

**"Abolish the whole thing"**

# Junior faculty left dangling by tenure change

By OAKLAND ROSS

Last Thursday's decision of the university senate to separate tenure and promotion has left a great deal of confusion in its early wake.

Many senate members, including some who favour the move, expressed concern that a change in the university's policy midway through the year will be unfair to both those professors whose cases for tenure have already been reviewed and to those whose cases have yet to come up for review.

W.B. Carter, a philosophy professor and a member of senate, said in an interview this week that it may be some time before any clear reading of the amended policy is possible.

"There are difficulties in inter-

preting the new document," he said. "But then, there were difficulties in interpreting the old one.

"I don't think we'll really know where we are until people have made suggestions at the departmental level and these suggestions filter through to senate. This may take until spring."

### INFLATED SCHOLARSHIP

Carter, who said that he supports the separation of tenure and promotion, agreed with a view expressed last week by dean of arts, Syd Eisen. Eisen suggested that the separation may tend to inflate the importance of scholarship as a criterion for promotion. Carter added that many junior faculty have expressed a similar fear.

And, to be sure, it is the junior

faculty (whose cases for tenure are to be reviewed this year) who will be most affected by the separation of tenure and promotion.

Chris Nichol, an assistant professor of sociology and a member of senate, said this week that it was unfortunate that the decision was made in the middle of the year. It has "thrown a hell of a lot of confusion" into the process of reviewing candidates for tenure, he said.

### CRUEL GESTURE

Nichol feels that the separation of tenure and promotion will tend to loosen standards for the granting of tenure, while increasing the importance of publication as a criterion for promotion. "What at first glance looks like a humanitarian gesture may turn out to be crueler than the old system," he said.

"However, Lillie Offenbach, who is also a professor of sociology up for tenure this year, disagreed. She felt that it was a good idea to separate tenure and promotion, since the rank of associate professor should be honorific. She added that tenure and promotion committees should be able to ensure that standards for the granting of tenure do not become relaxed.

Another assistant professor, who asked to remain nameless, said that he personally hated all this academic politicking but admitted that "one must play the game." He felt that if tenure and promotion are going to be split up, then tenure might as well be abolished.

"Everyone knows that it's a license to go dead from the neck up, anyway," he said,

He added that, at one time, a tenured professor "would have to be drunk for seven weeks in a row and vomit every time he came to class" in order to be fired. But he cited recent examples of tenured faculty being fired for more sober offenses.

### WHOLE HOG

"We might as well go the whole hog and abolish it now."

Igor Kusyszyn, an assistant professor of psychology, was asked if he could think of any alternatives to tenure which would provide job security and academic freedom for faculty.

"There aren't any," he said.

But Ken Gibson, an assistant professor of English, was able to

think of one.

"York is so directly tied to government money," he said, "that faculty here are almost civil servants.

"If people really wanted an alternative to tenure, maybe they could classify professors as civil servants and use the province's seniority system."

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## Record store may open in Curtis

By KEITH NICKSON

Negotiations are now underway between James Joyce — the vendor who has been selling his records in Central Square — and J.R. Allen of ancillary services, concerning the possibility of Joyce's setting up a permanent record booth on campus.

The proposed site is the Curtis box office, or what used to be the Off-Campus Housing headquarters.

Joyce sells his records for a regular price of \$4.99, which is at least \$1 cheaper than most retail outlets. Used records are also available for about half this price.

Since December 2, all vendors at Central Square tables have been required to obtain a permit from the Temporary Office Building to sell their goods. Due to an increase in demand over the Christmas period, booth spaces have been allocated on a first come, first served basis at a cost of \$3 a day, in force until December 20.

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