

INSIDE THIS WEEK

Editorial	6
Supplement — Mushroom Culture	7
Strikebreaking	10
Naked Came Polonsky	15

BULLETIN: U.S. president Richard Nixon has postponed Friday's nuclear blast until Saturday. Most of Excalibur had already gone to press

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300 turn out from York

Students protest blast at U.S. consulate

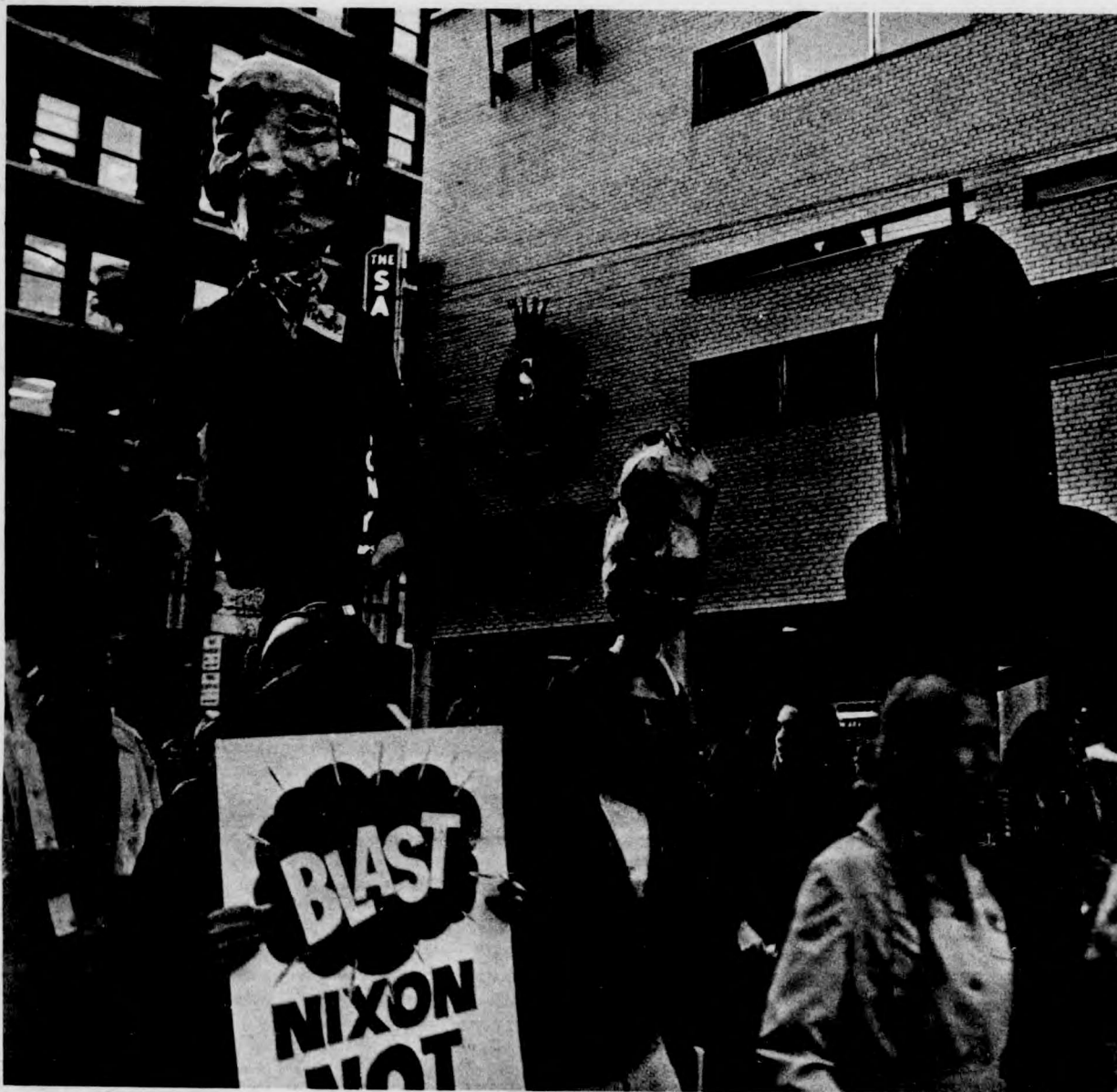


Photo by HARRY KITZ

PROTESTING THE BLAST: Demonstrators march at Albert and James St. Wednesday afternoon carrying effigies of Nixon, Trudeau and the Amchitka test blast.

By MARILYN SMITH

Over 300 York students joined over 1,000 other students from high schools, University of Toronto, and Ryerson in a demonstration yesterday at the U.S. consulate protesting the Amchitka nuclear test scheduled for Saturday. The action culminated a day long stop Amchitka, stop the war teach-in on campus.

One window in the consulate was broken by a thrown rock, but otherwise the demonstration was a vocal but peaceful affair. Chanting "stop Amchitka, stop the war," the demonstrators encountered no hassles in their march from Nathan Phillips Square, to the U.S. Consulate, down University Ave. to Queen St. and then to Yonge St., and finally across College to Queen's Park. New Democratic Party leader Stephen Lewis, the only legislator to speak to the crowd, complimented the marchers for the peaceful tone of the demonstration.

The Metropolitan police force was well represented at every stage of the march, but patrol sergeant Alex Ross expressed a common sentiment when he called the effort "a valid cause, a good idea."

