

Urban violence sparks Glendon college debate

By PAUL THOMSON

Toronto Mayor William Dennison and University of Toronto graduate student Andy Wernick provided most of the fireworks at a discussion on urban violence Saturday at Glendon's Citiforum, The Urban Struggle.

The weekend forum included five plenary sessions, seminars, a photographic exhibition on the city and special presentations.

Wernick declared that the positions of power look upon society as something to be controlled. They view anyone who threatens a breakdown in social order as either totalitarian or anarchistic while dealing only with those social demands that do not threaten the "means of production."

"We're not really dealing with a society where the majority of people have control."

If we can't achieve majority rule through our elective system then we should change the system, he said.

He felt elected representatives are simply choices between different groups with money.

Dennison began by outlining what his personal experiences with urban violence had been.

As a young member of the CCF in Toronto in the 1920's, Dennison saw their meetings broken up by the communist party. But the communist party that was very well organized in those days was discredited by those who escaped from the iron curtain countries to Canada after WW2.

Recently he said, the only instance of violence he has experienced was when a group led by

James Lorimer, a professor at York, broke up a local meeting Dennison was attending on Sherbourne St., by "forcing an issue" on them.

He went on to claim there are groups who sell people on violence as a political technique in order to side-step democracy and then "slip out of the picture" to let happen what may.

Violence is used he said, when groups can't obtain majority support and therefore can't "play by the rules." Democracy may not be perfect but it has eliminated violence when it is properly used, he declared.

According to Dennison, those elected have a responsibility to avoid violence and should carry out the majority programme while listening to the minorities.

There is no bar to the expression of special groups at city hall he claimed, but if any politician gave power to pressure groups he would be false to the electors.

Dennison thought it fortunate that Toronto has not really experienced violence in the streets, but because nobody has been able to entirely eliminate violence, it could happen here.

He believed that the violence in U.S. cities was caused by things the democratic process could have corrected.

"A person doesn't have to be a communist to use their tactics," he said.

The third member of the panel, Edward Gude from the Adlai Stevenson Institute in Chicago, provided more concrete theories, after acknowledging that the study of violence is in poor shape.

Gude theorized that the step prior to violence must be a feeling of having been violated.

If a significant group see an insurrectionary act as legitimate, it constitutes an act for social change and changes the normal view of insurrectionary acts as inherently illegal.

When asked about the "violence" done to disadvantaged people today, in their "fight for food," Dennison admitted that welfare applications hadn't been kept up with because of the economic situation at present. He invited the questioner to let him know about delays so he could "ask for a report."

Sid Brown, the Toronto policeman who is President of the North American Police Association, the fourth panelist, said the social problems of the police stem from a lack of understanding and specialized training.

"They just push a man out on the street and tell him to do what he can."

In general, Brown said, policemen are "glorified social workers" who lack the necessary training.

Asked whether the events in Chicago in September 1968 constituted a police riot, Brown answered that the attitude had built up in the Chicago police force that there would be trouble, for which the politicians, police and demonstrators were equally responsible.

He placed equal blame on these groups for the riot.

Brown agreed with a questioner on alleged police brutality in the

division stations and Don Jail that some men shouldn't be on the force.

He said the police association has demanded psychological testing of recruits but the police commission refuses.

Brown criticized bodies who bring up "experts" from the United States, a country that is "completely screwed-up," to tell Canadians about various situations.

"We should study their situation and make sure it doesn't happen here," he declared.

Dennison and Wernick engaged in an exchange on Rochdale college, after Dennison stated that the management and tenants of Rochdale had assured its downfall.

Wernick replied that unemployment was highest in the 16-25 age group so it was difficult for tenants to pay their rent.

He went on to criticize the profits made on the construction of Rochdale by Revenue Properties who assembled the land and "hip capitalists" like Howard Adelman, Assistant Dean of Atkinson College, who allegedly made money as a consultant to those who established Rochdale.

Wernick contended that these profits made rents at Rochdale higher than they ought to be.

Dennison responded by saying he wouldn't want to be holding the Rochdale mortgage now. He described it as an apartment building, not a college.

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Toronto alderman O'Donohue claims pollution is now a motherhood issue

By PAUL THOMSON

Tony O'Donohue, an executive alderman in Toronto, declared Saturday that pollution has become a "motherhood issue" and he would like to see a dollar value placed on the clean-up.

He was speaking in the panel on Pollution in Urban Regions at Glendon's Citiforum.

The primary concern of politicians now, he said, is to keep the mill rate down, but we must pay for the pollution clean-up because no one else will. He felt that we won't see much action from the politicians unless they are pressured.

For example, O'Donohue pointed out that to fix "our broken down incineration system" will cost \$55 million over the next few years. Recycling of wastes as in Europe, would be part of an answer he admitted, but he called our society "too damned affluent" to take the necessary steps in this direction.

O'Donohue decried the lack of inter-governmental co-operation in this matter and also the fact that if he needs relevant information he must go to Washington, because Ottawa does so little research.

However, he claimed Toronto has the best sewage treatment system in North America.

He outlined some important findings relating to air pollution:

In the last 40 years respiratory cancer has increased greatly in a straight line that corresponds exactly with the increase in the number of automobiles.

In addition, we have lost a good portion of the oxygen carrying capacity of our blood due to the increase in the amount of carbon monoxide in the air.

Stanley Townsend, a professor at the U of T Aerospace Institute, called the trend to burning natural gas to generate electricity a waste of mankind's best fuel.

We cannot continue the thermal pollution from the burning of fossil fuels indefinitely because, he declared, where to put the waste heat is one of the greatest problems.

Industrialists are concerned about pollution, Townsend said, but the necessary technology is either not available or uneconomic.

Townsend placed his confidence, though, in science and technology to assure the survival of future generations. By the year 2000, he said, the consumption of fossil fuels (gas, oil) will be forbidden, because of dwindling supplies.

The third member of the panel, Peter Middleton of Pollution Probe, said that no matter how much talk there is, it will take a cataclysm to make any significant

change. When asked about population control, he acknowledged that it may be the most important issue, but it was the most unpopular one with politicians.

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