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Lack of student response frustrates Goals commission

By BRENDA WEEKS

Since September, the Goals and Objectives Commission has received 19 briefs from York constituents, only one of which was submitted by a student group (GASA).

The commission, which was established to gather information on what is being done currently within the university, and to form an idea of what issues it should be pursuing, became active in January.

"I am disappointed, but not surprised at the lack of student response," Michael Scott, executive secretary to the president, told Excalibur Tuesday. "However," he added "the commission understands the work and election pressure on students, which don't jive with the timing of this commission."

As a result, the previous deadline for submissions has been lifted from March 3. Currently, the commission is occupied with meeting and discussing with those groups who have turned in suggestions.

"From the support staff we have received suggestions about the physical ambience of the

university, and impressions that they have about what the outside community feels about York. But we must hear what's on the minds of the students," added Scott emphatically, "and it is important that the student has a chance to express his feelings about what's wrong with York and what's good about it."

When asked about the progress of the commission, Stan Fisher director of the Communications department said he was "stunned at the lack of response from student organizations when we have been pleading so much for some kind of feedback." The commission may fail because of this," Fisher said, "when it really could have a prime effect on the university community in general."

"The effect of these com-

missions in the past has been very dismal," Alice Klein, secretary of the CYSF told Excalibur. "We do plan on getting some of our ideas together later this month and sending them along," she said.

"We are hopeful that once exams are over, and more time becomes available, that greater attention will be given to focusing on the university's goals and objectives," Scott said. "This University has got to decide what it's going to do in the next five to 10 years," he added. "Hopefully the commission will give a clear perspective on the short-term and middle-range goals ahead."

In a hopeful move to recruit a greater student response to the Goals and Objectives Commission, Scott has published a large ad in this week's Excalibur.

Davies's trial date is set

Trial date for Bethune college master Ioan Davies, charged by police with public mischief two weeks ago, has been set for June 17.

The charges against Davies arose after police were unable to verify his claim that he was beaten on campus two weeks ago by two men who, Davies claimed, were members of an extremist group, called the National Socialist Underground.

According to Davies, what the police have managed to determine during the course of their investigations differs from his story mainly in terms of the times he claims to have been at various places on campus during the night of the alleged attack.

Colin Campbell, Davies's at-

torney, told Excalibur this week that "nothing that I have discovered thus far suggests that there is anything contrary to what Davies described."

He said he will be suggesting to police that they drop charges, since they "do not seem to have a strong case against him."

Bethune College's support for Davies has been strong. In a meeting last week, the college fellows expressed sympathy for the master and concern for the apprehension of his two assailants.

The offer of a reward for information leading to their arrest or conviction was suggested, but was not finally decided upon.

Ritch resigns

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In addition to the personal reasons Ritch gave for his resignation, he may have had some political reasons.

"I think that people were beginning to see me as the whole ULS. For this reason I've kept a low profile during the campaign," Ritch said. "I didn't want people to think that Gael was just a puppet with me pulling the strings. Besides, there are some excellent leaders in the ULS, and my resignation will give them a chance to show their abilities."

Looking back on his years at York, Ritch said, "I've accomplished many things here; more than I ever imagined possible. In my mind the left students at York are better organized, more consistent, and are leading Canadian students in the fight for socialism."

What are Ritch's plans for the future?

"I plan on taking a two to three month holiday with my wife and next year — well — I might take up carpentry or some other trade. I really don't have much ambition in the working world. I can't see a job being an end in itself; I look at a job being a means to a better end. I'll be active in the NDP and will continue to fight for the establishment of a socialist world order."

Sitting in the graduate lounge, Ritch looked out over the landscape. This campus, his home for the past five years, spread out before him shimmering in the March snow. Solemnly, Ritch reflected, "I'm 27 years old. I've been active in the student movement for a number of years, but, there's a time in every man's life when..."

He sat back for a moment. "I won't be active in the student movement again; I'll probably become active in the working class struggle from now on."



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