

# Conference informs Feds of universities' problems

By GARRY MARR

The National Forum on Post-Secondary Education concluded last week in Saskatoon. The conference had been set up to create some type of national coalition to address post-secondary problems that are indigenous to all of Canada.

The impetus for the meeting came from a throne speech made by the Federal Conservative government last year. David Crombie, Secretary of State, suggested that an intergovernmental body might be established to further look into the issue. This would most likely be continuation of the Council of Education Ministers with federal involvement.

Part of the problem with this type of joint federal-provincial organization is that education has traditionally, and more importantly constitutionally, been under the jurisdiction of the provinces. The federal government does provide a wide variety of transfer payments to the provinces and does have a stake in the post-secondary education issue.

The conference was not only a meeting between federal and provincial governments, but also included representatives of labour, business, special interest groups, university and college administrators, faculty and students.

In attendance for York was President Harry Arthurs. Arthurs' said the meeting was "successful in the sense that it exposed people to discussion." Arthurs' added that it would be interesting to see if any initiative actually materialized from the conference. He looks for some kind of long-term effort as a result of the meeting.

The conference was held with two principal goals in mind. The first was to highlight post-secondary concerns and the second was to provide an opportunity for discussion. Individuals were divided into workshops to enhance discussion.

Bob Richardson, executive assistant to the minister of colleges and

universities for Ontario, indicated he felt the workshops helped in stimulated discussions on several education issues. President Arthurs' noted that in his workshop, representatives of labour got together and decided that they would make sure "higher education" is on the agenda of the next Canadian Labour Congress convention.

Specifically, the conference tried to deal with such things as accessibility. Delegates wanted to make sure that post-secondary education is available to natives, women, the dis-

abled and the poor. The problem of funding was also addressed, and with that in mind the issue of the federal government's role in colleges and universities was also discussed.

The conference did not result in changing current policy on post-secondary education, but according to Richardson, this was not expected. Instead the conference was held to make the federal government aware of problems in the system and to encourage federal-provincial coordination on the matter of post-secondary education.

## The wacky world of York politics: the quiz

By LORNE MANLY

The school year is not even two months old but we've already experienced power struggles, resignations, authoritarianism, bad faith bargaining, fights in Central Square as well as enough pettiness to last a lifetime. Whoever said York politics was boring was just not paying attention.

In case these events sped right by you here is a trivia quiz to help you look back in disbelief at these last two months.

**1. Meiyin Yap's resignation as Director of Social and Cultural Affairs just two weeks before the multicultural festival:**

a) caused the stock market to collapse.  
b) left her CYSF colleagues in a lurch.  
c) capped off months of feuding between her and CYSF president Drew McCreddie that left McCreddie looking good.

*Answer—definitely b and c and possibly a, but no one is quite sure to what extent.*

**2. McLaughlin College Master Michael Lanphier's establishment of**

**an Advisory Council to oversee the college's student council:**

a) gives the Advisory Council power to receive and disburse money allocated to the student council.  
b) allows the Council to interpret its mandate as widely as it may see fit.  
c) did not thrill McLaughlin President Howard Beach.  
d) puts Lanphier in a good position to win the George Doxey Authoritarianism Award (given annually to the person or persons whose actions most resemble those of the former McLaughlin master).

*Answer—All of the above but c is definitely an understatement.*

**3. Not liking the way the Vandoo was making fun of its members. Vanier College Council (VCC) waived a by-law that allowed it to remove the Vandoo editor only for financial mismanagement. Now, if the newspaper doesn't "shape" up and soon, editor Clark Hoskin will be let go "temporarily." By its actions the VCC:**

a) showed that it did not like having

## LETTERS

### Council misuses electronic sign

Editor,

The recent criticism by some members of Vanier College Council of Vandoo editor Clark Hoskin concerning the October issue was unfounded and reactionary. In his editorial, "Sad But True," Hoskin took issue with some of the zealous claims and half-truths of VCC President Andy McRae. Hoskin's criticism was fair and accurate. The claim that he was hostile and out to make enemies is ludicrous: as editor, Hoskin was merely exercising his

right to inform the Vanier community about important issues that needed elucidation. There was nothing in the piece that could be termed malicious or disingenuous and the notion that Clark should be an obsequious publicist for council is both disheartening and insulting to Vanier students. What is really dismaying about this controversy is not the conduct of the Vandoo editor but the arrogant and petty attempt by certain council members to fire him for excoriating their apathy. Moreover, if those members felt they were being unduly maligned, then they should have voiced their concerns in print within the forum of the newspaper.

Finally, the unfortunate misuse of the VCC electronic signboard as an

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its mail opened by non-Council people.

b) showed remarkable similarity to certain CYSF members who also have a tough time handling criticism.  
c) added to the case that college newspapers should be totally independent of college councils.  
d) moved into the running for the George Doxey Authoritarianism Award.

*Answer: Take your pick*

## RANDOM SAMPLING

**4. During the YUSA strike, the Administration paid \$5,281.91 for a very large ad in the Toronto Star which attempted to discredit the union while showing the University in the best possible light. All this did, however, was prove that:**

a) the Administration works in wonderful and mysterious ways.  
b) the Administration really knows the value of a dollar.  
c) the Administration really knows how to keep its employees happy.  
d) the Administration has no idea how to handle its labour relations.

*Answer: d), but if you answered b) give yourself the point.*

**5. The terms "institutional self-interest" and "saving one's own neck" come to mind while observing:**

a) Calumet College responding to the Student Relations Committee's policy paper on student government at York, based on the Gilmore report.  
b) Bethune College responding to the report.  
c) any college responding the report.

*Answer: all of the above*

**6. Two years after a referendum where York voted to remain in the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS):**

a) OFS is as ineffective as ever.  
b) there are rumblings of another referendum being held to get out once and for all.  
c) everyone is just thrilled with the work OFS is doing.  
d) even the leader of the campaign to stay in OFS, last year's CYSF President Gerard Blink, is turned off by the organization.

*Answer: It sure isn't c*

## NOTICE

### WINTER/SUMMER 1988 FACULTY OF ARTS AND NATURAL SCIENCE COURSES

Those students currently registered in the Fall/Winter session that are interested in enrolling in courses offered during the Winter/Summer 1988 session may apply to do so beginning **Monday, November 9, 1987.**

Applications will be available according to home faculty at the following locations:

#### ARTS

Advising Centre, S313 Ross

#### ATKINSON

Student Programmes Office, 150A Atkinson

#### FINE ARTS

Student Programmes Office, 222 Fine Arts

#### GLENDON

Student Programmes Office, C105 York Hall

#### SCIENCE

Student Programmes Office, 110A Steacie

Course descriptions and times available will be posted **Monday, November 9** between S315A and S317 Ross.

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