

Stay of sentence for Sault school

By Harvey Pinder

Algoma College of Sault Ste. Marie has won a five year reprieve after being threatened with closure, following the tabling of a Royal Commission Report.

John Whiteside, the sole member of the Royal Commission, decided last month that the College was too small to feasibly continue and suggested that students could cross the border to attend college in the American border town.

Last Friday the provincial government announced that the College would continue to receive regular funding, and in addition would receive up to \$100,000 per year from the Ministry of Northern Affairs for five years.

However, Harry Parrot, Minister of Colleges and Universities, warned that, "unless the community uses the next five year period of grace to prove the college's viability, the Government will not continue its support beyond that point."

John Butcher, President of the Students Administration Council at Algoma College, said "it was quite a surprise that the Government settled this early, without much of a fight. At least now we know the college will be around for five years."

When asked why the government not only refused the recommendation of its Royal Commissioner, but actually increased the College's funding, Butcher replied, "The students, alumni, and faculty were very concerned and had started petitions and planned to hold rallies."

"In addition, Algoma College is John Rhodes' riding, he is the Provincial Minister of Housing and is influential in the Cabinet. That must have had quite a bit to do with the decision."

Currently the college receives \$1,160,000 in provincial funds. It has 200 full-time and 700 part-time students.

John Rhodes' assistant noted Rhodes was "quite opposed to the College closing, and particularly

opposed to the recommendation that students attend college in the United States."

With massive lay-offs in the mining industry, combined with longstanding grievances over "southern chauvinism," the government might not have wished to further provoke voters in northern Ontario. The Davis government is on shaky ground in the north where it narrowly regained several seats from the NDP in the last election.

The student council of Algoma prepared a 14-page rebuttal of the Whiteside Report and was holding the first protest rally the morning of the announcement. It quickly turned into a celebration because the closing of the school would have meant the end of university-level education for most students.

The closest Canadian university is 180 miles away, while to attend the American college requires a car, a stiff toll to cross the bridge, and makes students ineligible to receive



OSAP grants.

The alumni of the college had approached each business in the Sault with a petition to keep the college open and only five refused to sign. Algoma Steel, the largest employer in the city, was one of the prominent signers.

The faculty offered to teach one additional course each in the next year. They estimated this would save \$80,000.

The Board of Trustees (equivalent to our Board of Governors) responded after several weeks with a proposal to share facilities with the local community college.

The Whiteside Report has cost \$204,000 so far. John Whiteside, a law professor at University of Windsor, had been appointed in March, 1976 to investigate charges of mismanagement. The commission held public meetings in Sault St. Marie, to which the Student Council had submitted a brief.

In an unusual move for a Royal Commission member, Whiteside asked that his salary be sent to the law school since he felt that time spent on commission work was deducted from his duties as a professor.



Garry Herson photo

Name the zebra contest. *Excalibur* announces its first contest for 1978. Find the zebra in the above photo and name him/her/it. A panel of faculty members and a zoology expert will pick the winner sometime next June, winner to get a pair of striped *Excalibur* pyjamas with a Keith Richard photo on the back.

Full house greets Parrott

By Agnes Kruchio

Minister of colleges and universities Harry Parrott told an overflow crowd at Medical Sciences auditorium at U of T last week that students will get unlimited interest free loans from the province if they no longer qualify for a grant.

"The provincial grant will top off the Canada student loan, to meet the need of students", he said.

His announcement eased some of the concern of students created when the minister announced last fall that students will cease to be eligible for a student grant after they have been in a post secondary institute for eight terms.

According to Parrott, the provincial loan will be unlimited and interest free.

In a meeting that lasted over two hours, students confronted the

minister on issues related to the proposed new student aid plan.

Jeff Adelson, representing over 1,000 medical students, said the new student aid plan will lead to a poorer quality of medical care in the province. He believes that under the new plan poorer rural students who should be doctors will not be able to afford to go to medical schools, often located in large urban centres.

The new scheme will lead doctors to high volume urban practices, an arrangement which does not meet the needs of Ontario, he said.

A student who identified himself as a fourth year undergraduate said he had done a lot of homework and found out that the proposals which are not to be released officially until March, have already been sent to the printer.

