



Hey...did you hear this is the last issue of Excalibur ever?



OOOOOOOH!!!! NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!



You're lying!

Tell me it isn't true.....



I knew it. They'll be back next year!

Invalidation possible in CYSF election

BRIAN HENRY

At a CYSF election Tribunal enquiry held on Monday, Director of Academic Affairs Mark Pearlman admitted he stole ballots while assisting in the tabulation of election results last week.

The Tribunal also heard charges that ballot boxes were stuffed, eligible voters were denied ballots, election advertising contained incorrect information, and that a ballot box from Stong College was returned late by an unauthorized person.

Pearlman was acting as a scrutineer in the Ombudsperson referendum when he stole the ballots. Chief Returning Officer Larry Till told the tribunal (of which he is a member) that six ombudsperson ballots bearing "no" votes were found in Pearlman's pocket, and that a CYSF presidential ballot bearing a vote for Maurizio Bevilacqua was found in the pocket of Allan Schacht, who was scrutineer for Board of Governors candidate Martin Zarnett. Schacht was not present at the enquiry.

Enoch Bempong, scrutineer for presidential candidate Morris Bevilacqua, said he became suspicious of Pearlman and Schacht because the two, together, often left the room in which the ballots were being counted. (According to Till, people were allowed to leave the room to go to the washroom.) Bempong said he started watching Pearlman and Schacht and said he saw Schacht elbowing ballots off the table, which Pearlman picked up and put in his pocket. When Bempong accused the two of taking ballots, Till had Pearlman and Schacht empty their pockets. Discovering the ballots, Till then dismissed the two scrutineers. Till said the incident occurred about 5:30 a.m. Friday. Polls closed at 6:00 p.m. Thursday.

Till said that although he knew it was illegal for scrutineers to handle ballots, he asked them to help sort as a time-saving measure. Till, who says he received a consensus from all of the scrutineers for the procedure, estimates it would have taken 25 work-hours to sort and count the ballots from one Central Square ballot box, and pointed out that there were three boxes from Central Square as well as those from the colleges. A reliable source says it took a total of 18 hours to complete the count.

Till said that a number of Ombudsperson ballots, all of which bore "yes" votes, were found folded together in a ballot box. Till said it is impossible that ballots individually dropped into the box could have come out all folded together. Also, ballots are numbered and those found folded together were from the first day of voting and should have borne numbers about or under 400. But the ballots found folded together were all numbered between 1,500 and 2,000. A reliable source said that in total, 20 to 30 ballots with wrong numbers were found in the ballot box.

Bipin Lakhani, CYSF Director of Social and Cultural Affairs and candidate for the Senate (Faculty of Arts), said that at 6:15 Thursday evening (15 minutes after polls closed), the ballot box from Stong College had not been returned to Central Square, and he became worried. Lakhani said he went to Stong and did not find the poll, the Deputy Returning Officer, or any scrutineer. Lakhani said he returned to Central Square and found that the ballot box from Stong still had not been returned. He said that at 6:35 the ballot box was returned, and the person who returned it was not a DRO. At the enquiry, it was not established who returned the Stong ballot box.

Terry Conlin, President of the Graduate Student Association, said that for a few hours Thursday morning, graduate students were denied ballots for the election of the CYSF President and CYSF Director of External Affairs. Till affirmed that the mistake occurred. Conlin also said that an advertisement placed in *Excalibur* by the Chief Returning Officer incorrectly stated that grads could not vote in the referendum for OFS and the CFS. Till affirmed that the mistake occurred. Conlin said that some grads had not gone to the polls because they believed they could not vote.

Excalibur has also learned that the advertisement placed in *Excalibur* was incorrect in that it said that students from the Graduate Business Council and from the Environmental Studies Student Association could not vote in the OFS and CFS referenda.

Tye Burt, of the Election Tribunal, said that because of the irregularities which had been reported to the Tribunal, the validity of the vote was in doubt. Burt said that no election results will be released until it is determined that the results are valid. Burt indicated that the Tribunal would only invalidate the election if it decided that irregularities may have changed the result.

Unofficial election results

Excalibur received this unofficial ballot count from a reliable source who was present at the time of the count. These are unofficial statistics as the Chief Returning Officer, contrary to By-law No. 2, Article 21, Section 1 and Article 19, Section 7.1 and Article 18, Section 5 has failed to release the official count. Copies of the election rules (By-law No. 2) are available at the CYSF office, Room 105 Central Square of the Ross Building.

ELECTIONS

CYSF President

C. SUMMERHAYES	M. BEVILACQUA	Difference:
860	358	502

CYSF External Affairs

M. DEFRANCESCO	P. EISENBERG	Difference:
470	559	89

Senate

M. ZARNETT	C. LEWIS	Difference:
1067	413	654

Spoiled Ballots

Ombudsperson 72; Senate 91; External Affairs 113; President unknown

Results of referenda--see page 12