

Excalibur

Vol. 8 No. 9 York University Community Newspaper Nov. 1, 1973

Booknapper duo get off Scott-free

"Well ya see, officer, it seemed like every time we went into the library to work on essays the books we needed were missing — stolen off the shelves. So we thought maybe if we walked out with the biggest book we could find and then turned ourselves in..."

The two "criminals" at right booked themselves into our offices Monday with proof in writing that stealing from the Scott Library is a cinch.

The heist was designed to draw attention to the loose security in the library.

"The fact we can walk out with such a large book indicates that security is pretty lax," said the fourth year English students. They refused, for obvious reasons, to give their names.

The two said they planned to return the book.

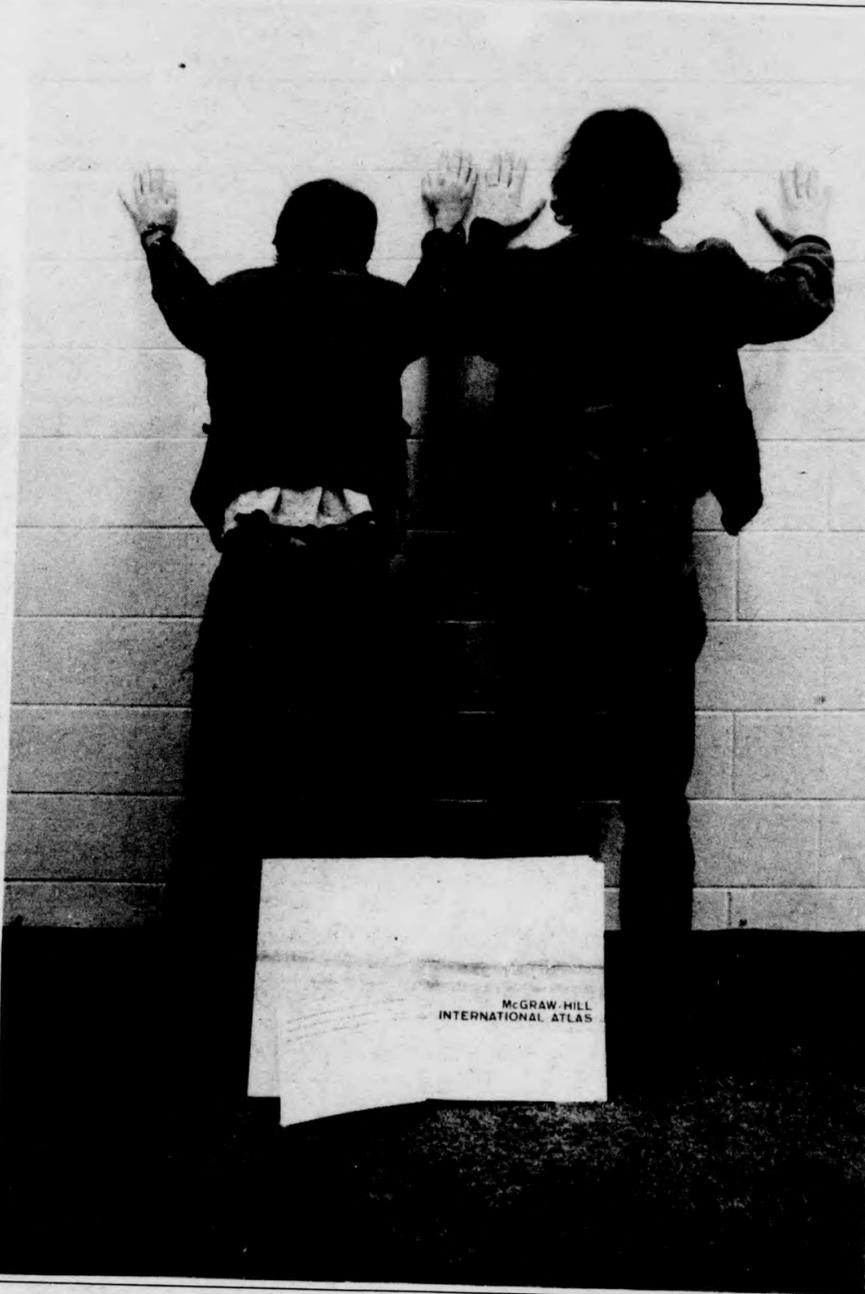
"The point is, nobody should be able to steal a book," they said.

"But you can wave the books under the guards' noses and still get away with it."

They said they had nothing against any one guard but hoped something would be done to put an end to unfinished essays.

Were they worried about being caught when they stole the book?

"Naw, we've walked out with books millions of times."



Lerrick Starr photo

Tighter restrictions foreseen on issuing campus liquor permits

By WARREN CLEMENTS

If York and the Ontario Liquor Control Board have their way, by January all liquor permits on campus may be issued by the university administration.

John Becker, assistant vice-president for student affairs, and Bill Small, vice-president, administration, recently wrote to the board informing it that no individual York college or student was permitted to apply for a licence.

This action, according to John Mitchell, general manager of the Green Bush Inn, was taken to stem what he termed "very little control of liquor on this campus."

"People were taking liquor into common rooms, areas that weren't covered by a permit," said Mitchell. "Inspectors from the board were up here last week looking into the operation of the various pubs and faculty lounges."

While problems with liquor control and permits are not new to York, a recent LCBO act known as Bill 146, presented two weeks ago at a licence hearing on campus, throws a new twist into the pub-versus-government struggle.

Under the act, which has yet to be approved, the university administration would be given a licence covering the entire campus. And while the details are still being dis-

cussed, the system will probably give John Becker's office the power to decide who is and who is not eligible for a liquor permit.

