

Tory MP chats at Osgoode pub

Carter has to prove himself: Flora Macdonald

By DAVID SALT MARSH

Flora Macdonald, M.P. for Kingston and the Islands and a former candidate for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party spoke to a full house at the Osgoode Pub last Wednesday on Federal-Provincial Relations and fielded questions from the audience on everything from day care and Jimmy Carter to patriation of the B.N.A. Act.

Citing recent changes in federal-provincial relations, Macdonald said that the federal government is trying to financially burden the provinces. She said that under the present system for cost-sharing programmes between the federal and provincial governments, the provinces are reimbursed for 50 per cent of any federal provincial programme. Now, she said, the federal government plans to give the provinces a predetermined amount of money as this share of

the programme. "It is a real attempt at fiscal restraint" she said, "at the cost of offloading costs onto the provincial treasuries".

Macdonald said that wealthier provinces such as Ontario and British Columbia would welcome the new arrangement, but "transfer of tax points don't mean a great deal to Newfoundland or P.E.I."

She also criticized the new scheme for not having any provisions for re-negotiations because "the formula, once it is adopted, remains in position for all time." (Presently, all cost-sharing programmes are re-negotiated every five years.)

Macdonald said that "very few people are aware of what is going on between the federal and provincial governments" partly because the media, particularly television is ill-suited to report "on such a complex issue". She then urged her audience to pressure the media and

members of parliament so that some light could be brought to this issue.

In the ensuing question period she commented on the presidential situation in the U.S. Of President-elect Jimmy Carter, she said "we are dealing with a new and unknown quantity ... he's going to have to prove himself in domestic affairs". "Vice-president-elect Mondale is one American who has taken a continuous interest in Canada."

Macdonald was quick to note that there was little regret over Joe Clark's election as national Tory leader and said that she had not seen our caucus work like it has in the past few months ... we have had a good working situation".

On bilingualism, Macdonald said that 69 per cent of all civil servants who take the government French language courses never get to use French in their work, which, she



Bryan Johnson photo

Tory MP Flora Macdonald spoke at the Osgoode Pub last Wednesday.

said, is demoralizing and a waste of money.

When asked about daycare, Macdonald was quick to comment that "the place of the father is in the home" which brought an immediate round of applause from the female members of the audience.

One of her greatest concerns she said is the unused potential of women. It is possible to combine work in the home with work outside the home she said.

"I don't want to see any woman's role curcumized by her being a mother."

Letters To The Editor

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, c/o Excalibur, room 111 Central Square. They must be double-spaced, typed and limited to 250 words. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for length and grammar. Name and address must be included for legal purposes but the name will be withheld upon request. Deadline: Mon. 4 p.m.

York social co-op thwarted by apathy, charges student

The York Social Co-op is about to go under. Due to a lack of cooperation on the part of most of the College Councils, the York Social Co-op is inoperable. The Social Co-op at its inception had two primary functions. These were to coordinate the social activities of the College Councils in order to avoid duplication of events and hearing monetary losses, and secondly, to provide top quality entertainment, which neither CYSF nor the College Councils have the resources to do.

Funds which were promised to the Co-op were never delivered. Myself and Paul Hayden, V.P. Social and Cultural Affairs, CYSF have spent the last two months trying to get various colleges to maintain their commitments. Thus far CYSF, Vanier College and Winters College have taken the Social Co-op seriously. Barry Edson, President of CYSF, who is committed to a diversified social programme on campus, called several meetings over the summer months but was thwarted by the apathy of the College Councils.

Because of apathy at the college council level, York University lost numerous exciting entertainers, among them Blood, Sweat and Tears and Judy Collins. If there are to be any concerts on the York campus this year, the Co-op must be given the funds promised to it. commitments. Because of the wide dispersal of student monies amongst various levels of student government, CYSF does not have the financial resources to fulfill on its own, an important facet of the responsibilities of student government.

Its about time that the other student governments on campus, took their responsibilities more seriously, especially since many members of the York Community are beginning to question the viability and credibility of these councils.

Gord Travers
York Social Co-op

Lowest ebb

I wish to comment on your 'Pain's Commandos' in the October 19 and 26 issues of Excalibur.

Excalibur has reached its lowest ebb in publishing the above noted cartoon strips. In printing this unsigned racist driffle, Excalibur has achieved an all time journalistic low.

For those of you not aware of the origins of these cartoon strips, a short explanation. Over the past few months the undergraduate university residences have experienced difficulties with uninvited intruders. Vanier Residence has had at least two incidents, the first apparently giving rise to this comic strip. In that incident three apparently intoxicated gentlemen were attempting to visit the residence. When asked by the porter for the names of individuals they were visiting, they did not know anybody. The porter asked them for identification and they refused, and the end result was the laying of trespassing charges. The porter, Bill Bain and John Ho both Dons in Vanier and therefore responsible for the safety and security of the residents, were involved in the above incident. As a result we now have in the pages of Excalibur a cartoon strip showing Bill and John as 'heavies' rather than a news article on the problems of keeping the residences secure.

If Excalibur's staff has any pride as journalists, they will apologize to Bill Bain and John Ho and report these unsavory incidents so that residents will realize what can happen if a totally laissez-faire attitude is taken.

John Hoyles
Stong College.

Is the price right?

While we're on the subject of the York Book Store, I would like to mention how it came to the attention of one particular fourth-year seminar today how absolutely preposterous the bookstore prices are getting.

