polling booths and so agreed to hand the ballots in class. ACSA wanted to ensure Atkinson students voted in the election now that the new constitution allows for it. He said there was no way to prevent duplicated votes but the average Atkinson student only had 1.2 courses.

United Left Slate campaign manager Ron Andrews declared that the statement was an attempt to coerce those who weren't familiar with the election and that polling booths should have been set up to handle the vote. "Then only those who knew something about the candidates would go and vote," he said.

College G and Calumet are not voting in the elections as they don't consider themselves part of CYSF. College G president Bob Thompson had asked that College G not be a part of the election although by-elections will be held if the voters decide to join CYSF in a referendum being held today.



CRO Bob Williams

Young Socialist pres acclaimed at U of T after others drop

Katie Curtin, Young Socialist candidate for president of the Students' Administrative Council at the University of Toronto was acclaimed to office Thursday when her two opponents withdrew from the electoral race.

Her vice-presidential running mates Roger Harper and Yusuf Cajee were automatically elected too, in accord with the new SAC constitution which stipulates that each presidential candidate must run with two vice-presidential nominees. All three must be from different constituencies.

Curtin's opponents withdrew shortly after filing their nominations. Left-Liberal Philip Dack withdrew after consultation with his supporters and a decision that they couldn't accomplish much through SAC.

The other presidential candidate engineering society president Eric Miglin withdrew after one of his running mates pulled out of the race. Miglin served as vice-president under current SAC president Bob Spencer.

Curtin's acclamation was a surprise upset in the SAC elections.

YORK BRIEFS

Smith is new editor

News editor Marilyn Smith was elected next year's editor by the Excalibur staff on Friday.

She said she was no masochist like the past editor but felt she would put her newspaper obligations above goaltending for Glendon Women's hockey team.

A record eight candidates applied in writing for the job but only five came to the pre-screening session Feb. 26. Three were selected for the final session on Friday.

Communications commissioner for Council of the York Student Federation Neil Sinclair forwarded the appointment to CYSF on Monday which accepted it unanimously.

Smith is the first woman to become Excalibur's editor and gained her first journalistic experience with Glendon's Pro Tem three years ago.

Military research sent back for review

Debate on the acceptance for foreign military funds for research at York continued Thursday as senate rejected another motion to stop new applications to foreign military granting agencies. But a new motion on the issue and the report on sources of research funds have been sent back to the senate committee on research for further review. The new motion made by Atkinson professor Howard Adelman, asks that the research committee detail the implications of funds received from foreign military sources and that senate endorse the acceptance of such funds. The rejected motion made by Atkinson natural science department head Luigi Bianchi was a watered down version of a motion made last week in senate by mathematics professor Lee Lorch. Senate defeated the Lorch motion but rejected Bianchi's proposal by 19 to 17, with two abstentions. The controversy over sources of research funding began two weeks ago when the senate research committee presented its report to senate recommending that there be no blanket rejection of fund sources. The individual conscience plus provisions for senate review and enquiry in special cases are suggested by the committee.

March 8, 9 elections Referendums & arguments

These are the referendums that are facing the voter today in the CYSF polling booths. The basic pro and con arguments have been listed.

The issues	Pro	Con
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you favor the removal of abortion from the criminal code of Canada, making abortion a matter of personal choice by a woman? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referendums across Canada are being held to muster support for New Democratic Party MP Grace MacInnis' bill to take abortion out of the criminal code. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Right to Life organization says a foetus is a living being and therefore the woman has no right to kill it.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are you in favor of the proposed York University Newspaper Act with an increase of student fees of \$2? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excalibur would become more of an objective third force on campus free from any council. The paper would have its own board of directors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Act includes a \$2 fee increase and if passed, will eliminate any power of Council of the York Student Federation to affect its policies through finances.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are you in favor of the creation of an independent fund, financed by a \$10 increase in tuition fees to sponsor a Student Union Building? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A SUB would centralize student services in one building and make them more accessible to students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A SUB would cost the student \$10 extra and tend to take away some of the college functions.

Daycare centre, nursery school, feel space pinch

By MARILYN SMITH

Who says you have to be 18 years old before you can come to York? Every morning there's a group of three and four year olds who troop into Ross S121 for a morning session with blocks, lego, puzzles and crayons.

Their classroom has tables and wire-basket seats, a sandbox, a reading corner and other provisions all provided through makeshift means by parents and staff in York's daycare centre. But as daycare staffer Hiliary Drorbaugh points out, "the worst thing to cope with is the lack of space. A couple of thousand dollars for equipment wouldn't do, what we need is more room."

The senate's planning committee meets with daycare representatives early next week to decide the future of daycare at York. It will be up to the committee to decide whether or not on-campus daycare warrants priority in the budget.

The daycare planning committee completed their report last week recommending York commit itself to on-campus daycare, both as a service and educational resource. Included in the report is the conceptual design of a \$300,000 centre copied from the Whiteside-Taylor Early Childhood Education Centre in Montreal.

Psychology professor Ron Sheese, liaison between his faculty and the daycare people commented Tuesday "the design looks beautiful. There's absolutely nothing in it that wouldn't be satisfactory." He said interest is keen on the part of several faculty members for use of the proposed centre as a research and training source.

The design for the new centre includes observational facilities with no interference in the activities of the centre. Traffic patterns for the children and observers are designed so that they never cross. Present daycare



Frolicking in the daycare school. Photo by Jon Price

conditions cannot be utilized for resource purposes.

The nursery schoolroom in the Ross building was set up to give the older children an enriched program. There was no room for it in the centre's regular quarters in graduate residence three. Every morning from 9 to 11 a.m. the children take part in a program of play and learning experiences in an open structure system.

"I notice the kids are so much calmer and happier in the room. There's less hostility than in the centre. There's a certain amount of hostility characteristic in children that age. But overall, there's excess hostility in the centre because of the space problem," Drorbaugh continued.

There are 40 children in the York centre ranging from infancy to school age. The daycare report says only 25 to 30 children will be accommodated next year in the present centre. Demand for spaces next year has already begun. Last September there were over 100 names on the waiting list.

Parent co-ordinator Jean Simmons says, "We tell people that with the present situation, there's little chance to get in." She has begun to encourage parents to organize amongst themselves to form another daycare centre. The present centre got its start that way three years ago.

Parent Elody Scholz said, "I hate to think of anyone having to go through what we had to go through. We used to put babies to sleep on the floor because we didn't have any cribs."