

Archdekin: council members "hypocrites," as they vote no to abortion referendum

by Brian Gold

The CYSF has decided not to hold the abortion referendum which was proposed by two of its members, said CYSF president Peter Donato. Students were to be asked whether they wanted the CYSF to take a stand on the abortion issue but council voted against the referendum at a February 21 council meeting, explained Donato.

The motion — presented by vice-president (external) Peter Merrick and seconded by equality commissioner Brian Archdekin at a December 6 council meeting — proposed that the CYSF ask students if they support the recriminalization of abortion and if they support their federation taking a stand on the recriminalization of abortion.

The motion fell through, however, as six CYSF members voted against it, two voted for it and three abstained, said Donato.

Archdekin said that, initially, most members were in favour of the referendum but that when it came to a vote, "the hypocrites went against it." Several CYSF members explained that they were elected to look after student issues and not ethical issues, Archdekin noted. Archdekin believes, however, the CYSF should look after any issue the students want it to look after.

A CYSF stand on abortion

would improve relations with the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS), said Merrick. He explained that the OFS has officially taken a pro-choice stance and that the referendum would have been in the best interests of the CYSF.

Two members of York's Women's Centre, Judith Pearson and Kathleen Hall, said that they,

and the majority of members, were disappointed with the CYSF's decision not to hold the referendum.

"York has over 40,000 students and should have a political voice to match," said Pearson. She added, "This is exactly the type of issue on which the CYSF should be representing its students. Abortion is a student issue, like

any other student issue," Pearson said. "The more universities which address the abortion issue, the stronger our voice will be against recriminalization."

Hall called the decision "standard behaviour for the CYSF this year," adding that, "the CYSF and Women's Centre have had poor relations this year."

Donato questioned Merrick's

sincerity and said that if he was really concerned with the abortion issue, he would have brought it up at the beginning of the year. Donato reasoned, "It is no coincidence that he is bringing it up around election time. It seems to be a ploy to get the support of the Women's Centre."

Merrick denied Donato's allegations.

Referendum requests by Osgoode, Glendon and *The Lexicon* turned down

by Daniel Wolgeleenter

The Board of Referendum (BOR) has turned down requests from *The Lexicon*, the Glendon College Students Union (GCSU) and the Osgoode Hall Legal and Literary Society for referendums to be held during the CYSF election period.

At its February 12 meeting, the board turned down a proposal from Bethune's college newspaper, *The Lexicon*, to ask students for \$1 per student for an unspecified alternative campus-wide newspaper. BOR chairperson Geoff Martin said *The Lexicon's* request was refused be-

cause it is not an incorporated body but is an activity of the Bethune College Council (BCC) according to the council's constitution.

"As long as it's considered an activity of the Bethune College Council, only the council can be considered responsible for it," Martin said.

He added that *The Lexicon* is not registered with the provost as a body that is entitled to receive a levy under President Harry Arthurs' *White Paper*. He said the BCC could have run the referendum and received the levy on *The Lexicon's* behalf, but added that the BCC had not given its complete support to *The Lexicon's*

proposal.

Martin also said it is too late to implement a levy for next September because the administration would not have enough time to publicize it and put it into the school calendar which has already gone to press.

If *The Lexicon* achieves autonomy from the BCC, then it "should be encouraged" to re-apply for a referendum, he said.

The Lexicon was trying to secure editorial and financial autonomy from the BCC which provides it with over half of its \$15,000 budget in order to become a campus-wide alternative to *Excalibur*.

At the BCC's February 22 meet-

ing, a motion was passed guaranteeing *The Lexicon* editorial freedom and "reaffirming the BCC's commitment to the autonomy it already enjoys," BCC president Chia-Yi Chua said. He stressed that, under the BCC constitution, *The Lexicon's* editor can only be impeached for "problems with financial accountability."

The motion came after negotiations took place last February aimed at securing independence for *The Lexicon* from the BCC. *The Lexicon* wanted independence from the BCC in order to become legally incorporated.

The Lexicon's editor, John

cont'd on p. 7

Weekend res clean up cancelled

Staff Story

Underfunding is now affecting the washrooms in the undergraduate residences. Weekend clean-up has been stopped and will resume May 1, 1990 when the new budget year begins, says manager of housing operations Peter Ridout.

"We're running out of money and that's one service we have to discontinue until we get our next budget May 1," says Ridout. "We'll be OK next year."

Residence maintenance service usually includes a clean-up on Sundays, as well as each day from Monday to Friday, explains Ridout, but the Sunday clean-up has been stopped. Instead, cleaning staff have been instructed to check each residence washroom Friday evenings as their last duty to make sure there is an adequate supply of toilet paper and garbage bags, says Ridout. A memo sent to inform caretakers about this states that weekend service will only be provided in an emergency.

Ridout says he has informed residence students about this and has received no response.

Vanier residence don Arlen Vranic says, however, he has not received any notice about the cut in service. He says in the past the only weekend maintenance in residence was garbage removal and that there never was a full weekend clean-up.

One Stong resident says the residence bathrooms have been a mess since the cutback. She says there is garbage overflowing the cans onto the floor.

Photo of the Week:



Patricia Hutahajan's "The Crystal Ball."