Consider this: The book for discussion this week was a Canadian novel called, *Memoirs of Montparnasse*, by John Glassco. The American edition of this Canadian work is available at our Book Store, a 241-page paperback, for \$4.95. Then you remove the nifty little sticker on the cover of the book after purchasing it, and see that it was originally priced at \$2.50. A difference of \$2.45. That's almost a 100 per cent profit.

As is often the case with we students, this, for me, happened to be 'skinny week', and so the writer was unable to scrape up the necessary five dollars, and consequently attended the seminar

unprepared. On comparing notes in class today, it was discovered that a sense of outrage over such an outlandish price-hike was shared by all. One sharpie found the book for \$3.50 at Coles, but most students unwillingly shelled out.

Our professor strongly advised we take our business to the better-priced and better-stocked Longhouse Bookshop, or S.C.M. or Bob Miller's, all of which are downtown. This rather than succumbing to the hiked prices of our own supposedly non-profit Book Store. And that speaks for itself.

Brenda Weeks, Arts IV.

Tricky Dicky

I would like to reply to Michael Proudlock's criticism of my report on American politics. Everyone has a right to their opinion, and certainly Proudlock raises some relevant issue, but overall I feel that he has garbled and misconstrued the purpose of my article. The aims were to; a) show that there was no real choice between the major candidates in the recent presidential election; and b) to question why we should believe either Carter or Ford based on their past and recent historical events in the U.S. and I then illustrated several examples of this.

Proudlock, in his criticism, seems to be a Nixon apologist (I've finally found one.) However, the fact remains that crime, inflation and unemployment did soar under Tricky Dicky. Certainly the Democrat-controlled Congress played a significant role in creating economic woes, but so did Nixon's disastrous fiscal and monetary policies. Nixon cannot escape the blame for that, nor should he be defended. Proudlock, it seems, believes that the Vietnam war was wholeheartedly supported by the American people. Ha! The people voted for Johnson in 1964 because he was the 'candidate of peace'. History shows that he deliberately deceived the American people.

Finally, Mr. Proudlock contends that I do not believe that any politician is well meaning. What a way to distort the truth, Proudlock. Nowhere in my article do I say that. There are several politicians who I believe are honest and have the guts to stand up for their convictions. California Governor Jerry

Brown springs to mind. I do not mind it when a politician makes a mistake and God knows that they make many of them. But there is a huge difference between making an honest mistake and admitting it, and deliberately saying one thing and then doing another. The U.S. is not without its good points but we must learn to question and never take anything for granted.

It seems to me that Proudlock is for motherhood, apple pie and a 'Happy Days' lock, stock and barrel. Just look behind the scenes, question, and you might be surprised at what you see.

Dan Andreae

Kings and more kings

As a student tenant I agree with some of the sentiments expressed in recent Excalibur editions concerning the university's actions in raising rents. I feel the university has not taken even token steps to comply with the legislation and should be subject to the same sanctions as anyone else who breaks a law designed to protect tenants.

However, I am not optimistic of any long-term resolution of this matter, because if York is fined for possibly breaking the law this year, any costs incurred by the administration will simply be passed on to the student tenants in future years. The administration is quite capable, under the woefully inadequate legislation presently in force, of taking token steps of consultation (whatever that word in the statute mean) and then raising the rents by whatever amount they please. Moreover, the continuance of the rent review legislation beyond next year is far from certain at this point.

What bothers me just as much as the arbitrary rent increases is the incredibly cavalier attitude expressed by the university housing authorities towards their duties as landlords and their statutory obligations to tenants under the Landlord and Tenant Act. The present lease form contains a great amount of small print which undoubtedly many students do not read and the implications of which many students could not be expected to understand. This lease was drafted by the university's big-business law firm sometime before

recent amendments to the Act, and some of the clauses in the lease are probably quite illegal.

I would like to believe that resolution of these problems is possible without resort to confrontation tactics and mass action, but the ivory tower attitudes which seem to be pervasive in the York administration seem to suggest that tactics of friendly negotiation and cooperation on the part of the students will not be effective in the long run.

Paul Trollope
Osgoode

Ivory tower attitudes

Isaac Bar-Lewaw, in his self-assumed role of arbiter of excellence, should at least be careful not to dispense mis-information. It is highly doubtful that "Canadian educational policies have imitated the US Constitution"; at any rate, that conservative, elitist document in no wise may be construed as one "where the pursuit of happiness is guaranteed." The phrase that seems to trouble Mr. Bar-Lewaw appears not in the Constitution but in the Declaration of Independence — and even that revolutionary document doesn't pretend to "guarantee" the "pursuit of happiness." It rather asserts that such a pursuit is one of the "unalienable rights" with which men are "endowed by their Creator"; Thomas Jefferson felt that the King of England was attempting to alienate those rights from his would-be loyal subjects, was attempting "the establishment of an absolute Tyranny". Jefferson may have been wrong in his assessment of George III, but he know very well that kings have frequently conducted themselves arrogantly and tyrannically. As Huck Fin observed of the breed: "All I says is, kings is kings, and you got to make allowances. Take them all around, they're a mighty ornery lot. It's the way they're raised." He also says, "Sometimes I wish we could hear of a country that's out of kings". There will probably never be such a country, though; men and women will always be plagued with kings — and philosopher kings.

Robert White
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