



ROBERTA DI MAIO

I WENT TO A PARTY AND A FOOTBALL GAME BROKE OUT: Last week's U of T-York pigskinning featured an impromptu half-time party. Zip Calhoun (centre) called it a "shindig."

Ali initiates restructuring plan for student government

By GARY SYMONS

Ever since its inception the Council of York Students Federation (CYSF) has been a political Humpty Dumpty, gradually disintegrating into messy pieces and defying anyone's efforts to piece it back together again. This year, however, CYSF President Reya Ali has initiated a restructuring plan that he feels has the best chance yet of bringing the non-member colleges back into the CYSF fold.

A confident Ali predicted this week that "CYSF will hopefully be re-cemented by late November or early January" with Bethune and Calumet colleges and Osgoode Hall rejoining the now fractured student federation. Atkinson College would be "a tougher nut to crack," Ali said, because there is no trust fund arrangement with the Atkinson College Students Association.

Currently, according to a recent report by York Provost Thomas Meininger only eight colleges are members of CYSF. Because of this fragmentation of student politics at York, Ali says, "there is the perception of student government at York that it is weak. That is, I think, at times a fair perception."

Ali also warned that if the various college governments and CYSF don't succeed in reforming a broadly representational student

government, there is the possibility that the university administration will step in and pressure a solution.

Martin Zarnett, a former Board of Governors student representative and a co-author of Meininger's report on student government, says the administration does have the power, if not the desire, to impose a model centralized government on York students.

"Under the York Act the president of York (Harry Arthurs) is empowered to step in and do anything he wants," Zarnett said.

While Ali says he does not want the administration to intervene, he said, "if things fall apart I would support his (Meininger's) move to look at the restructuring of the system. I mean, it's been 25 years; let's get out act together."

Meininger, the administrator in charge of student relations, agreed there must be a restructuring of York student government. He said the most fundamental problem with student politics at this university is "the fact that CYSF can speak for only eight colleges and 54 percent of students. There are 46 percent of students not represented by CYSF."

Meininger denied, however that the administration has any plans to intervene directly. "There is no plan," he said, "but as Provost...it

is my personal opinion that the whole question of the nature, structure and funding of student government at York needs a good examination a good review at this point in time."

Meininger did add, though, "that issues may come up which might force the administration, not to intervene and impose a model (of student government), but to establish that we can't resolve student issues because of the current state of affairs."

Asked what the administration would do if the non-member colleges simply refuse to move towards a more centralized form of student government, Meininger replied, "I would say that that is not good enough, and, while respecting the arms-length relationship here at York between the administration and student governments, I would encourage the issue be brought to the separate college constituencies, and I would look for ways of doing that."

While Meininger insisted the administration has no plans to impose a centralized model of student government, he did applaud Ali's efforts in that direction. "Reya Ali has been making a valiant effort to bring about changes and adaptations in CYSF to address some of the concerns that are there, and in that context all the student government's know what's going on."

Meininger did, however, have some reservations about the actual plan for restructuring Ali has brought forth. "There are still some issues that are still to be addressed that have not yet been addressed in Reya's efforts," he said, citing the problem of campus clubs as one example. Meininger said campus clubs should have more input into the decision making process at CYSF.

Under Ali's proposed system for a revitalized CYSF the government would be headed by an executive made up of the presidents of CYSF and all the college councils, and the present executive council, now consisting of directors of the various services CYSF provides, would not vote. General council would operate as it does now with representatives from each college voting at council meetings. As yet there is no place in the proposal for club representation but, as at present, there could be provisions made for club representatives to participate in council meetings to discuss their problems or needs.

Faculty union settles after two-day strike

By LAURA LUSH

A tentative agreement between the York University Faculty Association (YUFA) and the Administration early last Thursday morning ended the brief two day strike by the 1,100 faculty members and librarians.

"There's nothing in this settlement that couldn't have been settled six months ago," said YUFA chairman Hollis Rinehart, referring to the numerous mediation talks since the union's contract ended April 30.

Less than 2 percent in wage compensation separated the two parties when they went back to mediation talks on October 9. Rinehart called the tentative two year agreement a "modest settlement," offering a 7 1/2 percent increase in the first year and "a formula amounting to about 7 1/2 to 8 percent in the second year." YUFA was asking for 8.95 percent

in the first year, plus a guaranteed average of the provincial university system in the second year, plus one percent. Although Rinehart said that the final compensation offer was "not what the union had hoped to get," the possibility of striking for another two weeks over a small percentage "didn't seem like a responsible thing to do." Committees will also be set up to try to resolve other benefit issues such as merit pay and pensions.

"We didn't achieve anything on the issue over class sizes," Rinehart said. YUFA wants the power over the Administration to determine class sizes, based on educational considerations. "It (class sizes) remains a problem," said Rinehart, "that we'll have to work to settle over the next two years."

However, YUFA did gain some important

measures when the Administration withdrew their proposed language that would give Deans the power to deny sabbatical leaves. Rinehart also said a sabbatical compensation of 80 percent was being offered in the second year of the contract.

Although "it was unfortunate we (YUFA) had to go this route and strike," Rinehart said, "we passed the test by showing the Administration we do have the support of our members." Rinehart said that he hopes this strike, the first-ever for faculty members, will put "YUFA in a better position for future bargaining," adding that "we didn't have the feeling that the Administration took us seriously before."

The Administration couldn't be reached for comment.

A tentative date for a ratification vote on the contract is set for October 28.

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