



Bethune referendum

James A. Carlisle

After eight years of independence, Bethune College may soon join CYSF. A motion to hold a referendum on the question was passed at the Bethune College Council meeting on Tuesday evening. The vote will be held Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 1980.

Bethune, Calumet, Osgoode and Atkinson are not members of CYSF. The portion of tuition fees designated for central student services (\$12.50 per student this year) from these colleges is placed in a trust fund. Disposition of the funds can only be made by an agreement between the college and CYSF.

In colleges belonging to CYSF, these funds go directly to the central student government.

At Bethune's Tuesday meeting, Keith Smockum, president of CYSF, presented the case for union. "A central student government is necessary," according to Smockum. "In joining CYSF, college councils don't give up any rights; in fact, they gain rights."

Concerning pub nights and movie series, Smockum assured Bethune that they "would lose no autonomy" upon joining CYSF.

Andrea Doucet, chairperson of the Bethune Council, and

Griffith Cunningham, master of Bethune, both expressed their support for the proposed union.

Several students expressed caution at making too quick a decision on the question. In order to give due consideration to both sides, the council ordered that the next edition of *Lexicon* be given over entirely to argument on the referendum question.

A debate will also be held on Jan. 22.

Since the incorporation of CYSF in 1972, Bethune has held three referenda calling for membership in CYSF. Each has been defeated.

Excalibur

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Cary Hershorn

Art gallery to close

Mark Monfette

Due to a lack of sufficient funding, York University Fine Arts on Markham (YUFAM) will close on Dec. 16, 1979, after only 11 months of operation.

Joe Green, Dean of Fine Arts, claimed that the university needed to raise a further \$35,000 to \$40,000 to keep the gallery running until May 1, 1980 and that they had failed to accomplish this.

"It was a mistake to close the gallery," stated Green, noting that the high profile YUFAM gave York far outweighed its cost.

(From its inception on Jan. 18, 1979 to Dec. 16, the university will have spent \$55,000 to \$60,000 to run the gallery. According to Green, \$80,000 to \$100,000 would have been required in the future for yearly operating expenses.)

Ron Singer, Associate Dean of Fine Arts and a coordinator of the project, described the building as "one of the prime gallery spaces in North America" and pointed out that "no other single project at York could generate this amount of prestige and publicity for the university."

"As a recruitment arm," he stated, "it was unparalleled."

Singer noted, however, that the gallery was a "victim of the economic times" and that its future had never been guaranteed. "A lot of other things will fall by the wayside as well," he forecasted.

Both Singer and Green expressed their deepest appreciation to Ed Mirvish, the restaurant, art and department store entrepreneur, and his son David who own the Markham St. gallery. The Mirvish family, besides taking a great interest in the project, charged no rent for the first four months of the lease and only \$500 per month since May.

YUFAM was originally established to provide a showcase for the artistic endeavours of York's students and faculty and to allow artists from outside Toronto to exhibit their work. In its first 10 months the gallery has hosted a myriad of events - from Dancemakers to the architectural exhibition Roma Interrotta - and attracted over 25,000 visitors.

"We were just beginning to scratch the surface in terms of its potential," stated Singer. In 1981, YUFAM had booked the highly acclaimed David Smith sculpture show, but like the majority of other events scheduled it is not transferable to the campus and will have to be cancelled.

Asked if he thought the project had much support within the administration, Singer stated that President Macdonald personally supported it but that "he is surrounded by other people to whom he listens."

Dean Green concurred with this view.

When contacted at his home last Tuesday evening, President Macdonald stated that "outside the Faculty of Fine Arts, there was not a wide measure of support" for the project.

He added that he personally was in favour of YUFAM and that the decision to close it was a very difficult one.

The announcement that YUFAM would close came only a week after Dean Green's letter of resignation to President Macdonald, in which he stated that he would be leaving his position one year before his term expired.

Asked if there was a connection between the two events, Green replied that there wasn't.

Faculty approves conciliation

Jonathan Mann

In a meeting held Wednesday afternoon, the York University Faculty Association voted unanimously to bring its contract talks with the university to government conciliation, and expressed its intention to take strike action should conciliation prove futile.

The union will present the motions in a meeting with university representatives later today.

With approximately two hundred members attending, only nine opposed the motion which asserts that "Members of YUFA are prepared to strike to achieve a fair and equitable settlement."

"The 800 member union has never gone on strike in its short history. However, according to YUFA President Al Stauffer "There is a real chance of a strike".

"It's not a strike vote" he added, "because we're not in a position to strike. However it's obviously a strong indication of what our members would do if there was an actual strike vote."

Later in the interview Stauffer cautioned that there are many different meanings to the word 'strike'. "The kind of actions that we could take that would be deemed a strike... would be things like canceling classes for a day to hold teach-ins with the students, refusing to do administrative work, withholding grades at the end of the year, refusing to register students, or walking out. There are a whole range of possibilities there."

Contacted at his home late Tuesday, Vice-President for Employee and Student Relations, Bill Farr did not seem particularly surprised by YUFA's declarations. "I'm not surprised", explained Farr, "that those motions would be passed at a union meeting at this stage in the negotiations. I assume that when a negotiating committee asks for support, it's standard that they get it."

Farr seemed sceptical about the possibility of a strike, arguing that "The

faculty doesn't want a strike, and the university doesn't want a strike."

At issue in the dispute are higher wages; improved contract clauses on tenure and promotion; and increased powers for arbitrators in settling appointment disputes. The university administration has made three different wage offers to the union, but has so far refused to negotiate on the other issues.

If today's meeting fails to break new ground, YUFA will ask the Minister of Labour to appoint a conciliation officer. The officer has two weeks in which to hammer out an agreement (although this period can be extended). In the event that his efforts prove futile, the Minister can either appoint a new conciliation board or issue a 'no board' report stating that it is not his intention to do so. Sixteen days after the report is issued, YUFA will be in a position to strike legally, and the university will be able to lock out the faculty if it so chooses.