

# Councils at crossroads: part two

By Greg Saville

The college councils at York are at the crossroads in what is turning out to be one of the university's most politically active years.

As the arbitration of Calumet's withdrawal from the Council of York Student Federation has recently gone in the college's favour, a second significant political event at York is taking place at another non-member of CYSF.

Since Osgoode is a non-member, they have had no representation on the Ontario Federation of Students, and today the law school students go to the polls to decide whether or not to join OFS on a

trial basis.

This vote seems to emphasize Osgoode's position to remain out of CYSF, but the school's Legal and Literary Society president, Murray Miskin believes, "although it will be some time before we consider membership in the CYSF, we see it as a long term possibility." Miskin reflected consensus of opinion which is becoming more common around York's colleges that the CYSF is changing for the better.

"I'm impressed by what the CYSF has been doing lately," he said.

Asked about changes in CYSF this year, Barb Taylor, chair-

person for Winters college council, said the central student federation has shown more of a concern than in past years for the colleges around York.

The change in the central student's federation was also echoed by Brenda Patterson, chairperson for McLaughlin college council. She thinks the efforts of council president David Chodikoff to co-ordinate the actions of the college's during the York University Staff Association's recent strike were positive moves that reveal an important change in CYSF attitudes.

The changes in the CYSF's direction must have pleased

McLaughlin's council since its possible withdrawal from CYSF was voted down at a recent council meeting.

"Sure there are a lot of loopholes," said Patterson, "but I still feel that the CYSF is on its way to a successful year."

If a successful year is in order for the CYSF, yesterday's referendum will certainly point out some of its directions.

The intensification of the roles of the colleges in CYSF seems to be the general direction Chodikoff and his council members are taking.

Chodikoff explained, "You don't see us having any dances this

year.... that should be the cultural role of the colleges. I think we're on the right road now with services such as the typing service and the movie series."

But the question arises of whether or not it will take more than social services to keep the colleges' from either abolishing the ten year old federation or simply changing its structure.

An answer might turn up at a conference of college councils at Winters on the November fourth weekend. It is a conference dealing with a wide spectrum of York's college political affairs and it could evolve into a much more significant event than yesterday's CYSF referendum.

While the college councils are discussing student financial funding of CYSF during the conference, the issue of the viability of a council of colleges is sure to emerge.

Some student leaders across campus are already expressing pessimism about a council of colleges.

Patterson said she felt any council of colleges could not be as viable an organization as the CYSF is now. McLaughlin, she said, is in full support of a central student council.

Miskin believes a council of colleges would be a weaker governing body than CYSF. "If we have a committee of colleges," he said, "the people in it would be concerned with mostly the colleges. College interests are served very well now by the various college councils." With a council of colleges governing the York community Miskin feels that non-college affiliations such as Harbinger and Excalibur would be harmed.

Stong college council president Bill Petrie said that although he would listen to and consider recommendations about a council of colleges, "you don't tear down a building if you can renovate it."

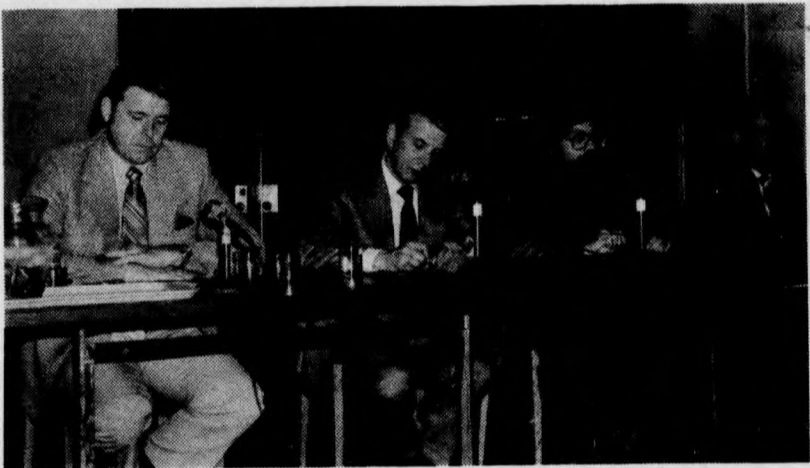
## Public meeting discusses labour relations

By Hugh Westrup

An atmosphere reflective of the deepening national crisis in labour relations prevailed at a public forum held on Tuesday afternoon to discuss collective bargaining in the public sector.

The event, sponsored by McLaughlin college and moderated by CTV newsman Lloyd Robertson, was punctuated by topical references to the York staff association strike and the current post office dispute.

