

Becker handles the practical 'nuts and bolts issues'

By PAUL AXELROD

A man who has never been a teacher and who frankly admits "I'm not an academic" has been appointed the new assistant vice-president in charge of student services at York University. John Becker has taken over the duties held last year by Henry Best.

In an interview with EXCALIBUR Becker described his job as handling all the practical "nuts and bolts issues" coming from the Council of the York Student Federation, and reporting directly to York president Murray G. Ross on all student government matters. "I'm supposed to be sensitive about whether there is a question of university policy and go to him if there is."

Becker, who was senior tutor in McLaughlin College last year, was asked what the present position of the administration was on building a chapel on the York Campus. Last year in a university-wide referendum York's community voted 945-795 against the administration's acceptance of a donation for a chapel, which if built would cost the university \$15,000 annually in maintenance costs. The CYSF, which sponsored the referendum, has not received any statement from the donor, chairman of the

board of governors William Pearson Scott, or from the administration.

Becker said he did not know where the funds for the donation are now or whether or not the administration will build the chapel. "I think the referendum was taken as advice — that's about all that could've happened isn't it? I'm not being evasive. I truly don't know."

Commenting on another controversial matter, the issue of police on campus, Becker made the position of the administration quite clear. "The police have the same rights on this piece of land as they do on any other piece of land." He affirmed that they could come on campus any time they wanted.

He said the university knows of no undercover police agents on campus and that the administration has never invited any of their agents to the university. He added "It's not unusual for police agents to use plants — they're under no obligation to tell us. In fact it would probably work to their disadvantage to tell us, since if they did, the university would probably get upset at that kind of surveillance."

Becker was unable to comment when he was asked about the activities of the Metropolitan Toronto Police "Special Squad", a unit which concerns itself with radical political activities of students and labour unions. In The Telegram (Aug. 6) a spokesman for the police said that they had met with the York administration, but the exact arrangement between the university and the squad was unclear.

The report said police "would take a hard line and told university officials that if there was trouble they would move in and not wait to be invited." Becker said he did not attend the meeting during the summer. He said that he would probably follow up with a study of police on campus since it is in his province of interest to do so, but

added, "since I'm a greenhorn I'm not exactly sure how to go about doing it."

Becker also discussed Ross' convocation speech, and its' reference to campus "agitators paid by outside agencies". Becker said Ross' statement was a reference to history, rather than a comment on the present or a prediction for the future of York.

Becker was asked if he thought the university was democratically

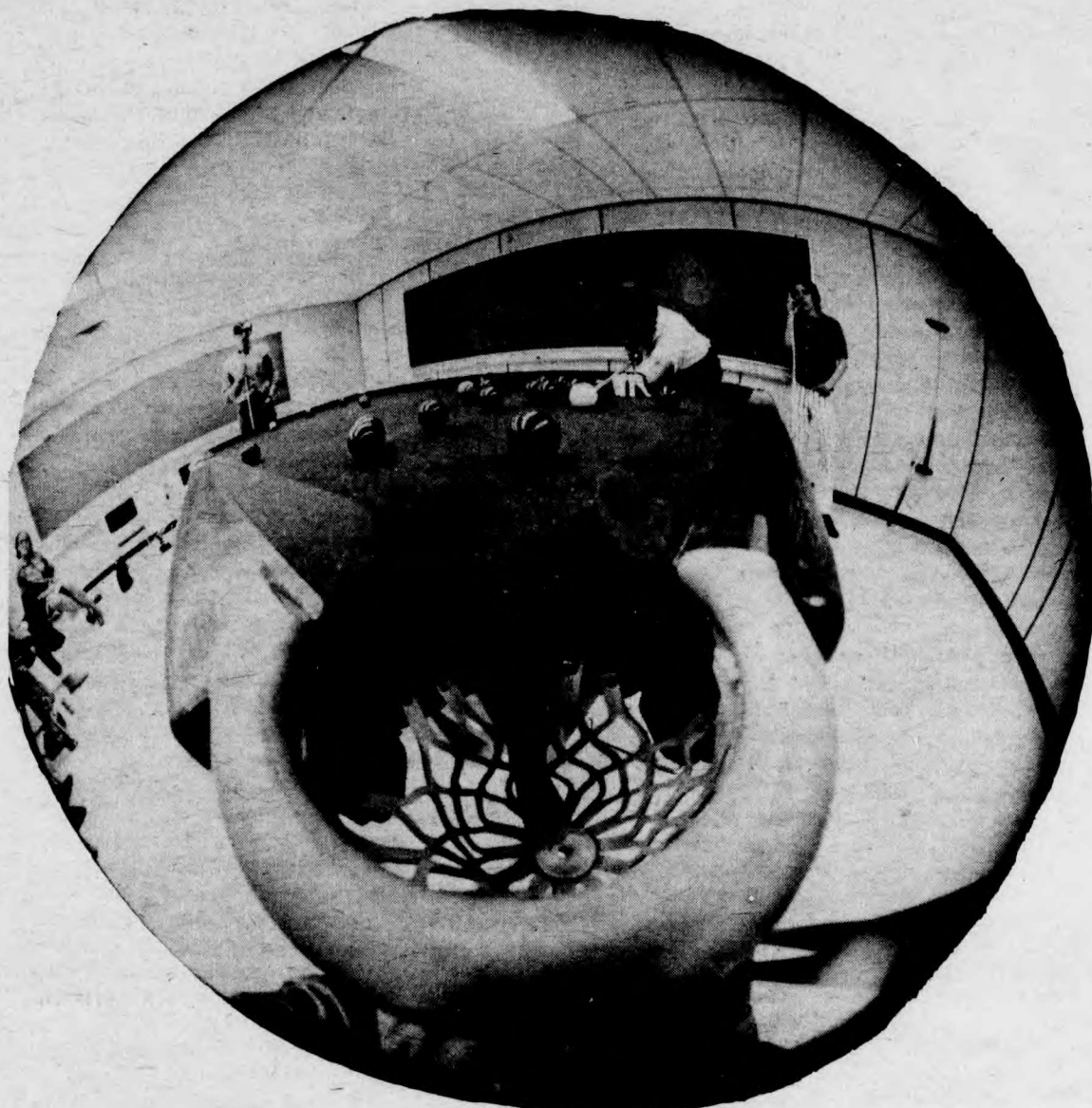
run in its present form and said "no." He also said he did not think it should be run along democratic lines.

