

# McLaughlin resignations force new college elections

Barb Taylor

As of Tuesday night eight of 11 McLaughlin College Council members had resigned amid questions concerning the legitimacy of their election. In the process many questions have been raised about the administration's control over student affairs.

The latest set of resignations follows the decision of Master Doxey to dissolve the council in November on the basis of election irregularities. That dissolution was followed by an election in which 11 people were acclaimed to nine council positions. On November 30, the new council voted to dissolve itself but Doxey refused to accept their decision, and the new council resumed its functions. Pressure within the college moved the majority of them to resign by Tuesday.

## Proper decision

Ameen Keshavjee, last president of the council said pressure on members to resign included, "harrasment, council members being yelled at because they did not deserve to be in office."

Keshavjee did not feel that the decision to accept 11 people for nine constitutional positions was improper. Fareed Khan, previous Director of External Affairs says, "students started saying that there was a mistake in procedure and that we should have the right to vote on who's

going to represent us."

Randy Dobson, current McLaughlin representative to CYSF, also questions Doxey's right to overturn the November 30 dissolution motion: "I personally don't feel Doxey has the power to do the majority of the things he has done. The students should govern themselves."

In a first interview, Doxey said that he had no knowledge of the motion to dissolve the council on November 30, while Keshavjee said that council met with Doxey on December 1 to discuss the motion. In a second interview, Doxey said he did know about the motion to dissolve, and "told them to postpone their decisions until after Christmas." at the December 1 meeting.

After the Tuesday meeting, the council speaker called this session of council to an end, and placed the matter in Doxey's hands. Doxey plans to call elections again, but the date has yet to be decided.

The McLaughlin Council saga has also raised other issues such as the administration's power over student affairs and the power of colleges over CYSF reps.

Dobson, the original CYSF representative, maintains he is still the representative although the November 30 election organized by Doxey appointed a new person who has subsequently resigned. CYSF supports Dobson's position and was opposed to

the original dissolution of council.

In November Dobson called on W. Farr, Vice-President of Student and Employee Relations to mediate the situation, and to provide some principles for administration involvement. Farr supports administration involvement in college councils and CYSF as a "very, very last resort," in cases of "dishonesty or corruption." When asked what kind of control, he said the administration could "not pass over the council grants until people had the opportunity to review leaders." Keshavjee said, "CYSF this year has acted very childishly in many situations-I think it would be marvelous for the administration to step in."

## 'We're not kids'

Dobson refers to a petition with over 200 signatures against Doxey's involvement as a vote of confidence in the capability of students to control their own affairs. "This is a university, we're not kids," he said. Dobson thinks that this may be a general trend both in society and at York. He refers to Doxey's attempt last year to influence McLaughlin pub policy and says, "this is the first year that the quiet policy (in McLaughlin residence) has been so stringently laid down, and the caution fund has been doubled to \$50."

