

Vanier Cup Champions Guelph Gryphons hoist head coach John Mussleman after their 22-13 victory over Mount Allison Mounties on Saturday. See page 13 for story.

Hallewick queried on investigation into rental of van

By ELLIOTT SHIFF

CYSF Director of Women's Affairs Elise Hallewick faced intense questioning at last Thursday's CYSF meeting about her handling of her investigation into the CYSF van controversy.

At the conclusion of the stormy session, Director of Finance Valance Ellies proposed a motion limiting today's meeting to deal solely "with the conduct of (Council president) Chris Summerhayes and Elise Hallewick in dealing with the sesquicentennial events."

During her report to CYSF last Thursday, Hallewick was questioned by members of council, many of whom criticized Hallewick for approaching *Excalibur* with her concerns about Summerhayes before bringing up the matter with the council's executive committee.

Hallewick's investigation centred around the rental of a mini-bus by Summerhayes on behalf of the CYSF. The bus was rented to transport York's representative team to the sesquicentennial inter-collegiate party at Olympic Island on Saturday, September 22. The van was rented out on a Friday but neither the van nor Summerhayes arrived at the event on Saturday.

Board of Governors representative Pamela Fruitman questioned Hallewick about the process of the investigation, saying "the information should have been brought back to council before going to *Excalibur*," to which Hallewick replied that she had been blocked from discussing the issue by the Executive and that "*Excalibur* had a right to know what was going on."

Hallewick said the expenses listed in *Excalibur* concerning the rental of the van were stated facts from public record. She also said the matter had been brought up in council twice previously, and that "people have a right to know after the matter has been raised in council."

BOG representative Martin Zarnett backed Hallewick's claim by stating that Hallewick had asked two weeks ago about the finances and was never answered.

"She had a concern and it was not answered," Zarnett said. "She did her investigation as a representative of CYSF and the people of CYSF have a right to know the finances." Zarnett also said that both he and Hallewick had approached Summerhayes about the financing of the van rental and neither had received a satisfactory answer.

Graduate Business Council representative Don McMillan said, "Elise has raised a question of the President's ethics," and suggested she resign. Hallewick declined to offer her resignation, saying that she was not trying to hurt the integrity of council and reiterated that "the students have the right to know the facts."

Discussion of the sesquicentennial events began at the meeting following Summerhayes' introduction of a motion to accept the resignation of CYSF's Business Manager Norm Whipler.

After considerable discussion about Whipler's resignation letter Founders College representative Ted Christensen suggested that the motion be deferred until after council directors presented their reports, which he felt would "bring more light to the motion."

During her report Hallewick told council that she had approached Whipler to see the CYSF account books following a recommendation from council that she investigate the costs of the sesqui events. Hallewick said that she approached Whipler twice to see the books and was refused both times. The third time she said she returned with a copy of the legal act concerning public corporations, and after reading him the act Hallewick said she was allowed to see the books.

OSAP system under NDP investigation

By NADINE CHANGFOOT

Richard Allen, the provincial NDP's Colleges and Universities critic, is conducting an investigation into the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP).

"A lot of students are getting a raw deal," Allen said.

Allen is writing to colleges and universities throughout the province asking students who have had problems with OSAP to inform him of their particular situation.

"I cannot personally solve every student's problem in Ontario," said Allen, but "it is time to try and get to the bottom of it (OSAP's problems)." A complete picture of the situation and a case by case analysis will help him do this he says.

A problem with OSAP Allen says, is that students from wealthy families have increasingly been able to take advantage of OSAP and receive financial assistance for their post-secondary education.

"It is the students on the fringe of the guidelines that don't get listened to very well," Allen said. "The process ought to be more open."

Allen said the most pressing issues that came to mind were situations where "students are caught in family breakups." Often students have been cast on their own and find it difficult to get counsellors to listen to their case. He gave an example where a parent may have died and left his assets to the student. "Often OSAP feels the student should divest assets to continue his education, but Allen continued, "should he forego his assets now when he may not have to in the future?"

Brian Taran CYSF Director of Academic Affairs, said, "It is tremendous that students have an opportunity to receive OSAP. The system works well because those who need it apply for it and most of the time get it." But, he added, "the system breaks down

when you have to submit a budget well in advance of the school year."

