

# Excalibur

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## Mix-ups mar NSD at York

By MICHAEL HOLLETT

Up to 60,000 students participated in National Student Day activities across Canada, Tuesday according to the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS). At York attendance for speeches and workshops ranged from 150 to under 10 with organizational problems the rule of the day.

York speakers included: Stephen Lewis, leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party; York President, H. Ian Macdonald and provincial Liberal critic for post-secondary education, John Sweeney. (See stories on page 11).

Confusion surrounded the day's activities as rooms were changed at the last minute, workshops cancelled and posters announcing NSD activities torn down by university staff the night before as part of a general wall-purging operation.

Liberal, John Sweeney kicked off the day's activities with a sparsely attended speech in Curtis Lecture Hall-A.

An attempt to move the Sweeney meeting to the more strategically located Central Square bearpit had to be scrapped because the York NDP club was already holding a talk session on its party's university and college policies.

At noon, NDP leader Stephen Lewis was supposed to speak in Curtis Lecture Hall-L but organizers arrived only to find a first-year course in communications already in progress. The professor refused to accept Lewis as a guest lecturer so it was

back to the bearpit.

The Lewis meeting was the best attended of the day, as approximately 150 students ringed the bearpit to hear the NDP leader.

York President H. Ian Macdonald was next on the agenda and by this time organizers had given up plans to hold activities anywhere other than the bearpit.

Macdonald was to have been followed by four workshops on various student issues across the campus. At the last minute organizers decided to combine all four and, again, to hold them in the bearpit.

The sparse crowd was addressed by OFS fieldworker, Lyn Feldman; Bethune College Council representative, Naomi Laird and CYSF Vice-President of External Affairs, Stan White.

They spoke on problems facing international students as well as those facing Canadian students in general. The discussion following the presentations dealt with the impending tuition fee increase and whether corporations could be made to pay for post-secondary education.

The meeting fizzled out when no further opinions could be solicited by the moderator.

The evening's NSD activities included a well attended free film double feature of Nashville and The Conversation.

A free disco was held in the Winter's Dining Hall and subsidized liquor was available but only 30 people showed up to hustle and bump away the dying hours of National Student Day.

CYSF President Barry Edson said it was difficult to publicize NSD activities because of the administration's anti-poster policy that outlaws them in Ross and Central Square, except on bulletin boards.

"The major reason attendance at many activities was poor is because we could not communicate properly with students as to what was going on because we did not



Several workshops and panel sessions were held Tuesday for National Student Day. Seated above from left to right are Stan White, CYSF director of External Affairs; Lyn Feldman, OFS fieldworker, and Naomi Laird from Bethune college. They conducted a bearpit session on problems for international and Canadian students.

have access to the walls," said Edson.

"I have been trying to talk to the administration in a rational manner for weeks about this policy. I'm through pussy-footing around. Unless there's a change and unless we get access to those walls, there is going to be hell to pay," he said.

Edson found the sessions he attended to be "very informative".

But, he said, "I was a little bit disappointed and dejected that the rank and file student body didn't get involved in the politics of CYSF and didn't speak their minds. Who is to say what the students feel because the students aren't saying anything. I think they attended NSD, watched, but weren't very vocal. I can't believe that by their silence they agree with government policies," said Edson.

"We have a generally apathetic student body so we have to make extra strong efforts to get them involved. All we can do is keep slugging away and hope for more response from students", he said.

CYSF VP Stan White, under whose portfolio NSD comes, felt "good and bad" about the day's activities. He was unhappy with overall attendance as well as the organizational confusion. White was pleased with the attendance at some sessions and felt "some students learned about issues they didn't know about".

White feels some general student attitudes emerged due to NSD.

"I think students would like to see a freeze on tuition fees and, above all, to be kept aware of things," he said. "The old adage that York students are apathetic does not

apply. They want the facts and we should be aware of this."

White was "disappointed" with the lack of participation of some CYSF members. He said, "They weren't accessible as they might have been and we are the ones who are supposed to be informed."

OFS fieldworker Lyn Feldman said, "A lot of different political viewpoints were expressed on National Student Day, but people weren't angry, they were just beginning to debate things."

"I see NSD as a good beginning, a good groundwork. The whole issue of tuition increases has already been raised before a government announcement. It is really a good stage for some activism to come out of once Parrott does make his announcement," she said.

## Glendon leaks gas

By KIM LLEWELLYN

Bayview Avenue was closed down for an hour Sunday night from Lawrence to Sunnybrooke Hospital due to a gas leak at Glendon College.

A regulator which supplies natural gas to Glendon malfunctioned and the pressure build-up was released through a safety valve into the air.

Because of the loud whistling noise given off when the excess pressure escaped the leakage was quickly discovered.

Consumers Gas, who is responsible for the maintenance of the gas station, called the police and fire department upon the discovery.

The police shut down the Bayview Avenue bridge at the south gate of the college for fear of a possible explosion. They were able, however, to reopen the route soon after the regulator was repaired because the gas disperses quickly in air.

Motorists used Lawrence Avenue as an alternative route while Bayview was closed.

## York enrolment figures show large increase, university operating grant will change

Daytime undergraduate enrolment at York University increased by 8.3 percent from last year, according to a computer study conducted by the Office of the Registrar October 13.

Total undergraduate daytime enrolment now is 13,085; on October 14, 1975, it was 12,001.

Statistics Canada estimates that enrolment in universities and colleges across Canada is up by four percent this year.

The Faculty of Arts increased by slightly more than six percent, from 6,879 to 7,327 students.

This count, according to Registrar Milton Bider, is to be viewed as an "indication". The first official count, for reporting to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, will be made December 1.

The December count last year was 11,166 (as compared with 12,001 in October). According to Mr. Bider, the relationship between the October and December counts is likely to remain constant between years.

That assumption, therefore, yields 12,169 as a "reasonably accurate forecast of enrolment at December 1, 1976", said Mr. Bider.

That would be an increase of 8.2 percent over last year's count, which will bring changes in the University's operating revenue.

The implications of this are indirect for three reasons.

First, the enrolment figures above represent actual numbers of students, rather than full time or full time equivalent (FTE) students. It is impossible at this

time to generate an accurate forecast of December 1 FTE enrolment.

Second, Ontario universities are operating on a "slip-year" system of financing. That is, this year's enrolment is used to calculate next year's operating grant from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

Third, the Ministry has introduced a new complex formula for calculation of operating grants, which does not allow the grant to reflect directly the enrolment.

The operating grant for 1975-76 was determined by multiplying the previous year's enrolment (FTE) with the value of the Basic Income Unit (BIU) for that year.

By contrast, the 1976-77 grant is calculated at one third 1974-75 FTE enrolment times the BIU, plus two-thirds 1975-76 FTE enrolment times the BIU.

Similarly, the 1977-78 calculation will reflect one-third of the 1974-74 FTE enrolment times the BIU, plus

two-thirds 1975-76 FTE enrolment times the BIU.

The effect of this system is to decrease the yearly growth of the operating grant, relative to enrolment growth.

This system affects all Ontario universities. York is unique, however, in one other change which will take effect for the calculation of the 1977-78 operating grant. Previously, BIU values were calculated by category: all first year students are valued at one BIU, Honours Science students at two BIUs, and so forth.

In 1975-76, the average BIU value for a FTE undergraduate student (excluding Osgood Hall Law School) was 1.284.

This figure alone will be used to calculate operating grants for 1977-78 and 1978-79 since, according to Mr. Bider, it remains relatively constant from year to year.

In 1978, the operation of this system will be reviewed.

[reprinted from the York Gazette]

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