

Paul Farkas wanted to go

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He called for indiscriminately chosen members of the community to rate his product with any comparably priced restaurant in Toronto, admitting that when "people are eating the same food, day in day out, it gets to be monotonous."

Farkas's mood showed little sign that he was planning to terminate his contract, and as late as Monday, the catering vice-president was to debate his stand Tuesday noon at the Bearpit. When the decision was reached to terminate the contract, however, the bearpit show was cancelled because "it was felt unnecessary."

If the administration had initiated the termination, it would not have taken much convincing to make Farkas decide to pull out. Farkas had publicly stated throughout the year that he did not need the aggravation that his York operation caused. Commercial Caterers also services old-age homes and hospitals.

According to Crandles, Farkas's operation is breaking even after six months, but has lost money in each of the past three months.

Partly responsible for the waning fortunes of the Commercial operation is the widespread dissatisfaction with the food. All Excalibur survey of the Stong college residents this week, revealed that out of a sample of 53 residents, 33 were dissatisfied with quality and 46 with prices of food in the cafeteria and 42 were willing to support a boycott.

However, only 16 felt that a university-run food service was the answer.

Crandles admitted that Commercial was the weak link in the multi-caterer service at York, and plans to replace it with another private caterer in May.

He discounted the possibility of a university-run food operation, the option most favoured by the CYSF and Bethune councils, but did concede that the option would remain open.

"A full study into the implications would need to be explored and there isn't time," said Crandles. "In any event, a university-run service would do nothing more than produced the type of food the Versafood and Commercial caterers gave us. It would create institutionalized feeding and we're trying to break away from that."

Crandles would offer no guarantee that the present Commercial Caterers' workers would be rehired by the incoming caterer, adding that he did not envision any specific problems regarding workers.

"The university would adopt the same position it adopted the last time," he explained. "Who the caterers hire is the business of the caterers."

Ritch didn't agree.

"It's a small victory that Commercial has been gotten rid of, but it is no victory at all unless the university runs food services," said Ritch. "Giving Rill the contract or giving it to another caterer is totally unacceptable."

Ritch, who conceded that Stong's residence council vote and this latest disclosure will quash all plans for a boycott, called for a feasibility study, under the direction of the University Food Service Committee and backed by university funds, of university-run food services.

"Others have worked, there's no reason why ours shouldn't," said Ritch.

He added that if the administration refused to strike up such a study, he would apply pressure in the form of a referendum, petitions and mass meetings.

Election '76: Kickback charges cloud Thomas's aspirations

By OAKLAND ROSS

This year's CYSF elections are still a month and a half way but already the skeletons are clambering out of the closets.

Excalibur has learned that Curtis Thomas, leader of the fledgling Progressive Students' Movement, and prospective candidate for the CYSF presidency, was forced from office as president of York's winter-summer student association executive last spring for allegedly misappropriating \$216 in funds left over in the association's account from the previous year.

(The winter-summer student association executive is the administrative body of York students who attend classes during the winter and summer terms rather than the usual fall and winter terms.)

KICKBACKS

This week Thomas denied any wrongdoing and called the incident a "frame-up". However, a senior administrator in Founders College (which provided offices for the association last year) told Excalibur that "there is no question that Thomas was misusing funds. The \$216 thing was symptomatic of a whole range of activities, all kinds of kickbacks."

Thomas maintains that he resigned from his office voluntarily. "I don't like the view that it was under pressure," he said. "I simply couldn't do the job any longer; my credibility was gone."

The minutes of the winter-summer student association executive meeting on April 21, 1975 show that Thomas did in fact tender his resignation but that it was rejected by the executive, which unanimously proceeded to vote to relieve Thomas of his duties as president.

It is difficult to piece together the events which led up to Thomas's removal from office because reports differ and many of the details have still not been pinned down.

According to Thomas, the existence of the \$216 balance in the association's account from the previous year was not discovered until nearly halfway

through last year. Upon learning of its existence, Thomas says that he, accompanied by then CYSF president Anne Scotton and winter-summer student association treasurer Greg Luke, went to the bank in Central Square to transfer the money from the old association account into the new one. However, the money never showed up on the association's ledger; Thomas maintains this was due to sloppy book-keeping. Luke, on the other hand, claims that Thomas took the cash into his own possession; it was never deposited in the new account.

