

Senate candidate refused name change on ballot

By DAVID BYRNES

A controversy involving a senate candidate who wanted to change his name to "Aardvark" on the CYSF election ballot erupted Friday morning, only minutes after the election campaign was officially underway.

Owen Widgerson, who is running for a Faculty of Arts Senate seat, is unhappy with the alphabetical listing of candidates on the ballot, and asked CYSF Chief Returning Officer (CRO) James Crossland during the week before close of nominations if he could change his name. Crossland refused, and has since pointed out an article in the CYSF constitution which states that the ballot must contain "no other information" than a candidate's surname, given name, and political affiliation.

Last Thursday Widgerson asked Crossland whether he would arrange to have the order of the names appearing on the ballot determined by a draw from a hat. Crossland agreed, on the condition that the draw was unanimously agreed to by the candidates.

At a meeting Friday morning, only five of the 17 senate candidates were present, three of whom were opposed to the idea of drawing names. At that time Crossland informed Widgerson that the ballot would be drawn up as originally planned.

Widgerson was not satisfied with Crossland's decision, and came into *Excalibur* after the meeting to take issue with Crossland for not allowing him to change the place of his name on the ballot.

Crossland said that Widgerson didn't give him enough time to act on the proposal. He said that "there was plenty of time" before last week for Widgerson to approach him with his requests, saying that Widgerson's decision to approach the newspaper with his complaint "is a really bad way to start of the campaigning."

Widgerson admitted that he did make "a boob" by waiting until very late to make his request to Crossland, and said "I in no way meant to comment on Jim's handling of this. I am just commenting on the system." Widgerson pointed out that last year the first nine of

the 15 senate candidates listed on the ballot were elected.

In response to this, Crossland said, "I believe that students vote intelligently—I don't believe they mark their ballots randomly." Widgerson said that an "apathy problem" at York is responsible for students not being aware of candidates and marking off the first names they see on the ballot.

Contenders drop out of CYSF leader race

By GARY SYMONS

In the biggest surprise to come out of the CYSF election campaign thus far, two presidential hopefuls expected to run dropped out of the race right at the starting line.

Both Darren Chapman, a former CYSF Director of Finance, and Alex Riha, last year's second place contender for the council throne, failed to submit their nominations for the CYSF election by the deadline of Friday at nine a.m.

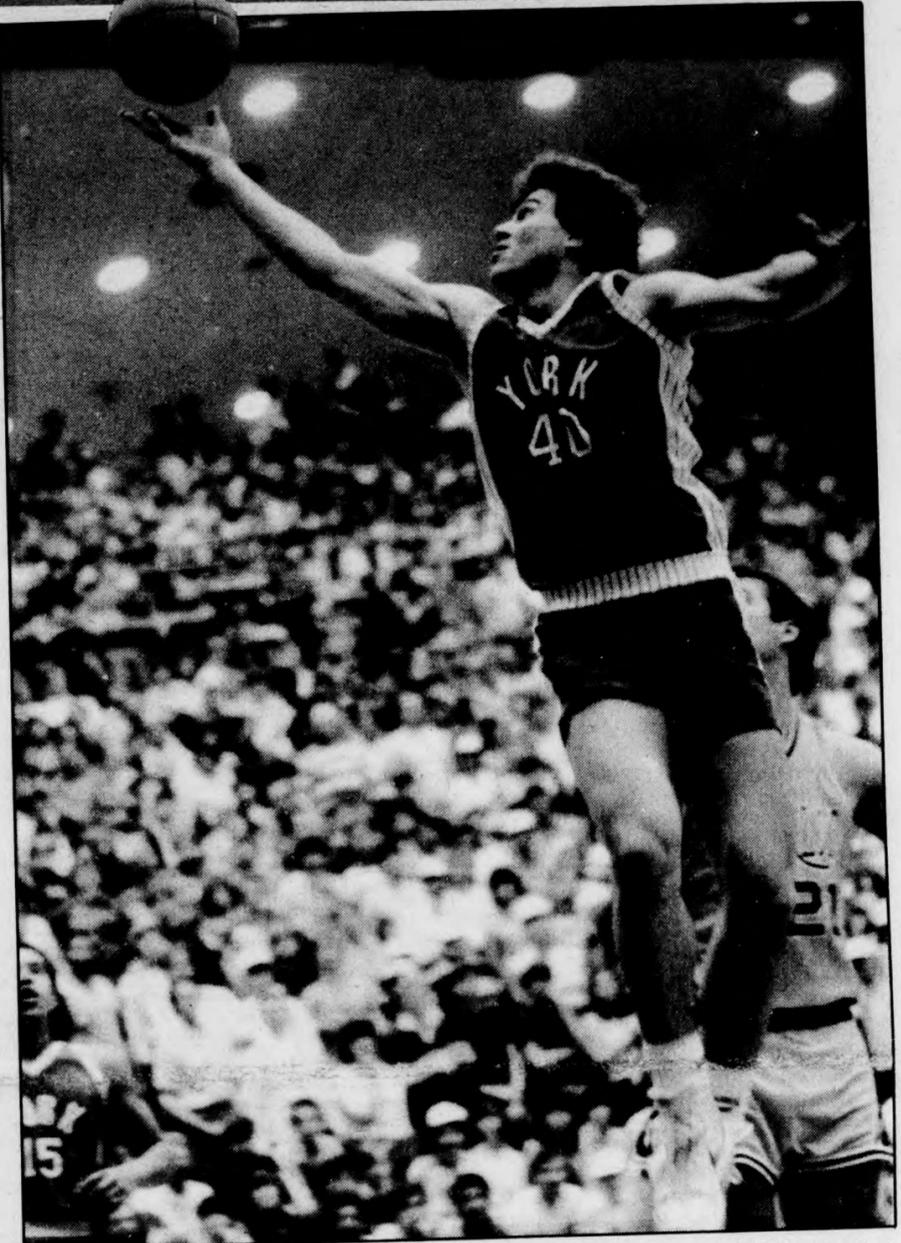
While Chapman was running independently, Riha was running at the head of a slate of candidates sponsored by a group called the York Student Front, and his withdrawal from the campaign means the entire slate has withdrawn as well.