Sponsored by the Young Socialists and the Vietnam Mobilization Committee, yesterday's on campus event drew the support of the entire York community. Council of the

York Student Federation pledged \$200 for costs of the campus based activities. The administration payed for five buses to take demonstrators to the downtown march. President David Slater contributed a personal cheque for \$35.

In a statement made to the community, he said, "from time to time events outside the university engage sufficient interest and concern among university members that some special comment is in order."

The program of activities at York included films and a rock band. A platform of speakers including biologists, political scientists and others spoke on every aspect of the proposed Amchitka test.

The Amchitka test is to go off at 5 pm Saturday. Saturday is also the day of international protest against the Vietnam war. Demonstrators will gather at Queen's Park at 2 pm to protest both American actions.

CYSF meets Monday over Nov. 30 vote

Council of the York Student Federation plans to devote an entire meeting on Monday on its proposed constitution set to go to the students on Nov. 30 referendum.

The basic changes would allow CYSF to get all of its \$10 without approval of the colleges. They would also be able to change their own constitution without the colleges approval.

The senate's Committee on the Organization and Structure of Senate and the University has established its own committee to study York's student government.

Mushroom Culture

This week, Excalibur begins a new arts supplement called Mushroom Culture. This bi-monthly feature is edited by cultural editor John Oughton and will include cultural reviews as well as news and cultural features.

Student senators divided on appointment procedures

By MARILYN SMITH

Division rocked the ranks of the student caucus on the senate floor last Thursday over the recommendation of certain student senators to fill committee positions, most notably, the Committee on the Organization and Structure of Senate and the University and the Academic Policy and Planning Committee.

Dennis Long, Vanier, Mike Pearl, Calumet, and Mike Mouritsen, faculty of arts council chairman,

objected to the election process used to appoint the student committee members. They said they had made requests through secretary of the university Bill Farr to sit on certain committees. In the past, the selection was on a first-come-first-served basis, they said. This year, Farr told the student caucus to make their recommendations to the senate.

Council of the York Student Federation member John Theobald said "I sort of took it on myself to call a meeting." Five people at-

tended, and there was an indication of what various people wanted, Theobald said. A second meeting was held two weeks later, and 12 of the 15 student senators attended. Long and Mouritsen were not there.

Theobald said that Pearl "was there, and was just talked down. He lost out by democratic process. There was no justification whatsoever" for his remarks to senate.

Mouritsen, he agreed, had some justification for his complaint. He attended the first meeting, and,

unable to attend the second, asked that his name be included in the final selection vote.

His name was considered, and then, "in ensuing arguments, just forgotten about," Theobald said. Mouritsen now says he has no further complaints, as he has a heavy work load and says will serve on the Library Committee which is less work.

Howard Adelman, COSSU co-chairman, told senate that anyone wanting to work on COSSU could do

so. Senate regulations stipulate that any senator may sit on any committee but may not vote. They may express opinions if invited to do so by the committee.

Farr has arranged committee jobs for the other dissenters. "I hate to see a person disappointed if he really wants to work on something," he said. He also offered to service the student caucus as an information head in order to avoid future disagreement. The senate accepted the recommendations made by the 13 student senators.

The problems of being 'gay' in North America

By CARLA SULLIVAN

The York Homophile Society is holding a dance open to both gay and straight people next Saturday. "We'd like everyone to come, to recognize that we are people, we are approachable. We just have a different belief about sexuality."

For there lies the problem of being gay in North America. Maintaining that our society, not their sexuality, makes homosexuals sick, members agree. "The hardest thing about being gay is accepting yourself as a person in a society that defines you, most kindly, as a deviant." A general fear of what is hidden and ridicule of it completes this destruction.

One woman estimates that 90 percent of the population is to some degree like herself — bisexual. "But sexuality itself is such a hidden thing. People don't touch." Remembering her own realization of bisexuality, she admits, "I was scared." Like the rest of the group, however, she believes that it is better to find out about

and accept your own sexuality than to be afraid of it.

Seeing such fear as the real problem, the group feels its solution is in a general recognition of homosexuality as unremarkable. "Gay liberation parallels all liberation movements," one member remarked. "We want to get away from labels, to redefine groups as simply people, without passing judgement on their differences."

The group maintains that, in this way, gay is healthier than straight. Because society treats them so harshly, most gay people learn not to condemn others — something society has yet to learn. One member summarizes, "Gay people really believe you are what you are. Nobody wants to change you."

But for the same reason, members of the YHS shy away from polarization, opening their meetings to all interested people. Another member explains, "I support Gay Liberation, but not 'Gay is Better than Straight'. We want sexual equality, not to pass

judgement on individual preference."

To realize a society in which people can relate as people as regardless of sexuality, the group first mentions changing at best antiquated laws. Fourteen percent of the population, they point out, can hardly be considered "deviant"; furthermore, sex is no longer a matter of procreation but recreation. In Europe, homosexuals can marry and after five years, adopt children. Similar laws could be enacted here.

Changing attitudes, they believe, will be harder. Although hopeful that by changing laws they will also break down old taboos of fear and condemnation, members nonetheless feel that our society needs re-education not only in dealing with sexuality but with human difference in general. One member summarizes, "When you can love yourself enough to be unafraid of accepting and relating to others apart from questions like gay or straight, Liberal or Conservative, black or white, that will be beautiful."