Commenting on the state of public bargaining in Canada, Deryck Adamson, Director of Manpower Consultative Services in the Canada



Eva Adelman

Employment and Immigration Commission, said, "We're out of control. Public workers have the power to impose demands by withdrawing social services which are the fabric of our society. It's dangerous, suicidal. We haven't devised methods for handling public relationships."

"We, the public, are all involved in this problem because we are the employers," he emphasized.

Said Professor Harry Arthurs of Osgoode Hall, "We're in for a lot of problems. I have no glad tidings. Of panaceas I have none."

Arthurs said the private business model of collective bargaining adopted by the public sector has worked fairly well in the past but there are peculiarities in the public structure that cause problems.

One is the problem of limited resources. Governmental income is limited to the level of taxation and the growth and development of the economy. All public wage earners are drawing from the same pot which is being threatened at present by a 'taxpayers' revolt.'

"The resolution of one dispute affects all others," he said. "Every dollar given to a public professional is one taken away from a public tradesman. The web of connections in the public sector creates an infinity of problems."

Arthurs said public employees are caught in a unique bind.

"They want to assert themselves like private employees. They have a romantic fascination with the concept of the suppressed proletariat, but on the other hand they have a desire to serve the public, a sense of professionalism and class distance from those who do more mundane work. The two impulses are at odds with each other."

Arthurs did say, however, that public employers are at the forefront of having employees participate in decision making.

"In the private sector they would be standing at arms length. But the lines are deliberately blurred between employer and employee in the public sector."

"In years to come we won't escape collective bargaining but it can't work as in private business."

A third speaker, Graham McKechnie, chairman of the department of economics, raised the issue of essential versus non-essential services and pointed to the difficulties in categorizing the public sector which exists at municipal, federal and provincial levels and includes everyone from garbage collectors to medical workers to the police.

McKechnie also spoke of current methods of collective bargaining. He was guardedly optimistic about newer methods such as single team bargaining in which labour and management gather as individuals in a process of mutual problem solving, but cautioned that such techniques do not look at the underlying causes of disputes.

"We must get to know the basic problems; what do people expect from jobs, what do employers expect from employees? In some new research we are beginning to see how employers and employees are looking at industrial democracy."

In response to questions from the audience about the current postal dispute, Professor Arthurs said the best way to solve it will be the "least worst way out."

"Mail sorting is a rotten job. People sometimes forget the brute reality. It is intrinsic in the nature of some work that the work will be unsatisfying."



## WEEK AT YORK

Mon., October 30

- SHLOMO AVINARI
- Former Director general of Israel's Foreign Ministry
- Professor of Political Science
- "Implications of Peace in the MID-East"
- \* - Curtis Lecture Hall E - 3:00 p.m.

Tues., October 31

- 12 Noon - Israeli Slide Films
- Bear Pit, Central Square
- 12 Noon - Tel Aviv University Representative
- S105 Ross - Director Stuart Rosenberg
- 1 P.M. - Israeli Singing/Dancing - Bear Pit
- 2 P.M. - Hebrew University Exchange Program
- One Year Study, etc. S105 Ross
- 5:30 - Supper & Falafel Demonstration
- S101 Ross \$1.00
- 7:30 - Israeli Dancing
- Vanier R210
- Instruction & Dancing - All Welcome

Wed., November 1

- 12 Noon - Concert in Bear Pit with Bat Sheva Paul & Shlomo Carlebach
- 2 P.M. - Work Opportunities in Israel and Aliyah Questions answered by Al Goldberg
- 5:30 - Supper & Falafel Demonstration
- S101 Ross \$1.00
- 7:30 - Movie - "Exodus"
- S869 Ross - Free

Thurs., November 2

- 12 Noon - Bar Ilan University
- Institute of Holocaust Studies Program - S105 Ross
- 12 Noon - Israeli Films
- bear Pit
- 1 P.M. - Israeli Dancing
- Bear Pit
- 2 P.M. - Haifa University Representatives
- S105 Ross
- 3 P.M. - Kibbutz Living
- Yossi Strauch, Shaliach - S105 Ross

## NOMINATIONS

### FACULTY OF ARTS COUNCIL

Nominations are open for student seats on the Faculty of Arts Council and its committees. The Council is a standing committee of the Senate and is responsible for the academic policy of the Faculty of Arts. Nomination forms may be obtained from:

Information York  
Office of Student Programmes  
C.Y.S.F.  
Secretary of the Council, S936 Ross  
Acting Coordinator of the Student Caucus,  
Grace Levia, 225-6910

Sponsored by the Jewish Student Federation and York Student Zionist

\*Co-sponsored by Political Science department.