

# Saywell pulls out of presidency

By JOHN KING

John Saywell, York's arts and science dean, has withdrawn his name as a candidate for president of the university, charging that slanderous tactics are being used to influence the outcome of the selection.

In a letter to university secretary W. D. Farr Monday, Saywell said "I have never had the ambition to be president of York or any other university," and said any ambitions he might have had were "more than offset by the haggle over procedure, which seems to have left suspicion and mistrust on all sides, and the flood of rumor, fabrications and slander that has circulated on the campus over the past few months."

"He would not comment Monday on whether he would still run if he were renominated.

In the letter Saywell said he

would not want to move into the president's office "under a cloud".

"I do not wish to be a candidate for any position where rumors do not have to face the light of day, where whispered accusations cannot be answered and accusers have only their own conscience to live with..."

He criticized the selection procedure in his letter, saying the senate "should have the preponderant voice in the selection" of a new president.

Michael Oliver, the vice-principal (academic) of McGill University in Montreal pulled out of the race when the names of the presidential candidates were released in EXCALIBUR and The Globe and Mail Dec. 9. Oliver has also been a strong contender for the principalship of McGill.

The only remaining candidate for the job, University of Toronto

arts and science dean Albert D. Allen, said in an interview Monday night: "I'm sad - from York's point of view... and sorry. It's a great pity that he can't be considered."

Justice Bora Laskin, a member of the board of governors and chairman of the search committee which put forward the three names for a final decision, seemed confused about the procedure for the committee now.

"If the matter has become fluid again I don't know who has the next move," he said in an interview. "I went gaily off to London, England, not expecting two out of three of the candidates to resign.

"We executed the mandate we understood we had... we have to consider where we're going to go."

New Glendon College principal Albert V. Tucker, a member of the

search committee, said Monday: "I don't know where we go from here... the committee will have to reconvene. From here on the discussion will have to get a little more complicated."

Council of the York Student Federation president Paul Koster, also a member of the search committee, said it was "a shame" Saywell had pulled out, but said: "I don't know what his real reasons were."

## Vanier CYSF vote to be held Friday

Students in Vanier college vote tomorrow on whether to remain in the Council of the York Student Federation.

The referendum was announced last term by Vanier college council who are opposed to the incorporation of the federation council and are generally dissatisfied with the council's activities this year.

Vanier was at first reluctant to call the referendum, but Vandoo editor Mel Lubek, who last year ran for CYSF president, pressured the council into taking the action.

A two thirds majority of those voting in tomorrow's referendum is needed before Vanier can pull out. A forum on CYSF is being held today at 10:30 in Vanier common room.

Rod Macdonald, Vanier college council chairman, says he believes a central council composed of representatives from the college councils could replace the present CYSF.

Winters college council president Marshall Green said such an attempt would be "ridiculous."

"You can't get four college councils together to run a dance!" Green said.

