

Excalibur

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Chodikoff tops polls

Davis will get a few visitors this afternoon

By Paul Kellogg

It's a bird! It's a plane!

No it's Mark Golden (right) of the Graduate Assistants' Association and the York Anti - Cutbacks Committee jumping from a table in Central Square last Tuesday. Golden was part of a theatrical dramatization of the effect of government cutbacks on the quality of education at York.

Using a slightly plagiarized Shakespearian theme (Alas poor York), the "funeral of York" and march were used to build support for today's demonstration at Queens Park.

All classes are cancelled at York from noon on, so that York students, staff and faculty can attend the demonstration and let the government know what we feel about the cutbacks threatening York for next year. At noon, there is a rally in Burton auditorium, and at 1 p.m., buses will be leaving for Queen's Park. At 1:45, thousands of students, staff and faculty from all over Ontario are meeting at Convocation Hall, and from there will march on Queens' Park. If you're going by car, the committee is asking you to not go alone. The buses are going to be crowded, and any help in taking people downtown will be appreciated.

What is the protest about? Well, to summarize the cutbacks story in two paragraphs is difficult, but in brief it goes something like this.

York's administration is planning to cut \$4 million from next year's budget. They have already cut over \$1 million from this year's spending. Cuts almost as high as \$4



million could be in store for 1980 and 1981.

The impact for next year alone will be, to say the least, substantial. As many as 300 of York's 400 part-time faculty could be laid off, with a resulting sharp decline in the number of small tutorials on campus. Scores



of special services such as the Writing Workshop, the Math Learning Centre, and Harbinger are faced with large or total budget cutbacks.

The cutbacks are caused by the provincial government's decision to restrict the increase in college and university funding to only 5.8% which is about half the rate of inflation which universities are experiencing. Increasing the allocation to cover inflation would cost \$41 million dollars. The government says it doesn't have the money. The Anti - Cutbacks Committees say that it does.

In any case that is what the demonstration is about, a demonstration which promises to be the biggest ever by the Canadian post-secondary community.

LATE FLASH! — Late Wednesday night, as *Excalibur* went to press, it was announced that David Chodikoff had been elected president of CYSF, York's central student council, for 1978-79.

Chodikoff received 535 votes to runner up Mary Marrone's 500 and Arnie Bell's 91.

This year's election was shrouded in controversy, as one of the presidential candidates, Harvey Pinder, was thrown off the ballot on a minor technicality. Marrone was a substitute candidate for Pinder and his *Student Action* supporters. She campaigned on a platform that a vote for her was a vote for Pinder, as well as a vote for the activist leadership in the anti-cutbacks fight promised by *Student Action*.

Chodikoff was a representative on CYSF from McLaughlin College, as well as vice-president for student services and communications. He also served on numerous boards and committees.

Chodikoff promised during the campaign that if elected, he would formulate a "realistic response" to cutbacks, asking the government to "cut the fat and not the bone." He outlined a four-point program to tackle student unemployment problems, as well as a "Direct Assistance Fund" to counter student aid problems.

For the definitive election story, read next week's *Excalibur*.

Payne defends ruling

By Paul Stuart

Garfield Payne, CYSF's Chief Returning Officer, has charged that last week's *Excalibur* report that Student Action presidential candidate Harvey Pinder was disqualified because he was not a CYSF constituent since November 1, was "patently false."

In a statement issued at 10 pm Tuesday evening Payne denied that Pinder was disqualified because of a change CYSF made in its residency requirement on March 1, just two days before the close of the nomination period. Payne added that he agreed that a retroactively enacted rule should not regulate the conduct of an election, but that the CYSF change is irrelevant. He stated:

"I have pointed out to the editors of *Excalibur* (see letter page 7) and to Virginia Rock that contrary to what they say, Pinder was not a candidate because he never filled a proper nomination form. He was not removed from the ballot because of section 10b of the election resolution which imposed a retroactive residence requirement."

Payne, obviously fed up with allegations that the election was bureaucratically mishandled, was reluctant to talk to *Excalibur* when approached on Tuesday afternoon. He explained that he was unsure if the alleged inaccuracies in last week's article were due to incompetence or ill intent. When interviewed on Tuesday night he sought to clarify his role in the affairs of the council.

"I have no enmity against Harvey Pinder. I didn't know Hayden

• see DISQUALIFICATION page 4

Occupations protest cutbacks

Two presidents lose their offices

By Laura Brown

While York students headed off for class Monday morning with books and binders under their arms, a group of Ryerson and University of Toronto students, carrying sleeping bags and food, began an occupation of their presidents' offices.

Both groups are protesting their administrations' refusal to cancel this afternoon's classes for the anti-cutbacks demonstration at Queen's Park. Past discussions with their administrations proving futile, the groups chose to sit-in at the offices until their demands are met.

As *Excalibur* goes to press, two days of the occupations have gone by and neither group has given any sign that agreements have been made.

The Ryerson occupation began at 11 a.m. Monday, with 14 angry students entering the office of vice-president of academics, Jim Packham.

These students are not affiliated with either the student union or the anti-cutbacks committee. They reached their decision to stage a sit-in after informal discussions held in a pub last Friday night. The students were angry that the administration was not supporting the students, staff and faculty in the anti-cutbacks campaign.

According to spokesperson, Nick Jennings, Packham's office was chosen because the students believed that Packham made the

decision that the school would remain open March 16.

The students presented two demands which they said had to be met before they would retreat. One demand is "that Ryerson students, faculty and staff be given a half-day off from 12 - 4 p.m. on March 16 to attend the Queen's Park march and demonstration in protest of education cutbacks and that a skeleton staff be maintained to keep the institute officially open".

The second demand is "that the Ryerson community be given written assurances that no budget decisions will be made during the spring summer break while the students and faculty are away and that budget cutback proposals will be submitted for consideration and approval".

The students, Jennings said, think that Packham, as well as president Walter Pitman and vice-president of Administration Thomas Sosa "are clouding the issue". "They tell the students that we already have an opportunity to go to the march," said Jennings "but we don't if classes are still held and some exams are given".

By Tuesday night between 50 and 60 students joined the occupation and the students took over three floors.

Tuesday morning the president and two vice presidents called an emergency meeting with the presidents of the student council, the Graduate Assistant's Association, the

Ryerson Faculty Association and the Ryerson Staff Association. The talks broke down and Packham decided to meet with five students from the sit-in that afternoon.

At the afternoon meeting Pitman offered the students a compromise. "But it wasn't really a compromise", Jennings said later, "we (the students) told them it was really a bit of fluff".

The students were assured by the president that exams would be rescheduled and that no one would suffer academic penalties for classes missed that day.

In a following discussion the students decided they didn't want negotiations to go to a compromise. The students countered this meeting and the president's offer with

• see OCCUPIED page 4



International Women's Day coverage page 11