



A penny for your thoughts. That's Manitoba's former NDP Premier Ed Schreyer at Vanier College for Encounter Canada, last week. Article next week.

Student organizations ask for hike in fees

By Harvey Pinder

Students of York may be paying an extra \$7.50 next fall. This is one possible solution to the requests by the seven college student councils, the Council of the York Student Federation, and the Environmental Studies Students Association for increased funding.

In a long meeting of the Student Relations Committee of the Board of Governors held last Thursday the various councils said that inflation had eaten away the spending power of their budgets and that they could no longer afford to provide the services which their membership wanted.

The seven college student councils (Founders, Vanier, Winter, McLaughlin, Stong, Calumet, and Bethune) pointed out that their last increase had been in 1968-69 and that they were requesting an additional \$3.30, an increase of 20% to \$20 per full-time student.

All figures in this article refer to a full-time student with five courses composed of 30 credits.

The CYSF presentation indicated that they were actually receiving 30 cents less per student than they were in 1969. This was the result of students voting to enter the Ontario Federation of Students and the National Union of Students about two years ago. The university only covered \$2.20 of the total \$2.50 fee per student, leaving the CYSF to cover the remaining 30 cents. Their request was for a \$2.80 per student increase to bring their revenue up to \$15.00 per student.

The Environmental students requested an additional \$3.75 to bring their fee up to \$18.75 and noted that their membership had already voted at least 66% in favor of the increase.

The administration, represented by John Becker, Assistant to the Vice-President (Employee and Student Relations), argued that the requests added up to \$54,000 which the university could not afford.

I pointed out that the university had received increases in the provincial grant per student every year since 1969, and usually at a rate exceeding inflation. The student college councils and CYSF had not received such increases, and, in fact, if they had wanted to return to the real dollar level of 1969 they would have asked for an increase totalling approximately \$18, this made their actual request of \$6.10 very reasonable.

When Becker later asked whether the student councils should be cut the same as general



university spending rather than increased I pointed out that the councils had not shared in the increased university funding since 1969, and, to be consistent, they would have to receive those increases before the university could take anything away. I estimated that this increase would be in excess of 200 percent.

Lino Magagna, chairperson of the committee, asked whether as student populations increased the councils would need less money per student to provide the same service. It was noted that the university did not apply this criteria to itself, for if it did it would have to receive less per student than the smaller universities in Ontario.

Then the tough question came up, where would the money come from? Becker again noted that the university could not accommodate any increase from its general revenue. I brought up the matter of the \$5.00 per student windfall which the university had received when it increased tuition fees \$105 instead of \$100 like all other universities. It explained that the \$2.20 given to CYSF to cover membership fees in OFS and NUS had come from this. It was not explained what happened to the remaining \$2.80.

Since the \$2.80 was less than half the proposed increase the discussion then centered on an increase in the tuition fee. This could have to be a \$7.50 since the university wants any increase to be a multiple of 25 cents per credit (this is the reason for the \$105 tuition increase).

The university may be favorable to this, because a simple subtraction of the proposed increase of \$6.10 leaves them with another \$1.40.

Finally, to add another complication, *Excalibur* is preparing a brief which argues that they should receive a direct check-off from the student fee in order to insulate themselves from the political vagaries of CYSF.

Though time is short I argued that whatever the increase, it should be voted upon by the students concerned, and it is on that note that the meeting ended.

Bookstore prices up

By B.J.R. Silberman

York students may be getting a better deal at the York Bookstore than they think. Or they may be getting a worse one.

Prices of books at York rose on the average 9.88 percent over the last academic year. Prices at the U of T Textbook Store rose 12.72 percent. But the average price of a York book was 1.5 percent higher this year than at U of T. Such was the result of a comparison of the prices of 17 identical books which were carried at both stores.

The picture appeared rosier when 67 York books were surveyed. The average price of each book immediately shrunk by 14.9 percent.

The greatest price disparity between the York and U of T bookstore appeared in Bamberger's *The Art of Listening* which sold for \$10.95 at U of T, \$4 higher than at York. U of T bookstore manager Peter Thomas suggested that the \$6.95 price of the book at York was "old stock".

For the most part prices at both bookstores remained relatively equal. Both Thomas and York bookstore director, Rafael Barreto-Rivera, stated that the stores follow a suggested price list which is prepared by the publishers. The only time that the stores do not follow such a policy is when the book is shipped in from the U.S. In such cases, Barreto-Rivera told *Excalibur* the York bookstore puts a 15 percent mark up on the book's suggested price. The U of T mark up is only 10 percent.

The largest increase in a book over the last academic year appeared in Watson's *Canadian Civil Procedure*. Its price rose by 55.5 percent at both stores. The publishers, Butterworth's explained that the increase was due to the book being a new edition from the 1976-77 one and that there had been many last minutes "authors alterations". The director, Peter Horowitz, also stated that law books generally have a very small run and consequently the costs of printing have to be spread over a smaller number of copies. Watson's book in particular had a run of only 2,000 copies.