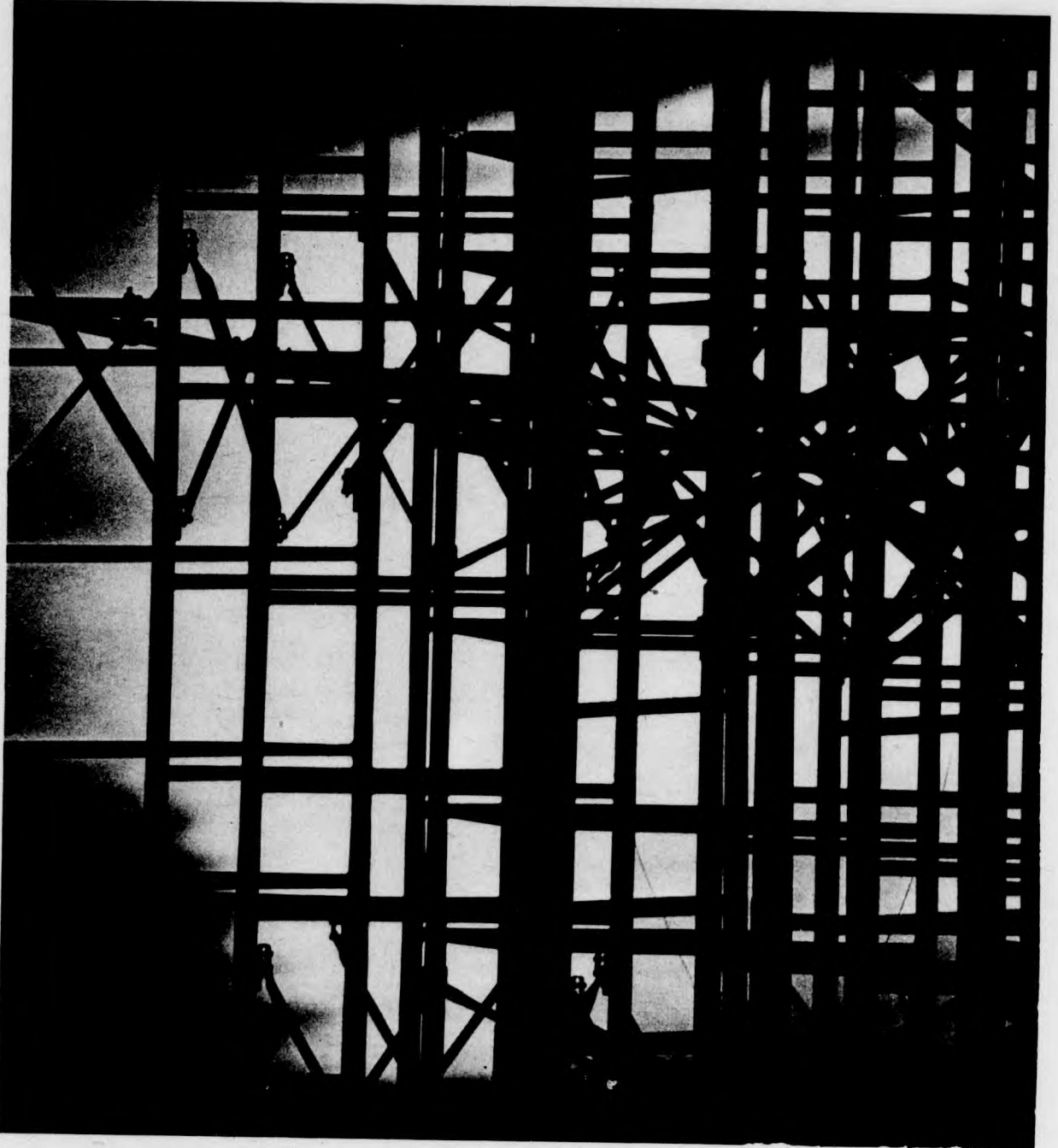
At present CYSF is "weak", he said. When people elect strong members to it, "that's when students will have a truly effective relation with the university administration."

CYSF president Paul Koster has denied charges by Vanier councillors that CYSF's incorporation as a legal entity would destroy the "college system", saying "incorporation has absolutely nothing to do with the college system."

He charged that Lubek was "just after print — to see his name in the papers, to raise shit over non-issue."

Vanier council's sponsoring of a "reorientation" program at the same time as the referendum has been seen by some observers as an attempt to stir up college spirit and thus cause the vote to go against continued membership in CYSF.

The reorientation program includes football games, skidoo rides and a free college dinner.



The sun sets on another winter day behind the scaffolding of a new library.

Excalibur -- Dave Cooper

### Comment by Bob Roth

## Change CYSF — don't cop out of it

Tomorrow Vanier students vote on whether or not to withdraw from the council of the York Student Federation, a vote that may well determine the future of central student government at this university.