"Why is the announcement that will affect the lives of so many

students being delayed?" he asked.

Parrott denied the student's charge that the documents were ready and reiterated that the "details need to be ironed out" before an announcement can be made.

Parrott insisted that the new scheme will be better than the present one, saying the new plan will help truly "needy" students, who would get only grants from the government under his new plan. However, he repeatedly refused to define what a "needy" student is. "It's a student who has an appropriate level of resources from parents," he said.

Parrott and his assistant John Bonner, came under fire from students who said the short eligibility period will prevent many from specializing in graduate school or attending professional schools.

Roof for patio pondered

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modified," he said.

Radio York's John Thompson, who attracts hundreds of spectators to the pit with his weekly radio talk show broadcasts, sees the termination of Bearpit chats as the end of public discussion.

"I can probably understand that, with upwards of 200-300 people there, it could be a fire hazard and exiting might be a problem. There's no other local place people can gather, other than a room or lecture hall."

"If we want to get people involved we must be in a place where the public is. It generates open discussion and is not just the same old people. We catch people passing through."

Thompson said the final Bearpit session he has programmed is a CYSF meet - the - candidates debate. "We can't do a public debate through Radio York anywhere else."

In search of space, the Council of the York Student Federation has proposed covering the central square patio so that it can be used year round. Council president Paul Hayden estimates a covering can be built for \$150-200,000 which he will seek from the administration.

Campus planner Robert Howard estimates the minimum cost of a safe enclosure to be \$500,000. Although the patio could be covered for less money, cheaper structures would not conform to North York fire safety regulations.

Said Howard, "this proposal has been examined several times in the past but put aside because of the high cost."

"An enclosed patio would be an attractive, useful space but the university has not a cent for this purpose. It's a low priority item compared with other needs, such as books for the library and oil for heating the buildings."

The most recent plan for covering the patio was submitted to the administration by Rill Food Services which operates the complex I cafeteria.

Warren Rill proposed an \$800,000 renovation of the cafeteria and patio in exchange for a 20 year contract. Rill's current two year contract in Complex I ends in April '79. But the deal was never seriously considered according to Food and Beverage Manager Crandles.

Commenting on the need for space, both Howard and Crandles suggested the student council consider the construction of a separate student union building as an alternative to the present plan.

Prof back at work

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A copy of Macdonald's letter will be placed in Forest's file as a formal reprimand.

When contacted by *Excalibur* Tuesday, Macdonald said he had no comment to make on Forest's reinstatement.

A letter dated Tuesday was written by Forest in response to Macdonald's letter. Forest's response to his reinstatement was that "this is a victory for the Marxist-Leninist progressive and democratic students, faculty and staff."

Forest objected to the charges made in Macdonald's letter concerning the university's justification for suspending him and their allegation that he was guilty of assault.

According to Forest's letter, the university had been forced into their decision to lift the suspension due to "the widespread opposition from all progressive quarters of the university community and the organizing carried out by the Ad Hoc Committee Against Political Persecution and the York Student Movement".

Tuesday was the first day that Forest was to resume his position at the university. When asked by *Excalibur* if he had taught his class that day he said he was unable to go to his class because he went to James Nugent's trial that same day.

Forest's trial for assault, and that of York staff member Barbara Nunn for possession of a concealed weapon, are scheduled for January 26.

Radio manager packs it in

By Scott Clayton

Radio York Station Manager Giulio Malfatti resigned yesterday, clearing the way for a staff reorganization. His successor has yet to be named, but will soon be elected by the staff.



Malfatti assumed his post last fall in the wake of the resignation of Richard Gould as Station Manager. Gould resigned amid revelations of a financial and organizational debacle that rocked the station.

Malfatti, upon resigning, stated that he had received good treatment from the CYSF throughout his term. However, earlier this year he had on more than one occasion accused the student council of a lack of co-operation and assistance.

Malfatti does not see the acquisition of an FM licence by CKRY as being a real possibility in the future, due primarily to the expense and CRTC regulations.

Malfatti will remain at the station in an advisory capacity until the new manager becomes familiar with its operation.

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