Without involving members of his executive, Thomas then arranged and promoted an "orientation dance" for students in the winter-summer programme. As entertainment, he contracted a newly-formed band called Gang Bang (whose manager, Thomas admits, was a personal friend) at a cost of \$600. Two hundred fifty dollars of this were approved by Founders master Hugh Parry; the balance was taken from winter-summer student association funds.

TAKING INITIATIVE

Although the management of such a dance would normally be the responsibility of the association's social committee, Thomas said this week that "I felt I was taking the proper initiative in handling it myself."

The dance attracted 70 people but, since it was free, produced no income.

At its meeting on April 21, the association executive charged that Thomas had "signed a contract without council authority" and had "used money from the council without council authority or knowledge".

Executive members speculated at the time (and many remain firmly convinced) that Thomas pocketed the \$216 and also received a kickback from the manager of Gang Bang. They cited the "exorbitant" price paid for the band (\$600 for a newly-formed band when union scale minimum price in Toronto was \$190). However, Thomas flatly



Peter Hsu photo

Curtis Thomas of the Progressive Student Movement.

denies the latter two charges and there is still no proof that they are true.

At the same meeting, Thomas was removed from office. The executive later decided not to take the matter to court on the condition that Thomas gave to the council \$216 of the money he had paid to the band. On April 28, Thomas paid the money.

ADMITS NO GUILT

He explained this week that his payment of the \$216 should not be considered an admission of guilt, as he had other reasons to be afraid of taking the matter to court.

"I'm an American," he said, "and some of these people had personal information about my activities in the States; I'm only here on a student visa and it could be a bad situation if that stuff got out."

Thomas refused to elaborate on his "activities in the States". But he said that one member of the winter-summer student association executive knows all about them. Thomas accused this person, whom he refused to identify, of "engineering the plot" against him.

Excalibur discovered this

week that the student to whom Thomas was referring is Daryl Yurek, former chairman of the association's social committee. Yurek, however, refused to discuss Thomas's past.

"I've heard so many different stories," he said. "It wouldn't be fair for me to say anything."

During the height of the controversy over Thomas's handling of the "orientation dance", he accused Yurek of splitting a \$216 kickback with him. However, he later withdrew the charge.

"It was just another part of the whole mess," Thomas told Excalibur this week. "It didn't mean anything."

Thomas was asked to return his key to the association's offices; he was given back his \$5 deposit and the case was closed.

Thomas is currently trying to gather members and support for his Progressive Students' Movement which, he claims, now has 40 members — double the membership it had two weeks ago. The movement is dedicated to bringing sound business practices and liberal policies to student government in Ontario.

Bethune College defaced by swastikas, bust painted white: sandblasting is needed

By GARY KINSMAN

On Monday night Bethune College was defaced by a group calling itself the National Socialist Underground. The bust of Norman Bethune was doused with white

paint, swastikas were scrawled over the front of the college and residence, along with two slogans, "Communism is Jewish" and "Adolph Hitler College".

All of these were signed NSU. A

witness phoned the Metro Police and campus security has now joined in on the investigation.

Initial attempts to remove the paint with chemicals by Physical Plant proved unsuccessful. Sandblasting will be used later in the week.

Debi Wells, of the York Alliance Against Racism, explained to us some of the history of the NSU.

"The first time the name NSU came up was in a series of threatening letters sent to Rosie Douglas and Charles Roach, both activists in the black community. Douglas went to the Metro Police to ask if anything could be done about this intimidation."

According to Wells, "police chief Adamson told them that the police could do nothing about the threats, but recent information suggested that the NSU was the result of a fusion between the Western Guard and a motorcycle gang. The NSU is now their military wing."

The Western Guard, she said, is

a well-known right-wing organization in Toronto, which has claimed responsibility for breaking up a black liberation meeting nearly two years ago, an attack on black musicians on a City TV programme, and scrawlings saying "White Power" and "Hail Don Andrews."

"The Alliance is going to help organize meetings on campus to discuss how we can respond to the painting spree. We also want to get students actively involved in larger numbers so that these fascists will think twice before they attempt physical attacks," Wells concluded.

CYSF president Dale Ritch told Excalibur, Tuesday evening that the "fascists were organized" and that York could expect more of the same and worse in the future.

Ritch suggested that the interested groups on campus, such as the Third World Students Union and the Jewish Student Federation should meet to discuss the implications of such a problem.



Bethune bust and college the day after.

Gary Cook photo