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INSIDE!

OFS given convincing mandate as York students vote 'No'

By LORNE MANLY

York students voted convincingly last Thursday in favor of the Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF) remaining in the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS).

The No campaign garnered 57.3 percent (763) of the votes in the referendum, sweeping all eight polls in the process. The Yes side took 42.4 percent (565) of the 1,332 votes cast while there were four spoiled ballots.

"I feel great," enthused Gerard Blink, the coordinator of the OFS support committee said. "The students decided . . . that a federation that's province wide is more important than giving it to a small group."

Bernard Drainville, chairperson of OFS, was ecstatic as well over the referendum's results. "This vote confirms that the students at York feel that, more than ever, students should work together," Drainville said, "especially with a new government there (at Queen's Park)."

There's potential for changes in the student condition in general," Drainville continued. "(We) have to play our cards right to improve access and quality of the post-secondary education system."

Sandra Antoniani, CYSF's Director of External Affairs and head of the Yes campaign in the referendum, was disappointed but not surprised with the results. "It was going to be really difficult to try to get across the

information," Antoniani explained. "We had a disadvantage in that when (you) don't know all the issues, the idea of a provincial lobbying group is appealing. Lots of kids prefer not to believe that no one is getting results for them."

Antoniani is still convinced that OFS is an ineffective lobbying group and that because of its structure it cannot help York with its specific needs in areas such as underfunding. "One group representing all the universities can't work," Antoniani said. "All the universities are competing for the same government money; it's naive to think OFS can represent all of them."

Drainville, however, bristles at this accusation. "We (OFS) have been around for 13 years," he said, claiming this longevity says something about OFS's effectiveness. "We are a melting pot of all the institutions . . . and we have been able to work out differences and work out compromises; we can argue in details," Drainville asserted.

Both Drainville and Blink realize that OFS has problems and hope that now, with the referendum over, these can be solved. "Obviously OFS isn't perfect," Drainville said. "However, the way they (CYSF) want to resolve the problems (pulling out of OFS), I disagree with. The way I address problems is to identify the problem . . . and make sure it's addressed."

According to Blink, "if the new restructuring (of CYSF) goes through, York will have three votes in OFS, the same as Western (the maximum possible)." Blink added, "Hopefully they'll use them and we can make the changes needed. If we work on it province wide, we can change it."

Antoniani, on the other hand, is not as confident that these changes are possible. "I don't think they're (OFS) going to change," Antoniani said. "(All OFS) learned was how to fight against more points brought up in the referendum."

Yet Antoniani is resigned to the outcome of the vote. "We're obligated to represent them (the students) in OFS because that's what they want," Antoniani said. "If we are going to have to stay in, I'll be doing whatever I can (to improve OFS as well as attend to York's specific needs)."

CYSF President Reya Ali commented on the results by stating, "It's a pity but I think there will have to be another referendum next year because our fees will probably increase to the figure of about \$60,000. Right now we're paying for only 10,000 students."

As far as future cooperation between CYSF and OFS, Ali said, "It's rather late in my year to do anything now, but I will leave that to my successor."



IF THE SHOE FITS . . . York Provost Tom Meininger and a subtly-disguised friend chat during Tuesday night's basketball double-header with U of T at Tait. Vice-President Bill Farr (right, background) looks on.

ROBERTA DI MAMO

Jews for Jesus removed from campus by Metro police

By SUSAN SPERLING

In the wake of heated debates among members of the York Inter-Faith Council (IFC), two members of the organization "Jews for Jesus" were escorted off campus by Metro Police Tuesday.

The organization has tried to attain official recognition as a campus club from Provost Tom Meininger. However, it has run into several obstacles blocking recognition, which culminated with the police intervention.

In order to attain official recognition, a club must fill out an application containing the signatures of 10 York students who wish to be affiliated with the club. Jews for Jesus originally had 10 signatures, but several of these, which belonged to members of the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF), were withdrawn last week.

At a February 5 meeting of the IFC, Jewish Student Federation (JSF) member Rhonda Drash told the Council that the names were with-

drawn because the applicants in question had no idea what they were signing. Although a spokesperson for the IVCF refuted that statement, the JSF charged Jews for Jesus with deceit, which goes against the IFC membership guidelines.

The IFC was asked by the Provost for advice and recommendations concerning the application, which, because of the lack of signatures, is now just a hypothetical issue. The application will be further dealt with

once Jews for Jesus has attained the required signatures.

