

Playing the numbers game

Mathematics learning centre open Full time

By AMELIA AMARO
This year, for the first time, York students finding it difficult to "play the numbers game", have recourse to full-time help at the Mathematics Learning Centre.

Located at South 310 Ross Building, the centre, previously open on a part-time basis, is now open five days a week, 9 to 5 (Friday till 4:30). It provides a review of the basic skills needed for a university-level course.

Part of the Counselling and

Development Centre, the Mathematics Learning Centre was originated as a joint project of the Mathematics and Science Departments and Atkinson College.

"We started the centre in response to the number of students who were having difficulty with our most elementary math courses," says co-ordinator Joan Wick-Pelletier. "In fact, the background of many students is so weak as to preclude any university-level mathematics course."

In an interim report on the centre by the Counselling and Development Centre, three factors are attributed for the different range of mathematical capabilities found among students; the elimination of standard examinations in high school; the introduction of the credit system allowing students to finish high school with an incomplete math background; and the increasing number of mature students attending university who have not had math instruction for some years.

This makes it difficult to design and teach a standard introductory

course at the university-level. As well, the large size of first-year classes makes it impossible to give individual attention to students who need help. The Learning Centre tries to alleviate this by offering on a one-to-one basis reviews to enhance the basic mathematics skills.

Use of the centre is not restricted to math majors. It has programs designed to meet the math needs of many other departments.

Students using the centre, begin by writing a series of diagnostic tests to determine the student's

strong and weak points. The range of material covered on the tests ranges from early elementary levels to high school level. The tests are evaluated and the student's programme is determined. The student then follows a self-instructional programme using materials and texts provided by the centre. Each student goes through the programme at his-her own pace. As well as their regular hours during the day, the centre is open Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, 6:30 to 8:30.



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Bethune bust busted, Nazis not suspected

By DAVID SALT MARSH

The bust of Dr. Norman Bethune, located outside Bethune College, was pushed over last Thursday night.

The bust, which is mounted on a column of nickel ore, was found lying on its side Friday morning and was reported by the Porter, John Spagnola.

Bethune Master Ioan Davies said he had no idea who could have done it. When asked about the possibility of the National Socialist Underground, which has on two previous occasions, defaced

Bethune College with Swastikas and slogans, he said "possibly, but they haven't left any messages or slogans this time". Also the NSU has phoned Bethune College after its attacks, and there were no phone calls this time.

It is generally suspected that the bust was pushed over by some students on a lark.

Davies said that the sculptor of the bust was being consulted on ways to strengthen the base so that it will be more difficult to push over.

The bust was repaired Tuesday morning.



Bethune bust in better times.

Western U. leaves OFS, wants new organization

LONDON Ont., (CUP) — The students' union at the University of Western Ontario has taken the first step towards a new provincial student organization to replace the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS).

The University Students' Council (USC) voted Nov. 10 to call a meeting of university and college student council presidents to discuss the proposed organization sometime in the new year.

The move was proposed by USC Board of Directors member Steve Lichty, who was instrumental in the successful campaign to pull Western out of OFS during a recent campus referendum on OFS membership.

USC vice-president Greg Kay, an OFS supporter, during the referendum Oct. 25 - 27, asked Lichty if he didn't think the proposed meeting was "a little premature at this point."

But Lichty refused a suggestion that the conference be delayed until the opinion of other campuses was sought saying, "If they don't want representation (in the new organization), they won't show up."

Western students voted narrowly to end their membership in the four-year old OFS in the recent referendum called by the USC last spring after some councillors objected to a then-recent leaflet on provincial government cutbacks in social services.

USC executive member Larry Haskell recommended the council urge students to vote against continued OFS membership in an article for the provincial Young Progressive Conservatives' newsletter after he attended the

OFS spring conference last June.

Haskell in his article objected to the federation's policy of demanding free tuition for higher education and its attacks on education spending cutbacks by Ontario's PC government.

Lichty, an executive member of the PC's Campus Association council, led the anti-OFS campaign which focussed mainly on the federation's unionized staff's wages and benefits.

The USC's proposed new organization would concentrate on tuition fees and stipends for occupational therapy students, both long-standing OFS demands.

The council decided to pay for the cost of the conference but will ask participating student unions to pay their own travel to the UWO campus.

"Pay more" Parrott says

LONDON (CUP) — University students should pay a greater share of the cost of their education, according to Ontario minister of colleges and universities Dr. Harry Parrott.

The issue of education spending is similar to the problem of rising health care costs, Parrott told about 40 University of Western Ontario students on National Student Day, Nov. 9.

Some money must come from the private sector because the government cannot be expected to meet rising costs single-handedly, he contended.