

Students demand elevator repairs

By CARLO SQUASSERO

Members of the elevator committee of Vanier residence marched to the Temporary Office Building Tuesday to protest the university's lack of action in repairing the elevators in the residence.

Judy Snow, committee chairperson, led the march to the office of John Armour, head of the physical plant department in charge of student residence and campus maintenance.

Armour was presented a contract drawn up by Vanier residents stipulating that the committee be allowed to contact an independent elevator company and have them investigate the problem. The committee proposed to conduct a lawful sit-in in the Temporary Office Building and stop payment of residence fees if Armour did not sign the contract.

Snow said the elevators had broken down four times over the week-end and that on one occasion she was forced to wait over an hour. Armour replied that he was aware of the break-downs and that repairmen from the Dover-Turnbull elevator company were there to repair the elevators.

Armour did not agree to sign the contract but said he had called a meeting for Friday with representatives of the elevator maintenance company to discuss the matter. He

said he wanted to be informed of the specific repairs necessary before allowing any work to be done.

He did not give a definite date when the elevators would be repaired. Parts are not readily available because of the recent strike of the elevator workers, he said.

One member of the committee said the group was not concerned with determining who was responsible for repairing the elevators, but rather with ensuring that the elevators were repaired without undue red tape.

Armour said he would send a report to the committee outlining the steps he was planning to take. He also said he was a little disappointed that no one had mentioned the problem earlier in the year.

Snow replied that complaints were forwarded to the officials of the college but no action was taken.

Armour was asked if he would allow someone from the committee to sit in on the meeting with the maintenance company. After a brief hesitation he agreed to the proposal and suggested that the representative take the minutes of that meeting and present them to the rest of the committee.

Although he did not sign the contract, because, he said, he did not have all the facts, he did agree to it verbally. Snow agreed to withhold all action until after the meeting on Friday.



Judy Snow and the other members of the Vanier Elevator Committee head for the office of John Armour, head of the department in charge of student

residences and campus maintenance. The students, upset by the unpredictable operation of the Vanier elevators, demanded action.

Brief to CUA

OFS wants an end to fees

By GREG GERTZ

The Ontario Federation of Students presented its brief to the Committee on University Affairs Monday, recommending the progressive abolition of all tuition fees, the provision of student living stipends, the institution of higher taxes on corporations, student-faculty parity on appointment, promotion and tenure committees, and termination of the policy preventing community colleges from building residences.

The CUA, an advisory body to the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities, received the brief politely and promised to review the recommendations and present to the government those with which it agrees.

In the section on the financing of post-secondary education, the OFS pointed out that, although provincial expenditures for education have risen, the proportion of educational expenditures has not.

In 1966-67, 30.8 per cent of the budget was devoted to educational expenditures, compared to 31.2 per cent in 1972-73 and a projected 30 per cent in 1973-74.

OFS research co-ordinator Paul Axelrod criticized politicians and the media for "spewing forth figures on educational spending in a tone of shock."

He said shifting the financial burden of education to the shoulders of students would be a "regressive" action that would restrict access to post-secondary education, and bring about a "return to the jungle." But he added this is the direction in which the government is moving.

According to the brief, "the tangible benefits achieved through the provision of corporations and governments with skilled employees, (resulting in the subsequent heightening of the gross national and provincial products) to say nothing of the intangible but equally important cultural benefits accruing to a society with a highly educated citizenry, belie arguments for extreme government cutbacks."

The brief also said that "for the government to remain publicly committed to universal accessibility while

simultaneously cutting back educational expenditures, is a shabby indulgence in rhetorical hypocrisy."

OFS wants the government to move in the other direction, abolishing all tuition fees and providing students with a "living stipend," and raising the needed money through a progressive income tax.

Twenty recommendations follow the financial section of the brief.

In addition to recommending that students have equal representation with faculty on promotion and tenure committees, OFS called for increased emphasis on teaching compared to research in promotion and tenure decisions.

In its consideration of student housing needs, the brief criticized a yet-unpublished ministry report, which claims that student housing is adequate and suggests that no new residences be built.

OFS conducted its own survey which revealed that residences in all but four Ontario universities are full. (York was one of the four, with a 4.4 per cent vacancy rate.) OFS said the need for a residence in Ottawa is "drastic", that Ryerson has been long awaiting permission to build a residence, and that the situation at Waterloo has reached "crisis proportions."

At present, community colleges are not allowed to build residences. The OFS brief recommended an end to this prohibition, citing the example of Humber College, where 70 per cent of the full time students are allegedly from outside the immediate vicinity of the college and 30 per cent from outside Metropolitan Toronto.

The brief also asks that residence contracts be subject to the regulations of the Landlord-Tenant Act, and that the act be amended to prohibit discrimination against students in the leasing of housing accommodation.

OFS prepared the 38-page brief at the invitation of the CUA. The submission was also intended as a response to the recent report of the Committee on Post-Secondary Education in Ontario.

York's brief to the CUA will be examined next term.

Prof rejects ban on Banfield book

By BRIAN MILNER

An SDS petition to ban the works of Edward Banfield, a controversial social theorist, will get no support from Judith Hellman, an instructor who uses Banfield's best known book, *The Moral Basis of A Backward Society*, as a teaching device.

