Yorkview goes to Spensieri

Students lean right

Berel Wetstein

The political tastes of York students have moved distinctly to the right, with student voters in last week's provincial election joining the tide that overturned 17 years of local NDP representation.

Liberal Michael Spensieri easily won the Yorkview riding, polling 1,200 votes more than the leading contender, Mike Morrone of the New Democratic Party. The last provincial election, in 1977, saw NDP incumbent Fred Young take the riding by more than 6,800 votes over his nearest rival.

Statistics provided by Yorkview's District Returning Officer reflect the shift in the York vote. Eight polls were situated on campus, marking the first time that undergraduate students were allowed to vote outside their parents' home riding.

There was a pronounced split in the voting patterns of graduate and mature students as compared to undergraduates. Polls conducted in the four graduate residences show a 238-123 countin favour of the NDP, while undergraduate residences cast 167 votes for Liberals and Progressive Conservatives against 107 for the NDP.

Typical of the comments offered

by undergraduates was that of John Scott, 20, a second-year economics student at York: "Davis has been in too long, but I don't think that the New Democrat's economic policies are realistic."

A 19 year-old voter, who asked not to be identified, stated: "I voted P.C. because they are the only party that is against gay rights."

Amongst older student voters the main issue was educational underfunding. A 26-year-old graduate student at Osgoode said, "I don't think tuition is too high, but the amount of money given to universities themselves is inadequate. If something is not

done soon we will lose most of the good professors."

He voted NDP.

Atkinson College, with its numerous parents, named daycare as a priority item. Their faith in the NDP was reflected in the 67 votes cast for Morrone as opposed to Spensieri's 17.

Students seemed generally uninterested in the election, with only 802 of a possible 1,600 votes at York being cast. In the University of Toronto's heavily student-populated riding of St. Andrew-St. Patrick, incumbent PC Larry Grossman was returned with an increased plurality over his last win there in 1977.



A friend of Lillian's lays down the blues, while Photographer Pierre Des Ormeaux (who missed his photo credit last week) snaps away from behind the shutter.



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