

Chris Holmes

Prof says department unfairly opposes his tenure

STEPHANIE GROSS

A York psychology professor and a group of his students have charged that his department and faculty have not recommended him for tenure because they oppose what he teaches. The Senate, which makes the final decisions concerning tenure and promotion, is currently considering his case.

Dr. Chris Holmes, who introduced "The Psychology of Mysticism" as a course, says the Psychology Department "thinks I am going to do a disservice to students--teaching them about the psychic sciences; they don't state this openly but it is reflected in other ways how they evaluate my teaching. This is basically what I think is wrong with the assessment of my work at York." Holmes had to expand his mysticism class from the original 60 seats to allow room for the 100 that applied.

Commenting further on his lack of support, Holmes said, "I teach very differently than most professors I've ever heard. I don't think people can tolerate my interest in the nature of the human spirit--the psychic sciences, the possible existence of God, how to experience higher states of consciousness."

"I'll leave"

Dr. N. Endler, acting chairperson of the Psychology Department, would not comment because "it would jeopardize the Holmes case." Asked if the Mysticism course will continue, Endler replied, "Yes, Dr. Holmes will be teaching it next year." But Holmes says this is "a make or break year--I'll either get it (T & P) this year or I'll leave." Holmes is concerned that if he leaves the University, it will leave a gap in his department. "There is not a single profes-

sor in the psychology department who considers spiritual and esoteric psychology except myself."

"Ridiculous"

Some of Holmes' students felt that Holmes had been evaluated unfairly by the Psychology Department, and last December they wrote a letter to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Harold Kaplan, in "support of Professor Chris Holmes' Tenure and Promotion--he (Holmes) is an interesting, stimulating, informative and very approachable professor." His "presentation of the lecture and materials is stimulating for the student, resulting in a broader understanding and knowledge of the subject."

These comments differ from those made by the psychology department members in their evaluation of Holmes: "The lecture was primarily a super-

ficial gloss on the assigned readings--few personal anecdotes--little or no critical analysis." Holmes says "these suggestions are ridiculous and contradict most radically what many students say about my courses."

Holmes presented the faculty evaluations to his stu-

dents "to see what they thought of these evaluations and rate how biased they were." Holmes presented these to the Faculty of Arts.

Biased evaluations

"On a seven-point scale, the students' most frequent re-

sponse was seven, indicating that they thought the evaluations were biased. The second most frequent response was six and the next was five, indicating that they thought the evaluations were quite biased." Holmes submitted the survey results to the psychology department.