In November, Vanier College Council, after persistent prodding by Vandoo editor Mel Lubek, decided to call a referendum following consideration by CYSF to incorporate.

Vanier councillors claim that by incorporating as a legal entity, CYSF would reduce college councils to subordinate status and harm the alleged college system. Many councillors also expressed general concern over CYSF's inability to relate meaningfully to students this year.

CYSF president Paul Koster is the first one to admit that his council has not been in the vanguard of university reform and says he is quite prepared to justify his stand at the forum today at 10:30 in Vanier common room.

Koster did not run for election last February on a strong reform platform and he says that students wanting a more active council could have voted for the slate put forward last year by what was then called the York Sunday Movement (YSM).

However, while being critical of CYSF's inability to act, one cannot help but have great reservations about the ability of college councils to act.

In the words of Winters college council president Marshall Green, "You can't even get the four college councils together to run a dance!"

Green, who was an executive member of last year's York Student Council, admits that this year's council is "weak" but labels "ridiculous", suggestions that a legislative union of college councils could do any better.

"I'm still convinced that there's a need to have a centralized student government to deal with a centralized administration," Green said in an interview.

Students battling students is the kind of "divide and conquer" activity the administration thrives on, he said.

Indeed, a rational examination of the problem leads one to conclude that what is needed is not a withdrawal from CYSF but rather a concerted effort on the part of York students to change the structures of CYSF and vote in a competent and aggressive slate of candidates to replace the people we now have.

Everyone agrees that the present council lacks vision and imagination. But then again the students have no one to blame but themselves. They were given a clear alternative during the last elections by a YSM slate that pledged itself to academic reform in the university.

Those who complain about boring lectures and large classes should not forget that YSM offered to deal with these very real problems, but no, the old fear of the council being taken over by "flaming radicals" caused York students to once again vote-in a rather wishy washy council.

The answer is obviously not to abandon the concept of central student government. The administration would like nothing more than to be able to deal separately with five or six impotent college councils, thereby preventing students from working as a collective.

The answer is for York students to grow up, get out of high school politics and elect a progressive slate to a new CYSF.

College councils are fine for arranging dances, building coffee houses and painting the furniture, but because of their sectarian nature and their historical inability to work together, students must look elsewhere for a centralized body to deal with academic and other university-wide matters.

It becomes tiresome, in fact, to hear the college councils moan year after year about CYSF not being relevant to the students. Neither are the college councils!

And if one must choose between building a good centralized student government and playing with limited college councils, the choice is obvious.

Every year we go through the college council/ central

council feuds. Last academic year Founders Council censured YSC president John Adams for comments he allegedly made on student revolt at York. The same year McLaughlin college councillors fought to keep McLaughlin out of the central government. Petitions demanding resignations of YSC councillors were also circulated.

This year Vanier college has pulled an even neater political trick. By holding a "reorientation" program at the same time as the CYSF referendum, they hope to build up a "rah rah" college atmosphere and thus emotionally con students into voting for a Vanier pull-out.

Will there be no end to these childish games?

Past experience has shown that college councils do little more than act as glorified social committees, and with the exception of attacking their respective college newspapers or assaulting the central student government, their political contributions to the campus are practically nil.

The administration is centralized, the faculty is centralized and virtually all the entire academic activities of this campus are centralized. (Even the decision to have college tutorials was made by a centralized faculty council and a centralized university senate).

If students want meaningful change in their community they need a strong central voice. And if they want a strong central voice they'll have to muster the courage to elect dedicated and progressive people to a central body.

That is not to say the structures of CYSF are adequate as they presently stand. Indeed dedicated people who run for CYSF in February will have to run on a platform of redistributing power.

There is a great deal of merit in the proposal that open meetings be held where all students are allowed to vote.

Only by giving such power to a politically emasculated student body can a council hope to deal with the cloud of apathy, alienation and futility that hangs ominously over the present CYSF.