



## Turning Japanese?

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# Excalibur

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### Amidst controversy

## Empey fired

John Molendyk

Internal disruptions that rocked the Council of the York Student Federation last week have led to the dismissal of CYSF Business Manager Gary Empey and the resignation of two other CYSF insiders.

Empey's firing resulted from questions surrounding a set of CYSF minutes presented in evidence to the Ontario Ministry of Labor in a recent investigation of the CYSF typing service. It was discovered recently that these minutes did not correspond to original minutes for the same date.

According to Council President Malcolm Montgomery, "Mr. Empey's contract was terminated by what the council executive perceived as a failure to act in a manner that is in the best interests of the Federation."

Empey contends though that he "was involved in changing the minutes upon the consensus and direction of the officers of the company." He told *Excalibur* that "Malcolm (Montgomery) knew about it before. He discussed the wording of the change."

Montgomery however denies that he "had any knowledge of what (Empey) was doing with the minutes."

Montgomery's campaign manager Don Sugg resigned last Friday for unspecified reasons after the firing and could not be reached for comment. Christopher Dreschel, who managed the Lyceum bookstore, resigned Tuesday in order to "protect his good standing reputation in the York community."

The incident arises from a three month dispute over unpaid wages

between CYSF and the former manager of its typing service, Vedwa Maraj. She resigned her post last December, because of aggravation suffered in the course of trying to secure payment of the back wages.

Maraj had asked the Employment Standards branch of the Ministry of Labor to investigate her complaint, because she felt she had never been properly informed of a wage cut which saw her weekly salary reduced from \$250 to \$170.

The investigator, said he had been shown the minutes of a September 29, council meeting which indicated that Maraj's wage cut had come up in council. Through these minutes and interviews he was satisfied that she was properly informed so he issued a "binding recommendation" that Maraj be paid \$259.

In *Excalibur* January 22, Maraj said that the matter had never been brought up in council. Montgomery was reluctant to show *Excalibur* CYSF's copy of the September 29 minutes, but promised they would be made available when the investigator's written report became available.

Mimeographed copies of these minutes obtained by *Excalibur* make no reference to Maraj, or the wage cut.

When the report failed to appear after one week in the mail, Montgomery went to the Labor's Board's offices last Friday and obtained another copy. He then approached Vice-president of Student Relations John Becker, discussed the situation with him, and assembled the CYSF executive for a special meeting. The majority of the executive members decided to either fire Empey or accept his resignation. When he refused to resign, he was fired.

"I had an inclination that something was occurring, however you don't act upon inclinations, you act upon facts, which I did," Montgomery said. He denied that other members of the Council were involved in changing of the minutes. "If a consensus was achieved, it was without my knowledge. The current directors of the company had no knowledge of it," he said.

Empey said of the firing: "I was the extra man in the lifeboat, and in order for CYSF to survive they kicked me out to save everybody else."

Immediately after the firing, the CYSF courtesy account on which Empey had signing authority was frozen, and the locks changed in CYSF offices.



Gary Empey shortly before entering last Friday's executive meeting.

John Molendyk

## Council campaign is on

Michael Monastyrskyj

Nominations are in and the candidates are off and running for executive positions on the Council of the York Student Federation.

Once again interest will be focused on the presidential campaign.

Although the incumbent Malcolm Montgomery and the hopeful heir to the throne, Greg Gaudet, have only officially begun campaigning this week, they have actually been fighting the election since a February 11 council meeting.

At that meeting the March 18 election date was chosen, and Greg Gaudet became Stong's representative on the council. Only the day before, Gaudet informed *Excalibur* that he would be seeking the office of president.

At the council meeting Gaudet criticized Montgomery's decision to postpone the election and unsuccessfully urged council to accept an amendment which would have attributed the delay to

CYSF incompetence.

Although Gaudet criticized the delay, it was he who first proposed the postponement as a legal way for the council to hold an election after the constitutionally stipulated March 15 deadline. Allowing for the required nomination and campaign periods, February 9 was the last debate an election could be called if the deadline was to be met. A council meeting February 9 was postponed, thereby causing the constitutional quandary.

During last Wednesday's council meeting Gaudet and Montgomery disagreed again, this time over cutbacks. After the council allotted its Tuition Committee \$300 with which to fight rationalization, Gaudet asked the council to give the same amount to the York Students Against Underfunding, which he heads.

When his proposal did not pass, Gaudet accused the CYSF of ignoring the best interests of students.

This led to an acrimonious debate between Montgomery and Gaudet. Both claimed to have the support of External Affairs Director Peter Mednis and accused each other of putting words into Mednis' mouth.

Mednis, as part of Montgomery's slate, is defending his position against challenges from Haidar Omarali and Chris Savvas.

Montgomery's slate also includes Darlene Gollesch, who is

running for Director of Women's Affairs. She will be opposed by Elaine Hick, who has allied herself with Gaudet. Robert Burrows has been acclaimed Director of Internal Affairs.

Peter Brickwood's term as Board of Governors representative has ended and he will not run again. Caspar Verre, Brian Charlebois and Courtney Doldrun are seeking Brickwood's seat. Verre is running on Montgomery's slate.

## CREEP hits back

Greg Saville

A ticket-stealing rampage at Glendon has been attributed to disgruntled students calling themselves CREEP, The Committee to Re-establish Equal Parking Privileges. They are dissatisfied with the "discriminatory practices" and "harassment" by York's Security department in the handing out of parking tickets.

"Our actions are an act of

retribution against a so-called 'security' force which, in practice, serves only as a parking authority," says an unsigned letter to last week's *Pro Tem*.

In response, Security Chief, George Dunn, told *Excalibur*, "I don't know if these people are a lunatic fringe or true representa-

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