Province announces university funding increase

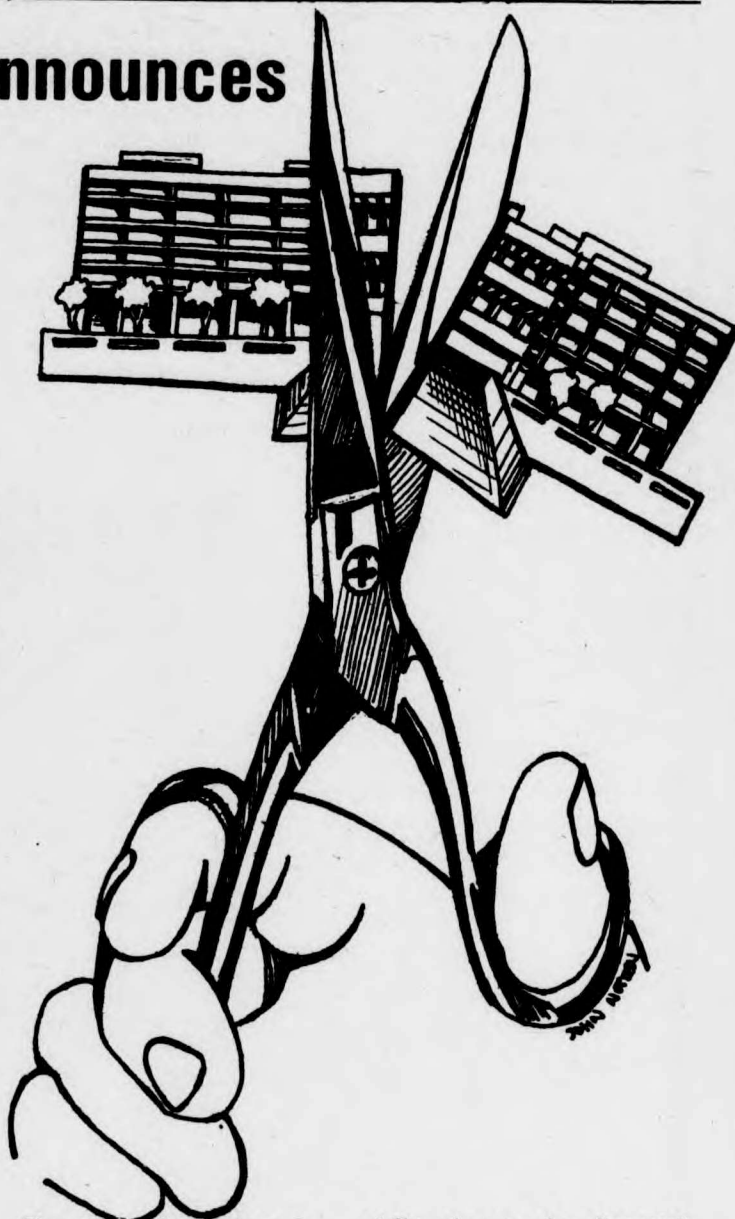
MIKE MONASTYRSKYJ

The provincial government announced last week that universities would receive an 8.6 per cent increase in funding this year, but the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario has called the announcement "a message of pessimism for all members of Ontario's post-secondary community."

"The Ministry of Colleges and Universities has fallen back into a funding slump with less than inflation rates of funding," said CFS-O chairperson Helena Mitchell. "This is another year of muddling through."

"One time grant"

According to a press communique from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, the operating grants to the institutions total \$1,113,500,000 this year, an increase of 7.5 per cent over last year. The government will also provide an additional \$12 million, 1.1 per cent of the total allocation, as a special one-time grant towards institutional expenditures on equipment for use in teaching undergraduates and for library equipment acquisitions."



The Council of Ontario Universities, which represents all Ontario universities, had recommended an increase of 11.8 per cent, while the Ontario Council of University Affairs, which is an advisory body to the Ministry, advocated an increase of 9.2 per cent.

In a press release, COU said the increase will not substan-

tially change the financial situation of the 15 universities and Ryerson Polytechnical Institute." COU "is grateful, however, that the government has recognized the need for new equipment for use in teaching undergraduates and for library acquisitions through a \$12 million allocation."

Bethune College Council grants approval to Gay Alliance dance

MIKE MONASTYRSKYJ

Bethune College Council has voted unanimously in favour of allowing the Gay Alliance to hold a dance in the Bethune Junior Commons Room.

Whether or not to hold the dance became a controversial issue when the Alliance charged that pub manager Dave O'Sullivan's opposition to the dance represented discrimination against the gay community.

Four requests

All events requiring the Bethune liquor license must be approved by the college council, and the vote in favour took place on Thursday, February 10.

According to Residence Tutor Alan O'Connor, "It was a regular council meeting. There were four requests for approval, and discussion

about the Gay Alliance dance took 10-15 minutes. A lot of people tried to bring the morality of the issue into discussion. A lot of the discussion was beside the point, but the speaker was pretty strict about controlling the discussion."

An anti-gay delegation appeared at the meeting, said O'Connor, but a petition against the dance, which had been circulating in the college's residence was not presented. He also said that a typewriter had been defaced with anti-gay slogans written in with liquid paper.

Karen Kahn, co-President of the Alliance, called the vote "a good result. It's not a matter of being pleased, it's a matter of feeling content at finally being accepted. It came through and that's positive. It's supposed to be the college of social change and all of that."