Curiously not all book prices rose from last year. The prices of a small number of books actually declined. One such book was Darwin's *The Origin of Species*. Penguin Books justified the decrease by saying that on occasion a second printing of a book is more profitable than the first and the publisher can afford to put the price down.

But generally price decreases were not the trend. As Penguin Books pointed out wages, binding, printing and the cost of paper are all on the increase. To make matters worse the cost of paper when ordered often is much higher by the time it arrives. The publisher pays for the current

cost of the paper on delivery. In extreme cases, the type of paper ordered is not delivered and a finer quality of paper is substituted. When this occurs the publisher is forced to regain his losses in the second edition of the book.

Not all budgets are as gloomy however. York bookstore, ac-

ording to Barreto-Rivera has suffered no losses since 1972-3 when a deficit of \$113,000 was incurred. Last year the bookstore ended the academic year with a surplus.

U of T by comparison has suffered deficits every year. Last year it was \$48,000 in the red. This year it is projecting an \$81,000 deficit.



Don Quixote, Chaucer and friends relax in the stacks awaiting *Excalibur* reporter B.J.R. Silberman.

Bethune reaffirms Laird

By David Saltmarsh

Bethune College Council Vice-Chairman Naomi Laird was re-affirmed in her position Friday after the Council's legal advisor David Hays declared last week's vote to remove her was unconstitutional.

Laird had been removed under a section of the College Council constitution which states, "...any member of Council who fails to attend three consecutive meetings, shall automatically be removed from his position..."

A long and heated debate over the constitutionality of both Laird's continuing on Council and her initial removal ended when Bethune College Master Griffin Cunningham, noted that the members who voted for her removal had nothing against her but were basing their decision on their interpretation of the Council's constitution. Cunningham moved that it be recognized that the College Council was at a constitutional impasse, that the status of Laird was not at issue, and that she be re-affirmed in her position as Council Vice-Chairman and that the constitution be re-written as soon as possible.

The motion passed six to nothing, with four abstentions from the members who originally interpreted the constitution as allowing no exceptions and a member being "automatically" removed after missing three consecutive meetings.

"I will not vote against Naomi, but I do not agree with the way things were run on Monday and today", said Paul Morrow explaining why he abstained from voting.

Steve Norwood said he voted against interpreting the constitution in Laird's favour because the constitution clearly states that a member who has missed three consecutive meetings is to be automatically removed. Norwood said Laird had not attended a meeting since November 18. He denied that there were any other reasons for Laird's removal, "I voted strictly on the constitution." Norwood said that he felt the constitution should be changed to allow a member to remain on council if there were exceptional circumstances.

Nobody a loser in Radio York election

By Scott Clayton

Radio York held an election last Thursday, but nobody won. The final count was five votes for Ian Wasserman, and five for Norm Ritchie, with two proxy votes being controversially disallowed.

The two proxy votes would have gone to Wasserman, but they were disallowed on the grounds that they were given to former station manager Giulio Malfatti, whom the Board of Directors had decided could not participate in the vote.

The decision to exclude the two votes was made by the election chairperson Doug Simpson, the CYSF representative on the Board of Directors. The action did not meet with a favourable response from Malfatti or Wasserman.

Malfatti said that "it feels like they're making rules as they go along," and Wasserman complained that "it all happened too fast for the proxies to know what was happening."

David Chodikoff, the chair of the Board of Directors, believes that the election result was a fair one, and

that the question of who is the station manager is still undecided.

The Board will have to reconvene to decide that the next step will be, and to figure out the question of the proxies.

On a lighter note, CKRY is presenting a dance tomorrow night

in Bethune dining hall featuring Periwinkle recording artists "The Joe Thomson Band". It's a hot new act with a tight sound that's making waves in the Canadian music scene. So get on down to Bethune tomorrow at 8:30 pm to catch the action presented for you by CKRY and the LLBO, for only \$1.50.

Anti-South African meeting

A campaign to challenge loans to South Africa made by Canadian banks - (the Toronto-Dominion, the Royal, the Commerce and the Bank of Montreal) is gathering momentum across Canada. A range of trade unions, voluntary agencies, church groups and university-based organizations have been active in querying bank officials, criticizing the investment policies of their institutions and considering the possibilities of transferring their funds from the banks involved unless they stop the loans. This campaign comes to York University on Wednesday, February 8 at 4 pm. in Bethune dining hall.

Professor Mike Stevenson of the York Political Science Department will chair a public meeting on the subject and Sam Molutsungu and John Saul, also York professors, and Grif Cunningham, Master of Bethune, will discuss the current South African situation and what makes these loans so important to the white minority regime, the role of the Canadian banks, and the York University connection. Leo Casey of the Graduate Students Union, University of Toronto, will be present to report on progress already made there around this issue. Plans for further action on the York campus also will be discussed. All are welcome.