Although critical of the book, Hellman rejects the notion that culturally-biased material should be banned.

"I think students can recognize a biased theory," she said in an interview Monday. "I have great faith in their ability to handle it."

Hellman uses the book in a first-year college tutorial, *Peasant Life and Peasant Movements*. "In the educational process, people tell you things that aren't right," she said.

"Most students have a negative gut response. I try to help them find the various ways you can systematically analyze and criticize the work."

"The wrong study is a tremendously useful tool for teaching."

Hellman considers Banfield culturally-biased and chauvinistic, but finds his approach valuable. "It (*The Moral Basis...*) has the pretensions of a useful study, which makes its faults more dramatic."

Liisa North, who teaches political science, agrees with this assessment.

North last used Banfield's work two years ago in a fourth-year course. "As far as I'm concerned, a lot of biases

that appear very subtly in other works appear in a very clear form in Banfield," she says.

The SDS objects to the presentation of allegedly racist theories without criticism by some teachers. North rejects the prohibition of material even on these grounds: "If you eliminate the book from courses where it's being taught uncritically, you won't eliminate the ideas."

One faculty member who does use Banfield uncritically is Peter Knights. Knights plans to assign Banfield's *The Unheavenly City* in his third-year U.S. urban history course.

"I will be using it to show the students in the urban history course the conception that an urban planner has," he said Tuesday.

"Since he (Banfield) is not an historian, I wouldn't use him as a source of facts."

"I couldn't care less about his policy recommendations," he said.

The historical fact remains the same, Knights said. Persons with a racist outlook can find support in the history of American cities, because "Blacks have always gotten the short end of the stick." The fact is indisputable. It's the explanations for it that differ.

An SDS member has received permission from Knights to present his views when Banfield comes up for discussion at the end of January.

The SDS petition has been signed by about 130 persons.

Chain cuts off co-op

BURNABY (CUP) — In their attempts to create a food co-op responsible to its members, people here were confronted recently by the large profit-motivated Federated Co-operative.

Both co-ops deal with Pinetree Nuts of Vancouver. Federated is a much bigger customer than the Fed-Up co-op, a non-profit co-operative. Money talks, so Pinetree, when urged by Federated, cut off sales to Fed-Up.

Fed-Up also buys some of its products, mostly canned goods, from Federated. This means Federated could sell Fed-Up the nuts they could no longer buy from Pinetree but Federated's price would of course be higher. After all, the middleman must receive his profit in capitalist society.

Federated is a co-op supermarket chain in B.C. and the prairies that returns dividends to its members and sells to the general public. Fed-Up is a co-operative wholesaler established by some fifty independent member-run retail co-ops in B.C. Neither Fed-Up nor its member co-ops return profits to their members, but concentrate on providing people the highest quality food at the lowest possible price.

Being subject to the marketing practices of Federated takes some power away from Fed-Up members and brings them more under the control of the profit-motivated Federated Co-ops.

Journalists aren't "digging" enough

WINNIPEG (CUP) - The tragedy of American journalism is that the press has an "obscene affection" for the official government version of an event, charged Bob Woodward, one of the two Washington Post reporters responsible for uncovering the Watergate scandal.

Woodward told students at the University of Manitoba that the U.S. government would be immobilized in two or three months if reporters did some "digging" for the truth.

At present, he said, reporters are no more than "sophisticated stenographers... transcribing what the administration says," without thinking about what is being said.

Woodward said he and his co-reporter Carl Bernstein were fortunate to work for a paper that was not content to accept the government's press releases as the truth. Given full support and freedom by the Post's owner and editor, the two conducted basic "police reporting" on the Watergate burglary, beginning the day after the June 17, 1972 break-in.

The two went through exhaustive and sometimes futile investigating, concentrating on low-level informa-

tion. "You don't get this background by going to the Sans Souci (an exclusive Washington restaurant) for lunch with Kissinger," said Woodward. "You get it by talking to neighbours, policemen, checking travel records, phone records, seeing who they talked to, where they got their money. Things like this leave their tracks."

On Oct. 10, after nearly four months of research, the two reporters published their findings. Ronald Ziegler, White House press secretary, labelled

the allegations "hearsay", "shoddy journalism", and "character assassination."

One year later, all of the Post's accusations have been borne out as factual. And the Watergate investigation has led to many revelations involving the general corruption of the Nixon administration.

Woodward and Bernstein's work won them and their paper the Pulitzer Prize. The two have also won other journalism awards.

Women in engineering

WINDSOR (CUP) - Although there is a shortage of women engineers, women in engineering are very much appreciated for their work, according to the findings of a questionnaire sent out by the University of Windsor's committee on women in engineering.

The questionnaire, sent out to all companies in Ontario employing engineers, revealed that only one or two companies discriminate against women when hiring engineers. Women in engineering were also found to receive the same pay as men for the same work.

However, the committee reported, many women find it difficult to identify with women engineers. To counteract this the committee hopes to get women engineers to give talks and seminars.

The committee is composed of two women, the dean of women and the director of residences, and two men, the head of electrical engineering and the head of mechanical engineering.