Mitchell said such a system would cost \$100 for one licence, as opposed to \$16,000 spent this year on permits for all the pubs on campus.

"The costs the pubs have to bear now are quite incredible," he said. "A case of beer costs \$5.50, plus a \$1 special levy, which means a bottle of beer costs 55 cents in the pub. A 40-ounce bottle of liquor costs \$9, plus \$1.50 or \$2.50 in additional levies."

"Hopefully, under the new system these prices will go down," he said.

The Green Bush Inn handles the books of all pubs on campus except for Bethune's Tap and Keg. Mitchell said this was part of the Bush's goal to move out of retailing and into management.

"We wanted to discard the idea of a super big Green Bush pub," he explained, "and to concentrate on small college pubs, which is what this university is basically all about."

Not all pubs are happy with the current arrangement. The Tap and Keg feels it is being threatened by a Bush monopoly.

"Green Bush Inn is trying to take over our pub," editor John Leforestier wrote in a recent edition of Bethune's Lexicon newspaper.

"Green Bush is backed up by powerful capitalist interests on the ninth floor, and by the CYSF, neither of whom cares a damn about our college. The Board of Governors is looking for a puppet to act as president for them."

John Mitchell says he is not interested in touching the Tap and Keg's operation.

"They've made totally irrational moves and written things against the administration," he said. "We don't want to handle their affairs. If they want to operate as a pub, they'll have to apply to the university."

The Green Bush charges each "client" pub 10 per cent of the gross profits, and in return for this fee, orders beer, sets up permits and conducts an audit.

While theoretically not a monopoly, the only current alternative to the inn is the university's ancillary services department — in other words, Versafoods. Versa charges 25 per cent of the Pub's profits for its managerial help.

The Ontario liquor board is waiting for Toronto area universities to reach a conclusion on the wisdom of placing licensing powers in the hands of the schools' administrative bodies, and will hold public hearings in December to obtain views from all concerned parties.

Staff assoc. compromises in 11th hour...

By ROBIN ENDRES

Over 200 members of the York University Staff Association voted Thursday, October 25, to form a voluntary association.

The idea of a voluntary association was presented to the YUSA membership as an eleventh hour compromise that would provide the protection of a union without official certification by the Ontario Labour Relations Board, a move which would take up to two years.

After motions for increased association fees and a grievance committee were tabled because of the urgency of the union debate, the arguments for a voluntary association were presented by Warren Holder, chairman of the investigating committee.

The voluntary association would be a "test case," said Holder, which "allows the university to demonstrate good faith while protecting us legally."

New information obtained the morning of the meeting allegedly allowed the YUSA executive to bring forward the voluntary association plan. An unnamed lawyer has tentatively offered to do the legal work for \$300. Legal fees for certification would be around \$1,000.

Another advantage of the association, according to Holder, is the sensitive area of supervisory personnel. If YUSA goes for certification, the university could challenge the legality of a bargaining unit including personnel already classified as supervisory staff.

Although the meeting was dominated by Holder and Keith Oleksuik, chairman of the negotiating committee, and though there seemed to be little opportunity for discussion from the floor, there were only eight dissenting votes when the count was tallied.

The motion gives the university 60 days to agree to the voluntary association as the official bargaining agent for YUSA.

Initially, the motion contained a second part which would have given the executive an automatic mandate to seek certification if the university rejected the voluntary agreement.

In procedural wrangling, the motion was first split, and then the second half was tabled. However, the option of certification remains open.

Judith Steed, newly hired organizer for YUSA, whose salary is paid by the Company of Young Canadians, spoke from the floor in favour of the voluntary association, calling it a "moderate, slow step—but it doesn't have to stop there."

Commenting after the meeting, Holder claimed he pushed the idea of a voluntary association because the committee "didn't want to polarize the membership." A union vote would have been "very close," he said.

Keith Oleksuik, chairman of the negotiating committee (of which Holder's group is a subcommittee) concurred. Even if a vote to certify had passed, he said, "there would have been large minority dissent. Most people are still fearful about the word union."

Asked if he thought there was something peculiar about the information on the voluntary association turning up suddenly a few hours before the meeting, Oleksuik claimed it was simply a result of bad organization on the part of the executive and its committees.

Oleksuik also waved aside a question of whether or not the voluntary association would have less clout than a union. "Even independent accreditation won't give us clout for a strike," he said.

Barbara McCaw, president of YUSA, expressed satisfaction with the vote. "It's great. They're active, not apathetic. YUSA at last has a little something behind it."

... vote attacked

Calling the York University Staff Association meeting "out of order from beginning to end," some YUSA members charged their executive with trying to railroad a mandate for themselves.

Though the near-unanimous vote Thursday supported the executive's proposal for a voluntary association, some members appeared confused over the meaning of the motion, and criticized what they felt was a lack of discussion about the package.

Keith Oleksuik, chairman of the YUSA negotiating committee, was surprised at the accusation. He described the package as geared to a staff that was apprehensive about unionism.

Oleksuik advocates trying a voluntary approach first, pointing to the expense (at least \$1,000) and time (up to two years) it would take to organize a bargaining unit through the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

Oleksuik denied rumours of executive meetings with administration officials to work out motions to present to the association. But he admitted that the executive had been talking with the administration about tentative salary scales if YUSA were to be voluntarily recognized by the university before next year.

Warren Holder, a member of the YUSA executive, said after the meeting he had misgivings about the package, but was convinced by some of his peers it was important to present a united front.

Some association members, dissatisfied with the efforts of their executive committee, plan to call for a new meeting to rescind the motion and carefully examine other alternatives.