

Candidate proliferation worries Bell

# Musallam, Smith complicate numbers game



Bell, playing second fiddle

Continued from page 1

Vanier council president Kevin Smith, another influential Complex I student leader who was supposed to give way to Edson, verified Wednesday morning that he still expected to run for president.

Even so, Edson's backing in Complex I is solid. Winters council president Kelly Allen is one of the main organizers of the Edson campaign, and McLaughlin coun-

cil chairman Paul Bushell is reported to support both Edson and the slate of independent candidates who are running on similar platforms. The Jewish Student Federation is also reportedly ready to support Edson.

Edson owes much of his support to the ULC, or rather, to the ULC backlash, which Bell still credits for his decisive win in the December Board of Governors elections over the ULC candidates.

"Definitely there's a ULC backlash, and rightly so," says Edson, "they've been attempting to polarize the campus and they've done that."

But the strength of Edson's candidacy lies with his platform, which may mark the first time in three years that the ULC platform has been upstaged in depth and in student appeal.

Aside from dealing with issues on cutbacks and food, Edson is calling for an apolitical CYSF and has a plan to bring it about. Using the results of the four Complex I college council presidents' secession study, Edson's platform calls for a restructuring of the CYSF.

The restructured CYSF would inexorably tie the central council

to the college councils, by allowing for only four positions in the CYSF (president, first and second vice-presidents and treasurer) to be elected by the York students at large. The remainder of the council, 36 positions, would be composed of four appointees from each college, along with four appointees from the graduate students association and the business faculty.

"What we are trying to do is preserve the college system," explained Edson, justifying his belief that CYSF must be restructured.

"All that this new structure will mean is that political activists will have to get involved in the colleges."

It is in this area that Edson and the ULC will clash, because the ULC has repeatedly endorsed a policy whereby the power of the central government would be increased even, and at times especially, at the expense of the college councils.

They will also clash on political styles.

"The most important issue in this campaign is leadership and students have to choose between my style and that of the ULC," said Edson.

"The student government's responsibility is to protect the interests of the students. The ULC is saying that cutbacks are a ULC issue and that everyone else in jumping on the bandwagon is demagogic."

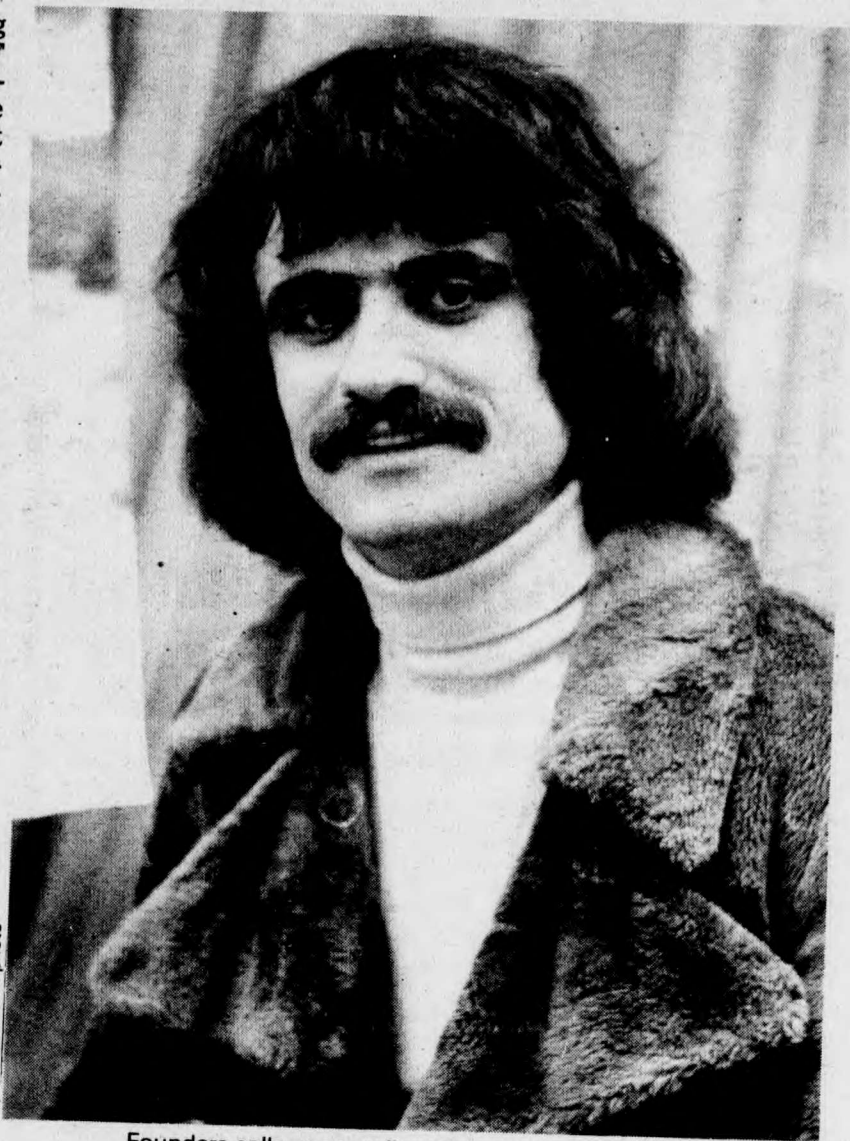
Despite his backing, Edson wants to avoid an election with one ULC candidate receiving solid backing from the left organizations on campus, and five or six moderates splintering the non-ULC vote.

