

Cabinet outcast says NDP has become like Liberals, Tories

By Sam Putinja

NDP cabinet dissident Peter Kormos was on campus February 5 urging students and grassroots members to set the Ontario government back on track.

Kormos warned those in attendance at the Student Centre that the NDP government is behaving exactly like their Liberal and Conservative predecessors in terms of policies.

Kormos was Ontario's minister of consumer affairs until spring of 1991, when Bob Rae stripped him of his portfolio shortly after he posed as a pinup boy in the Toronto Sun. Kormos has indicated he was demoted because of political differences.

"I'm very fearful for the existence of this party and this movement," Kormos told the audience of 25-30 people. "For once you become liberals there is no longer a need for the exist-

ence of the NDP. After abandoning NDP policies one after the other after the other the raison d'etre disappears."

Kormos indicated that of the over 160 pieces of legislation the government has thus far passed, only 2 were traditional NDP policies. Kormos questioned the government's shift in policy position, which was made without consultation with the party grassroots or the public.

The party is capitulating to non-traditional NDP supporters such as business and is ignoring promises it made during the election such as public auto insurance and increased expenditure for education. "None of these policy changes had been the result of public debate. We haven't defended or explained any policies. If the NDP becomes coopted by business it will disappear," said Kormos.

Kormos noted similarities in style between Premier Bob Rae's and David Peterson's lead-

ership. Both premiers, according to Kormos, ran the government out of their offices and ignored the public. "I don't think it's a healthy style," said a concerned-looking Kormos.

Kormos urged people to organize and fight against the policy shifts of the government. "There's never been a more important time for people at the grassroots to become politically active than now. It's imperative that there be those checks and balances between government and opposition," he said.

Kormos believes the opposition parties are not interested in forcing the NDP to maintain its election promises. He had a special message for supporters of the Liberals and Conservatives who oppose the NDP government. "What the hell are you complaining about? You should be happiest of all. You couldn't get this much conservative legislation from Bill Davis."

Cutbacks in health-care and education are

the conservative policies the NDP is continuing. As well, the NDP is discovering privatization. The sell-off of Suncor was only the beginning, according to Kormos — "wait until the inertia picks up."

Students are particularly concerned about the cuts made to education and Kormos echoed this. "During a recession, it's the last time in the world to reduce funding to universities. We've got to invest more not less in education. It's the key. It's fundamental to this province prospering."

The sell-out in access to post-secondary education is particularly disturbing to Kormos since access is a traditional goal of the NDP. "The goal was universal access. Financial capacity should not be a factor in determining access. We have to make a major investment in education. We have to make sure we produce the brightest and best in the world."

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McLaughlin college master Michael Lanphier is studying effects of war on environment • Photo by Clive Cohen

Science professors working for peace

by Adrian Reynolds

York science professors are joining a national organization in protesting the aftereffects of the Persian Gulf War.

The Toronto chapter of Science for Peace is working on a paper which examines the environmental impact of the war.

"We are preparing a paper on the effect of militarism on the environment," said Michael Lanphier, master of McLaughlin college and secretary of the national chapter of SFP.

"York professors are contributing indirectly to this project with their research on monitoring the air quality since the oil field fires of the Gulf

War," he said.

"As far as we know we are the only group doing this," he added.

The organization is also investigating the ethics of military-related research on campuses like York.

According to Lanphier, York's scientific research policy is open and any findings can be used for military purposes. "The applications are left to the scientist, and this brings up the question addressed by SFP (and elsewhere) about science and ethics."

"There is no SFP chapter at York but if any one would like to become a member, they can become involved by joining the Toronto chapter," said Lanphier. "There are currently 10 professors from York who are members."

The stated objectives of SFP are to advance the contribution of scientific activity to all aspects of global peace and justice. They also conduct educational and research activities concerning the dangers of war, global poverty and environmental threats.

Lanphier stressed that student membership is a priority for SFP and they are trying to keep the cost as low as possible.

For more information on Science For Peace, contact the national office in Toronto at 978-3606.

B.C. students call for legalization of dope

Canadian University Press

Burnaby, B.C. — Legalized dope is the latest addition to a British Columbia student lobby group's list of demands.

In addition to calling for free tuition and improved financial aid for students, the B.C. wing of the Canadian Federation of Students adopted a policy advocating the decriminalization of marijuana at its annual general meeting Jan. 26.

Langara College's student council led the charge, citing "uncounted revenue" lost by the illicit sale of marijuana which could be used to fund colleges and universities.

Only the North Island's student association opposed the policy.

The CFS-BC policy review committee examined the proposal, and recommended referring it to the provincial executive rather than debating it on the plenary floor. The committee said it "did not want to risk being de-legitimized by the media for taking a stance on the decriminalization of a currently-illicit drug."

But Langara delegate Paul Keet said referring the proposal in order to sidestep an immediate resolution of the question was "hypocritical." North Island delegate Dan Anfield agreed.

"Let's smoke a joint and think about it," he said.

University of Toronto opens campus food bank for students

by Maylin Scott
Canadian University Press

Toronto — The University of Toronto will be the next Canadian university to start a campus food bank.

In the past few months, universities such as the University of Alberta and Dalhousie have organized food banks, while cities such as Montreal have reported an increase in food bank use by students.

Toronto's Daily Bread Food Bank recently reported 4,000 students were using its services.

The project was developed by the Women's Centre, the Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students and the newly formed U of T Parent Support Group.

APUS liaison officer Deanne Fisher said people should be able to find help on campus.

"I think a lot of people would say, 'Why shouldn't students use food banks in their own communities?'" she said. "But for many people, the

university is their community and the one that they feel most comfortable in. If you use the university community as a model, then why shouldn't we be providing a food bank?"

The pilot project will run from February to June, said Shenaz Steri, co-ordinator of the U of T Women's Centre, which is providing space for the food bank.

"We're also going to be doing political education over why people need the food bank," she said.

Organizers are counting on donations from faculty, staff and students to get the project off the ground.

Gordon Cressy, vice-president of university relations, said he supports the program.

"I hope in the long run food banks go out of existence," he said. "But if U of T shows concern about the community then that's something that we should do. If there's a need we're fine, if there's not, it'll go out. It's an idea worth exploring."

Correction

A letter to the editor from Selma Zimmerman which appeared on page 4 of our February 5 issue contained a typographical error made by Excalibur staff. The second to fourth sentences should read as follows:

Firstly, Ms. Lim states that I compared the 'Freeman Article' to hate literature and said it should not remain in circulation. However, during our interview I told Ms. Lim that a sociologist with whom I had spoken had made this statement. Therefore, this statement was incorrectly attributed to me.

We apologize to Ms. Zimmerman for any inconvenience this has caused her, and to any socialists or sociologists who may have been confused.

WOMEN'S SUPPLEMENT

Excalibur will be accepting submissions for the upcoming women's supplement until Monday February 24.

If you have ideas for stories, graphics, photos, opinions pieces, or whatever.

Call Maggie or Cindy at 736-5239.

Or call come to our women's caucus meetings Mondays at 5pm.

excalibur 420 Student Centre
736-5239