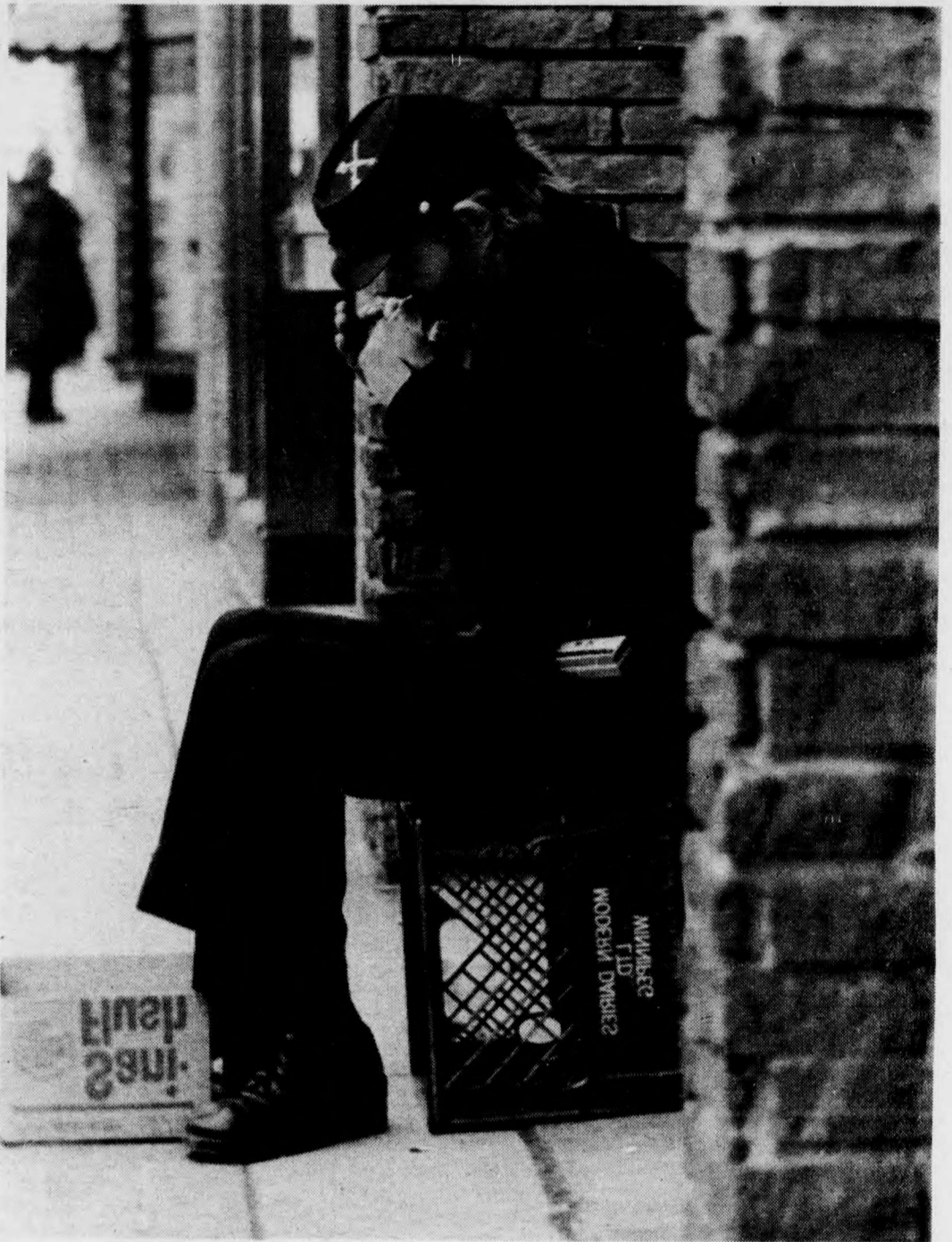


Photo: Mario Scattoloni

Yonge Street

## Decision awaits full council approval

# CYSF Executive chooses new Chief Returning Officer

The Executive Council of the C.Y.S.F. has approved Larry Till's application for the position of Chief Returning Officer but the appointment must be ratified by the general Council at next Tuesday's meeting.

"It's always dangerous to be over confident," says Till. "It's important not to overlook the procedural

aspect of anything. I'll take it as it comes."

Till, who was one of four applicants, will be responsible for conducting "any election, by-election, referendum, or poll conducted by the Council".

The Charter states that when "the Council advises the Chief Returning Officer that an election has been called, the full authority for its

administration, unless otherwise specified herein, shall lay with the Chief Returning Officer." The Chief Returning Officer functions as the final authority of the Election Tribunal, which also includes the Speaker of the Council and a third person agreeable to both the Speaker and the C.R.O.

The next general CYSF election must take place no

later than the fifteenth of March but at present, two offices on the Executive Council are vacant. Director of Internal Affairs, vacated by John Chang; and Director of External Affairs, vacated by Jorge Garreton.

Tony Finn, CYSF Business Manager, expressed his opinion that it would be costly and confusing to run a by-election so close to a general

election. Former Director of Internal Affairs, John Chang, believed that the Executive Council could not reach an agreement on whether to have a by-election even if it were feasible; "I don't think they have even passed their budget yet. How could they agree on something as important as a by-election."

The only other solution to filling the two executive

vacancies is to appoint interim directors. At present, such a move is unconstitutional.

"The position of Chief Returning Officer can be very demanding" said Finn.

For making sure everything runs right, which includes making a final report to the Council no more than seven days after an election, Till will be paid \$700 per election.

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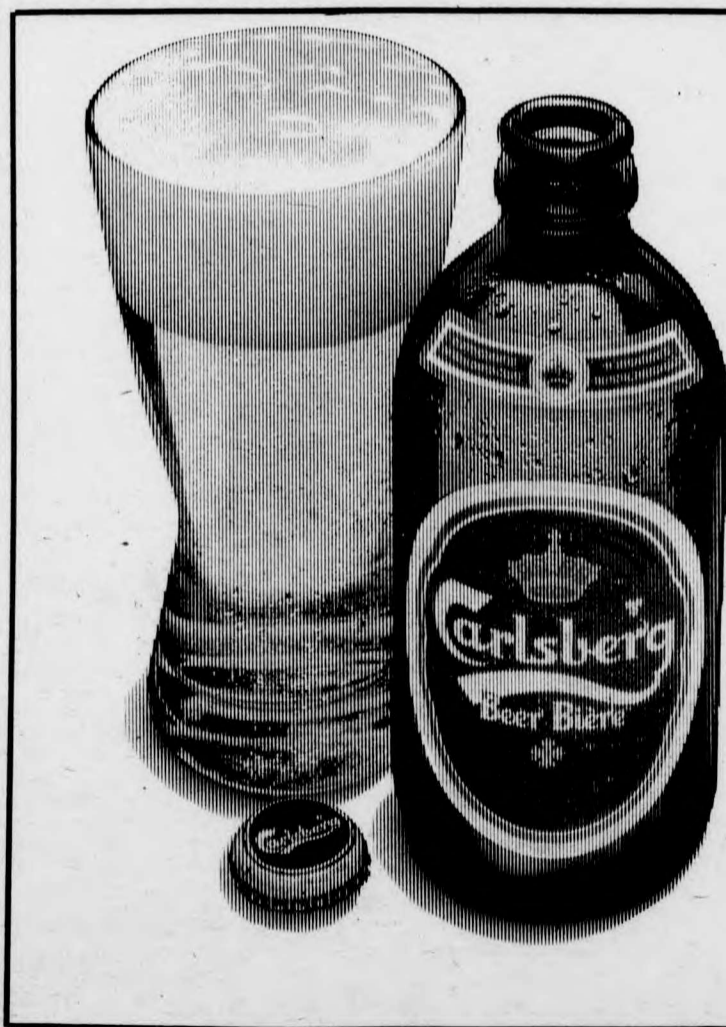
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