"I think it would be dangerous if there was a proliferation of candidates," warned Bell.

But with six days remaining before nominations close, Edson and Bell's greatest fear is already being borne out. Musallam and Smith have already indicated they will run for president and Greg Martin of McLaughlin remains a strong possibility.

Not surprisingly Musallam, who was originally in the conclave of Edson-Bell supporters, is conducting his campaign along similar grounds to Edson.

"My main aim is to have a non-politically oriented CYSF," Musallam told Excalibur this week.



Founders college council president Izidore Musallam

Musallam dissented from Bell's analysis that a proliferation of non-ULC votes will guarantee a ULC victory in the election.

"Just because a student doesn't like the ULC, doesn't mean he'll want to vote for the other party. If there are more candidates, it will result in the students having a better option and will draw more votes."

Musallam expects some 2,000 students to vote on March 17, out of which 800 will win the presidency. He will deal with the issues of food and cutbacks, as all other candidates, but it is the approach which will set him off from the ULC, he says.

"Cutbacks is a very important issue on campus and many claim we have to fight, scream and riot in order to stop the cutbacks. That is rather ridiculous; the entire world is faced with inflation, so why shouldn't students be more realistic in their expectations?"

Musallam would also stress the

## GAA asks for \$4,400 wage and living cost increase

By ROBERT KASHER

The Graduate Assistants Association has started active bargaining with the administration for the first time in the history of the university. The contract package includes demands for a \$4,400 yearly wage as well as a retroactive cost of living increase.

Bargaining is also centering around demands relating to job security and better working conditions.

At present no settlement has been reached, but as Robin Envers, GAA spokesperson put it, "things are going well."

There has been concurrence on both sides that the proposals have shown concern over both improving the position of graduate students at York, and thusly raising the quality of education at York. Wage increases were gauged in a way that would define an assistant's salary according to their work.

The \$4,400 wage is one-third that of a lecturer, similar to assistants' work which is generally of the same ratio.

Likewise, the cost of living allowance relates back to a basic demand of the GAA when it was first formed, an attempt to guarantee the same level of purchasing power to graduate students suffering the consequences of inflated prices and stagnant salaries.

Bargaining has now gone on around all these issues for two weeks and all sides seem agreed that the atmosphere is friendly. As Dean Argyle, who along with Don Mitchell, Ellie McTaggart and George Doxie make up the administrative bargaining unit said, "The bargaining looks optimistic, speedy and expeditious."

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