

**Students protest**

# Soc. Sci. 175, Ridpath dropped

About 10 students met with York president David Slater yesterday to protest the cancelling of Soc. Sci. 175 and the non-renewal of course director John Ridpath's contract.

Spokeswoman Susan Hayes said they wanted to bring the matter to his attention although they haven't seen departmental chairman Melvyn Hill or arts dean John Saywell. Brenda Engelhardt said she'd already tried to reach Saywell but was refused an appointment. Saywell was busy.

Slater said they have to exhaust all proper channels before he would take any action. She was later told that the earliest she could see Hill was Friday at 4 pm.

She said there were other courses with much worse records in the counter-calendar which could have been dropped.

Hill said on Monday the course had great problems in faculty coordination in the course and that several had asked to leave it. He said there was no explicit move to fire Ridpath from the department by removing his course. But Ridpath hasn't been offered a new course to teach and Hill said, "It's not the done thing." Ridpath has to approach Hill or other faculty.

A Soc. Sci. course evaluation had placed Ridpath as the best teacher. Fifty-six percent said his tutorials were excellent and 25 percent felt his lectures were excellent. No other faculty member came close.

Hill said the "snap judgements" made on the Soc. Sci. 175 questionnaire on teaching were more questionable than the more comprehensive survey run by the department. It doesn't assess faculty teaching capabilities.

He said Ridpath had been asked to restructure the course and submit for Soc. Sci. faculty approval. But an informed source said Ridpath didn't have the time to work on it because he was working on his Phd dissertation.

The sources also said at Soc. Sci. faculty meetings Feb. 23 and March 2, Hill was asked to reconsider his decision to drop the course. He said he interpreted this as a vote of censure against him and the motion was dropped.

Ridpath asked for the course to be reinstated and the arguments at the meeting were described as "somewhat acrimonious if not vitriolic." Ridpath's request was tabled by Hill. Although a first year course committee had asked that Soc. Sci. 184 and Soc. Sci. 175 be dropped, Hill decided to keep Soc. Sci. 184. Hill refused to make public a copy of the report although he said the meetings and documents used were public. The counter-calendar lists 184 as only slightly better than 175.

But informed sources say that the chairwoman of the first year courses committee, Sally Zurker and professor David Shugarman have made accusations against Ridpath and the running of Soc. Sci. 175 which Hill refuses to make public. Zurker teaches Soc. Sci. 175 and only 5.6 percent of students rated her lectures as excellent and 23.8 percent rated her tutorials as excellent in the questionnaire. She had one of the lowest teacher ratings of 10 evaluated.

Ridpath was away all week and unavailable for comment. Soc. Sci. 175's Tuesday lecture was cut short 20 minutes to allow professor John Hutcheson to reassure students that the department was not out to get rid of Ridpath.

Both students and faculty have complained that the course is too general. But Excalibur's sources say, "This course is a mess but no worse than others. The question is: why is Ridpath's being singled out?"

## New counter calendar puts Soc. Sci. last

Of the 390 courses rated in this year's counter-calendar, 10 of the 29 Social Science courses listed were rated 3 (1 is excellent and 5 is poor).

Social Science had the worst record and was followed by Natural Science with six courses rated 3 out of the 12 courses listed. Psychology was third worst with five courses rated 3 out of 19 listed.

Council of the York Student Federation sponsored the counter-calendar with 390 courses rated although 100 courses were not. Fourth year arts and all science were not rated either.

The courses receiving the worst rating, 4 out of a possible 5 were computer systems 303 which received the comment "course was irrelevant and incoherent." Two first year general education courses, Soc. Sci. 176, poverty and progress, and Soc. Sci. 187, students and the university: analysis and action, received ratings of 4 and a vote of non-recommendation.



Soc. Sci. 175 student Susan Hayes talks with York president David Slater about canned professor John Ridpath and the terminated course. About 10 talked to Slater Wednesday morning in a low-key discussion. They see Soc. Sci. chairman Melvyn Hill at 4 pm Friday.

# EXCALIBUR

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## New budget scene

# Secretaries, facilities cut

It was a gloomy senate planning committee that discussed the 1972-73 budget Friday and told tales of what the massive government cutbacks will mean to York. The Treasury Board hands down the provincial budget

Tuesday, the guesswork will be over and York will have to cope.

York president David Slater predicts higher student fees and lower grants to the universities.

"The fat has to be squeezed out of the support side of York's operation in order to make arrangements for next year that will be attractive to students," he commented.

The tentative operating budget for next year has undergone one cutback. A second cut will be discussed tomorrow.

Dean of arts John Saywell said the cutbacks will mean faculty cuts and the dismissal of 30 secretaries. Tutorials will be cut 30 to 45 percent and the teaching load will be increased, he said. Faculty sponsored conferences and speakers will be abolished and services cut 30 percent.

Atkinson dean Harry Crowe protested cuts in the Atkinson academic budget. Twenty-two new part-time faculty members were originally on the budget but that has been cut back to 18. Crowe was told to cut back still further but says that's impossible with the 18,700 course registrations at Atkinson next year.

Administration vice-president Bill Small said cutbacks will change the cleaning standard, repair and renewal levels in physical plant operations. The decrease would affect the administration side of York as well, he said. Safety and security, computer services and instructional aid will also be slashed. A freeze and reduction in all ancillary services is also predicted.

Library director Tom O'Connell says cuts in the library budget will mean no student

handbooks, fewer tapes in the music room and decreases in films, rare books, and periodical subscriptions. Book binding and the art collection will also suffer and there will be no administration studies library.

Slater commented on the cuts in secretarial services, "York already spends \$800,000 more than the system average in Ontario on this service. In an analysis by faculty, there are relative riches in some faculties not found in others. I have no second thoughts about turning the screw three times more in those faculties."

Slater agreed that the budget squeeze meant a revised five-year plan for York with an overview of graduate schools included.

"And the plan can't be the sum of opinions of people in a discipline or the opinion of the program chairman," he added.

## Zok! Oxford gives truth

When a group of students presented a list of non-negotiable demands, the warden of Wadham College, Oxford wrote:

"Dear Gentlemen,  
We note your threat to take what you call 'direct action' unless your demands are immediately met. We feel it is only sporting to let you know that our governing body includes three experts in chemical warfare, two ex-commandoes skilled with dynamite and torturing prisoners, four qualified marksmen in both small arms and rifles, two ex-artillerymen, one holder of the Victoria Cross, four karate experts, and a chaplain.  
The governing body has authorized me to tell you that we look forward with confidence to what you call a 'confrontation' and I may say, even with anticipation."