He doesn't believe, he said, "on all or most critical issues that there should be some form of referendum or elective process which would produce a group of people who in turn would make decisions . . . by being invested the authority of the electorate."

Referring to the controversial

Modes of Reasoning 171 course which was compulsory for all first year arts students last year, Becker said, "the quality of education at York might not be enhanced if we got ourselves in a position where . . . you could introduce very fast and immense change on the basis of a vote."

A petition of protest against the course was drawn up and signed by 600 students. The course is not compulsory this year.



Such a tiny, tiny, ball, and such a big, big pocket

Excalibur — Dave Cooper

Campbell: change by orderly revolution

By MIKE SAVAGE

"A big shit" PhD lectures at you, and you, "the little shit", listen, take notes and give back on essays and exams just what the "big shit" wants.

This is not what education is all about, says Horace Campbell. The learning process is one of give and

take.

Speaking in the McLaughlin junior common room last Thursday at a panel discussion on "Why we're here at university", Campbell said we are programmed through socialization to believe a university degree today is a desirable goal. If you get that degree you will be rewarded by higher pay and prestige, so most people won't rock the boat.

He said most university students come from the "top eight per cent" of the population, and that the university community is a self-perpetuating elite. If we are to eradicate the blatant social ills of our community, he said, then change must come about now while we are at university.

Campbell said the change must be by revolution. He was quick to

point out he didn't mean "burning down buildings and all that crap", for revolution can be the orderly replacement of one social system by another.

"Western civilization is built on a myth", said Campbell. "That myth is progress". He went on to describe the process of colonization where indigenous peoples are slaughtered in the name of pro-

gress.

At this point a member of the audience suggested many blacks may be killed in the future in the name of progress, and that the human race progresses by killing its own kind. This suggestion brought a brief uproar.

Talking about violence Campbell said: "Violence is a child going to bed hungry every night."

York prof takes gov't job

Walter Baker, 39, an associate professor and director of York's school of public administration has been given a special one-year appointment to the department of Indian affairs and northern development.

The appointment was an-

nounced in July.

Baker was a welfare teacher with Ojibway Indians in 1950. He came to York in 1967 from Queen's University in Kingston.

Baker will come from Ottawa once a week to teach an evening class in administrative studies.

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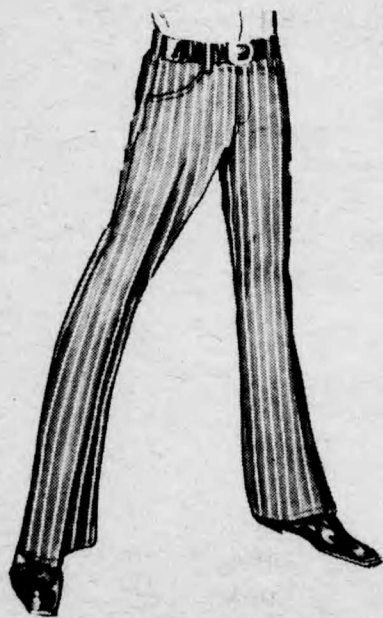
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