Taran's main concern about OSAP is that some people deserving of financial assistance do not receive any.

"OSAP requires unrealistic expectations with respect to parental contribution, summer earnings and living expenses." These expectations are, he added, "not an adequate picture as they (OSAP) see it."

OSAP representatives at York refused to comment on what Taran said about OSAP when contacted by *Excalibur*. "OSAP presupposes what the parents are ready, willing and able to give," said Taran. He pointed out, however, that times change, situations change and it may not be a case of whether parents are reading and willing to pay—the problem is if they are able.

"It is difficult for students to estimate their actual earnings," before their summer job is completed. If the figures a student estimates are inaccurate it may work to his disadvantage. The same problem exists with a student having to estimate his living expenses for the next eight months when he does not even have accommodation. "The expenses they (OSAP) deem adequate with respect to the three categories don't reflect reality at all," Taran said.

Allen said he would not rule out monitoring how students spend their OSAP. At present, however, he said the system is set up "to make certain a student's need is such so that OSAP will be spent on fees, residence, books and so on."

Taran said the monitoring of a person's expenses after receiving OSAP may violate and unfairly question a person's integrity and liberty.

Both Taran and Allen agree there is abuse within the system and that the guidelines should be improved.

Remove harmful asbestos, demands student rep

By DAVID BYRNES

A student representative on the Board of Governors is upset that the risk of asbestos building materials in Osgoode is not being considered seriously enough by the Board. Martin Zarnett told *Excalibur* that the potential health risk of the asbestos should make its removal an urgent building project priority. "We can't just put it off until we have a good budget," Zarnett said.

An asbestos spray was used on many of the steel girders supporting the building and is intended to prevent them from melting and collapsing in a fire.

Zarnett criticized Vice President George Bell for advising Board members at the last meeting that "there is no current risk to anyone at Osgoode unless we seriously disrupt the asbestos that is there." Bell did not tell the board, Zarnett said, that a study done for the university by a consulting firm "strongly recommended" that the university remove the asbestos from Osgoode.

Zarnett pointed out that since the time the study was done the asbestos may have been

disrupted by construction in Osgoode's library and also by a fire.

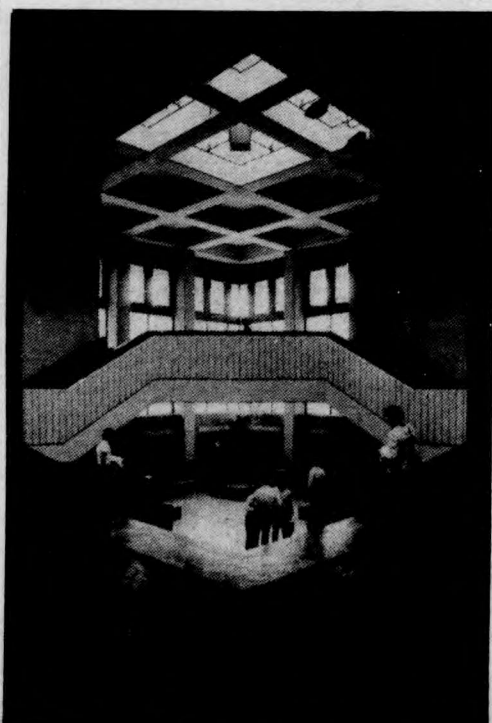
Removing the asbestos is now priority number four on a list of 39 building project priorities outlined in the minutes of the last BOG meeting. Considered to be greater priorities are 1) the installation of another elevator in the Ross building, 2) expanding the studio production area of the Film Department, and 3) improving the power supply to the computers in Steacie.

"It seems to me that the health and safety of York students should be a priority over the convenience of York students," Zarnett said.

Air samples are taken twice a year in Osgoode to determine if the asbestos level is high. So far, the samples have not indicated an asbestos content much different from that found in the outside air. Results are still unavailable from more samples which were taken last week.

Significant exposure to asbestos fibres has been known to cause asbestosis, mesothelioma and lung cancer.

Zarnett said he will air his concern at the next BOG meeting on December 11.



Osgoode Hall

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