However, Meininger told *Excalibur*, the matter has been taken out of the IFC's hands, and will be dealt with at the appropriate time by himself and Cora Dusk, director of Student Affairs. Meininger said that the issue was polarizing the IFC. "The issue was too divisive to the Council," he said, and for that reason, he does not wish to involve them further.

However, during the weeks that the application was being dealt with by the IFC, many heated accusations were thrown at Martin Verke and Steve Cohen, representatives of Jews for Jesus. Most of these charges were laid by members of the JSF, who are the major opponents of Jews for Jesus on campus.

The JSF claimed that, unlike other Christian missionary groups, Jews for Jesus have only one target for its proselytization: namely, Jewish people. Although Cohen and Verke both claimed that their aim is not to "convert anybody; it's to raise the name of Jesus," the JSF say they have evidence to the contrary.

Among the evidence is a report published by Jews for Jesus entitled *What evangelical Christians should know about Jews for Jesus*, and is subtitled *A CONFIDENTIAL REPORT: not to be distributed to Non-Christians*. One paragraph of the report states, "we strive through creative communications to carry the message of Christ's love to Jewish people . . ."

It is, however, not in keeping with University policy to use past history against an applicant club or group. Cora Dusk, who will be involved in making the final decision, said, "We can't per se consider past activities. We will, though, look at information from sources such as the JSF and we will look at activities on other campuses." She added, "It's a very gray issue."

What Dusk and Meininger must look into is the list of *Rights and Responsibilities On Campus*, which is attached to the application. A section of those rights and responsibilities states "Inherent in this attitude of intolerance of the views, religion, colour, or nationality of others. We consider it a wrong to engage in such intolerance . . ."

Rayzel Robinson, executive director of the JSF, said that Jews for Jesus displays this sort of intolerance. "This group has proven itself to provoke Jews, to make Jewish-Christian dialogue impossible."

Although the decision has been postponed, Jews for Jesus sent two representatives, including Verke, on campus Monday. Dusk said she asked them to leave. She said that Jews for Jesus representatives were not members of the York Community, nor were they invited to come on-campus. On Tuesday, she told *Excalibur* "they were not members of York, they have not been officially recognized, and York is private property." She added, "if they were students, it would be different. It's a question of should they be permitted to give their viewpoint? As long as they're not provocative."

Though Dusk asked the representatives to leave on Monday, they were back Tuesday, handing out pamphlets and engaging students in theological discussions. A complaint was issued to York Security, who asked Verke and his companion to leave campus. When they would not comply with the request, the police were called in. The officers asked them to leave and told Verke that if he or any member of his group comes back on campus, they will be charged with trespassing.

"Once there are 10 student signatures on the application," Dusk said, "we will have to investigate the matter from a different standpoint."

Weak dollar and uncompetitive publishers blamed for York Bookstore's textbook prices

By DOUGLAS STEWART

A recent Council of York Student Federation (CYSF) report reveals that the York University Bookstore cannot be blamed for the high cost of required texts for courses at York.

While most students question

where their money is going when faced with a \$20 price tag for a 100 page soft-cover book, Janet Bobechko, CYSF Internal Affairs Director and author of the report, believes that the real culprit is a combination of a weakening Canadian dollar and a lack of internationally competitive Canadian publishing companies.

"Eighty percent of the York University Bookstore inventory" are textbooks and most of those are from the United States," Bobechko said. "If they were published in Canada there wouldn't be so many problems."

Bobechko's six-page report was based on a price comparison study of three major textbook vendors. The York University Bookstore, University of Toronto's Bookroom, and the World's Biggest Bookstore located at Yonge and Edward. The report found that when a price discrepancy occurred, York's prices tended to be lower by as much as four dollars.

Included in the report were explanations of the role of distributors and publishers in defining prices, the effects of copyright competition, and

the availability of books and the quantity ordered. However, the most dramatic finding was the discrepancy in pricing policy between the privately owned World's Biggest Bookstore and the York campus bookstore (the pricing policy of U of T's Bookroom was not disclosed). The report showed that the downtown store earns a profit above the publishers' list price ranging anywhere from 20 to 50 percent. By contrast, "This is the first year the York bookstore has been instructed by the administration to earn a profit," Bobechko said. "The bookstore now has to make a profit of two percent. The bookstore manager, Rafael Barreto-Rivera, told me that he will try not to earn the two percent off of textbooks."

Another important point raised by the CYSF report is the tendency of course directors to choose more expensive texts based solely on the recency (currentness) of the publication. "Some prof's are conscious of this problem yet most feel that the newest edition is the best thing. They don't always take a close enough look," Bobechko said.

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