

NDP education critic is vague on own post-education policies

By TONY CARTY

Four weeks ago, Stephen Lewis, the Ontario NDP leader visited York and spoke to an utterly attentive audience of 500 in Curtis L.

Last week, David Warner, the NDP's critic of the Colleges and Universities portfolio in the Ontario legislature was at York to explain his party's policies on post-secondary education and spoke to an audience of 25.

Whether it was too soon to have another member of the NDP caucus back on campus is probably still being pondered by the York NDP club.

The MPP for Scarborough-Ellesmere reaffirmed his party's opposition to the Ontario government's Henderson Report's stand on increased tuition fees. The NDP is opposed to any increase in fees, stated Warner.

Warner promised to reverse the trend of students to concentrate in larger post-secondary school institutions, by offering amenities in the smaller institutions so as to make them more attractive to students.

Warner also claimed that "too many immigrant children get streamed into vocational schools" by teachers who know little of the students' background and vernacular and interpret problems arising from nationality as a lack of academic ability.

Pressed to outline specific proposals, the education critic would only say that his party would stress sound teacher training.

His party would provide relevant programmes in secondary schools and well-trained, competent teachers flexible enough to deal with varied



Peter Hsu photo

NDP education critic David Warner talks to students in Ross. Barry Edson, president of the York NDP club, is in background.

problems from students of differing backgrounds.

"If we think education is necessary to uphold our societal institutions and values, we must protect it," said Warner. "At age 17, 95 per cent of students ought to be in high school," he added.

Warner dissented from the view that quotas be placed on U.S. born professors working in Canadian colleges and universities.

"I think if there's going to be some rigid protection, it belongs in the area of Canadian politics and Canadian literature only," said Warner.

While acknowledging that there exist potential problems caused by a large percentage of foreign professors, Warner said institutions ought to continue to utilize a "democratic selection" process in hiring.

WORD POWER

This is the first in what will be come a weekly feature in Excalibur. Queries or suggestions should be addressed to Bill Sherk at Centre for Continuing Education.

By BILL SHERK

This new weekly column will ply you with a dazzling array of juicy linguistic morsels. Here is where you can feast on the richness of the English language — and here is where you can measure your word power by tackling a quick self-correcting quiz on words.

The following test contains some words so formidable that even the most erudite philologists cringe with fear. This week's six key words have been gleaned, culled, and garnered from the last issue of Excalibur.

We now sally forth into the first test. Underline that choice which comes closest in meaning to the key word. Answers appear at the bottom of this column.

1) coerce — a) to usurp; b) arrest; c) cajole; d) compel; e) coax

2) caustic — a) abrasive; b) biting; c) inappropriate; d) full of chemicals; e) precipitate

3) ostensible — a) apparent; b) oblivious; c) expensive; d) evasive; e) bold

4) myriad — a) mosaic; b) species of insect; c) multitude; d) geometric figure; e) patchwork

5) pensive — a) ponderous; b) ruminative; c) indigent; d) lethargic; e) sensitive

6) eclectic — a) shocking; b) diverse; c) inflammatory; d) jumbled; e) religious

ANSWERS: 1d), 2b), 3a), 4c), 5b), 6b).

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