The YSF had decided as a body not to run their candidate for CYSF positions because it felt "taking part in CYSF is fruitless," Riha said. He added that an annual turnout of about five percent of eligible voters shows how weak the council's presence on campus is.

Riha also said that the constant "bickering" on council undermines student unity and hampers the ability of CYSF to properly represent its constituents.

Instead of running candidates, Riha said the YSF intends to continue its efforts to become "a

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Unyielding Yeoman: Guard Mark Shaw lays one up in the OUAA basketball final against Waterloo on Saturday. See story page 16.

Late campaign launched against student center

By GRAHAM THOMPSON

An intense, eleventh-hour campaign has been launched to encourage students to vote against the construction of the proposed \$8-million student centre.

Terry Conlin of the Graduate Students Association (GSA) and Sol Lerner of the Norman Bethune College Council favor the eventual construction of a student centre, but say an annual levy of \$50 per student is too high, there has not been enough consultation with student councils and the proposal is unacceptably vague.

"There has been a lot of ground clearing

work done," Lerner said, "but I do think it is premature." Lerner cited the need for more detailed study and discussion between students and politicians on the issue.

"There was an awful lot of dismay expressed at CCOY (the Constituency Council of York) about this," Conlin said.

"Council consensus is really not what we're after," Student Centre Steering Committee Chairman Chris Costello said. "We're after constituency (student) consensus."

Conlin and Lerner argue that by voting to increase student fees by \$50 per student annually to pay for the centre York would be

undermining its credibility when fighting against provincially imposed tuition fee increases. "How can we argue tuition is too high," when students can fund the centre, asked Conlin.

"That's stupid," Costello said. "They're apples and oranges," and thus not comparable, said Costello.

Costello said it is impossible to finalize all the plans without spending \$500,000 to finance all the research necessary to prepare the project for final construction. Before York proceeds with these expensive plans, Costello says he needs a student mandate to go ahead.

"You can't go out there," Costello said, "and say we want millions of dollars 'but we're not really sure that we really want it'."

Conlin argued that just because the centre would be financed by student does not mean they would control the building, while Costello argued the opposite. Conlin is worried the administration may hold sway over the operation of the building.

"Just because they're (the Board of Governors) in favor of it," Costello argued, "doesn't make it a bad thing. They're not stupid people, they know what's going on. They want the best student centre in Canada."

Conlin and Lerner say the whole process of planning is moving much too rapidly.

"There's been no time to mobilize," said Conlin. As a result only the GSA and Bethune councils have had time to formulate a political response to the proposal, they say. On February 27, Bethune voted unanimously in favor of urging York students to help delay the referendum until at least March 1986.

Lerner says he's also unhappy with the lack of information the Bethune council received about the building.

"He (Costello) promised he'd let us see the revised survey before it came out, but it never materialized. He promised to show us the

drawings before they came out. It never materialized. There were a lot of promises that never materialized," said Lerner.

Costello said many of the meetings he was asked to attend were on short notice and thus he could not make it to all of them. "I got extremely busy towards the end," Costello said.

"He's done an extraordinary amount of work," Lerner said. "Unfortunately it's by himself."

The final reservation Conlin had was that "the administration doesn't see fit to fund a no campaign but they have funded a yes campaign."



Student Center Steering Committee Chairman looks over display in Central Square bearpit. Campaign against building is growing.

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