O'Sullivan had said he was concerned about the possibility of anti-gay violence break-

"Issue is resolved"

ing out at the dance, but that if the dance were approved he would treat the event as any other Bethune function. Contacted Tuesday, O'Sullivan said, "As far as I'm concerned, the issue is resolved. I'm hiring a few extra staff to avoid any extra problems."

O'Connor said that about 16 gays participated in a Valentine Dance organized by the Bethune Residence Committee. The dance took place on the night of the vote, and according to O'Connor "there was absolutely no problem." O'Sullivan, who worked during the dance, told *Excalibur* that he was too busy to notice if there were any gay couples at the present.

Social Justice film programme focuses on rights

PAULETTE PEIROL

The Social Justice Film Series at Osgoode Hall each Thursday at 8 p.m. until March 24, explores specific social injustices, both local and global. It attempts to educate students about such

topics as Nicaraguan freedom, South African struggles, gay rights, and worker's rights in Ontario. Its secondary goal is to actively involve interested persons in these concerns.

This marks the second successful year of the series,

co-ordinated by Cathy Moffat and Richard Anderson of the Student Christian Movement and Chris Reid of the Law Union. Reid explains, "Most of the money comes from the Law Union, while SCM does most of the work." Moffat says the Christian view of social justice is, "Love thy neighbor as thyself." In her opinion, "To be silent and not active with respect to oppression is even worse than being an oppressor. It's a fallacy that Canada is neutral, for silence is not neutrality." Reid's view reflects that of the Law Union, which is "a loose coalition of working class lawyers and law students representing working class interests." He expresses Social Justice as "a concern for human rights, especially with respect to workers and unions. It focuses not necessarily on individual rights, but social and class rights."

Solidarity is a strong topic in the series. Reid stresses that "Solidarity is not an act of charity, but mutual aid

between forces fighting for the same object". He sees a lot of apathy concerning social justice, but says that this is changing, especially in the area of 'personal rights'. Many people feel that the immensity of the issues is overwhelming, and in response to this, Moffat advises, "People need to expose themselves to a variety of sources (pertaining to social concerns) and then grow to trust in one which is reliable." She emphasizes that even an emotional response is valid, since it is humanitarian. Moffat feels that the problem with York students is that "they aren't moved."

Both Moffat and Reid stress that since we live in a global community, we can't ignore the issues surrounding ourselves. Moffat adds, "Even we Canadians have our own repression, such as taxes, and the power of Multi-National corporations, though we don't always realize it."

The Social Justice Film Series concentrates on "concrete action, rather than philosophical musing".

Moffat stresses that "small things become significant when a lot of people do them." The main purpose of the series is "to increase awareness, and if people want to become

involved in an issue, the speakers can provide information on action-orientated involvement".

Moffat adds, "Some people aren't prepared to become

involved, but that's okay, as long as they personally consider the issues." The SCM and Law Union are pleased at the wide variety of people attending the films. Tonight at 8 p.m. in room 107, Osgoode Hall will be the film *Track Two*, exploring gay and lesbian rights. Speaking, will be two Co-Presidents of the Gay Alliance at York. Admission is free.

"York investing CFS-O's money"

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Turner and Mitchell both say they were told in January that CYSF could not pay its fees because its money was tied up in a term investment. Both Turner and Mitchell said that investing money rather than using it to pay membership fees would likely count against any forgiveness of interest charges. "The membership is liable to take a dim view of York investing CFS-O's money," said Turner.

Finn confirmed that from December 6 through February 3 that CYSF had \$20,000 tied up in a guaranteed investment

certificate. But Finn says the investment really had nothing to do with the CFS-O fees.

He said that CYSF did not expect to need to \$20,000 for general operating costs until February and so the money was invested until needed.

Finn also pointed out that the two \$10,000 cheques to CFS-O will be covered by the balance of CYSF's operating grant (about \$43,750) which CYSF will receive in March. In other words, only \$5,000 of the payments to CFS-O will come out of the \$120,000 the CYSF had received by November 18.



SOCIAL JUSTICE