

Music prof may be latest victim of cutbacks

By BJR Silberman

The axe may be in store for York once again if the Academic Policy and Planning Committee (APPC) refuses to create a tenured position for Indian music professor Trichy Sankaran.

The committee's decision is due to come out in a week and will still require President H. Ian MacDonald's approval. To date, verdict forecasts have been pessimistic.

Sankaran has been at York since 1971 in the guise of visiting assistant professor. During this time he has remained under a contractually constrained appointment with the option of renewal every few years.

But, according to APPC student representative Peter Brickwood, the university has put a freeze on tenured positions and implemented a policy not to renew most contractually limited positions.

Last June, Sankaran received a letter from Fine Arts dean J. G. Green indicating his contract would terminate in 1979.

Since then two petitions have been presented to the APPC. The first petition was organized in late October by music student, Laura Walker and received 150 out of 207 possible music student signatures. A second petition was signed by every music faculty member.

"To lose Sankaran now will altogether remove a unique cross-cultural program that has developed over a period of several years," former music chairman Austin Clark wrote in a recent letter to President MacDonald.

During Sankaran's eight year stay at York he has developed an enriched program in Indian music,

the only one of its kind in Canada. At the present he operates four courses in this area, teaching theories (kaga) and rhythm (tala).

In addition to Sankaran's contribution to the York music program, he holds numerous credits to his name ranging from publications to global performance tours.

Sankaran admits the university is not renewing his contract "mainly for reasons of financial cutbacks not because of the validity of my program."

He said enrollment has been steadily increasing in his courses and that students have even been attracted from the United States to study under him.

He said it is "ridiculous to close

off a program of overwhelming success" and added "to start something new is going to be difficult." His main concern lay with the students "who have been studying earnestly with him."

Walker described Sankaran as "very important because he carries the whole (Indian) program". She indicated that his students would not sit back passively and see him dismissed, even though their petition appears to have met with failure in the APPC.

Mel Ransom, member of the APPC has refused to disclose the present direction of the talks of deciding whether to offer Sankaran a tenured stream appointment.



Music prof Trichy Sankaran

Sugg challenges Simon in VP race

By Paul Stuart

Don Sugg current CYSF communications vice-president, was allowed on the ballot for the position of University Affairs vice-president after the close of the nomination period last week, thus paving the way for an election between himself and CYSF McLaughlin rep Jon Simon on March 14 and 15.

The decision to accept Sugg's nomination was made by Chief Returning Officer Farralee Chanin who decided that Sugg had a valid reason for being late. Sugg told Excalibur Tuesday that "personal reasons" caused his nomination form to be handed in "12 to 15 hours late." (A statement from Chanin on her decision has been published in the Letters section—

page seven).

John Simon has expressed strenuous opposition to the CRO's decision calling it "quite irregular" and "typical of what happens at CYSF every year." He told Excalibur Monday that he would have agreed with letting a rank and file student, who might not have been fully informed on procedures, hand in a late nomination, but said it is a "travesty" to treat a CYSF executive member, who had 19 days to submit a nomination, with such leniency.

In a telephone interview Simon repeatedly used the words "establishment" and "clique" when referring to the current CYSF leadership.

Simon complained "that no election can go by and elect someone from outside the CYSF clique without it being overturned." He cited the examples of 1975 when CYSF president Dale Ritch had to run again after being disqualified, last year's

disqualification of presidential candidate Harvey Pinder in the CYSF election, and the second election for Board of Governors held earlier this year, after Peter Brickwood and Abie Weisfeld of York Students Against Cutbacks topped the polls (current BOG rep Shawn Brayman tied for second in the race.)

Asked to comment on Simon's complaint, CYSF president David Chodikoff said, "John Simon has repeatedly used the argument 'us against them'; the small council members vs. the executive. I believe he uses this argument in reference to all political forums, which reflects to me a serious, paranoid state."

Simon told Excalibur late Tuesday night that he had decided to keep his name on the ballot, but to appeal the decision to allow Sugg on the ballot on the grounds that 1) he was "declared elected" when Chanin accepted his expense report and 2) Sugg had "ample time" to hand in his nomination.

But for now, the election is on.

If he wins Sugg said, he will work to keep the council investing in small business projects, adding:

"As a result of cutbacks one of the first areas to suffer will obviously be central student government. If we are to retain the quality of student services presently available, these funds will have to be provided from independent sources...it will be my interest to provide the stimulus required to make this idea a reality."

What plans does Jon Simon have for the job he was formerly and may again be acclaimed to? He said they are to "follow through completely on the bid to take over the central square cafeteria, look for an alternative to the scrip plan and keep working on the possibility of a lounge in central square."

He said he wants to make the CYSF executive "more responsible to CYSF as a whole" and that he doesn't want it to be "a constitutional monarchy."

Social welfare debated

By Hugh Westrup

The essential ingredients for a hot confrontation were there: in one corner a New Democratic MPP favouring government regulation, and in the opposing corner, a wealthy economist advocating unfettered capitalism.

But the fireworks never ignited. Last Friday's debate on the pros and cons of the welfare state between MPP David Cook and York economics professor John Ridpath remained polite, intellectual tug of war.

As Ridpath declared at the outset, after praising the NDP party, "I'm not here to slaughter Mr. Cook." These words clearly set the tone for the two hour session.

Admitting that "neither of us represents the status quo, but I'm further from it," Ridpath realized he had the most to lose should passions erupt.

The gap—make that a gulf—between the two speakers was apparent. Cook emphasized the need for protective social welfare and mentioned reforms to the present system. He occasionally slipped in criticisms of the Queen's Park Conservatives, but next to Ridpath sounded amazingly like Bill Davis' ideological twin.

Professor Ridpath is a believer in "rational egoism".

"I repect the idea of myself as my brother's keeper," he said. "We are all independent entities—our own lives are our highest values".

"There is no such thing as society. Don't fall into the trap of thinking of oneself as a member of a group or collective. Don't lose yourself in a hypothesized entity."

Ridpath believes any government that infringes upon the enterprising ego to promote sharing between individuals is "barbaric". Publicly sponsored programs like health insurance, welfare and senior citizens homes should be abolished. "The state is a coercive institution and therefore an inherently irresponsible way of passing the hat."

Who then would take care of the needy, the downtrodden? In Ridpath's idealized world, unbridled individuals would be free to pursue the profit motive creating "an enormous amount of wealth and benevolence."

As he repeatedly revealed, Ridpath bases his views on unconventional moral and political principles: morally, a belief in selfish individualism and survival of the fittest; and politically, an abhorrence of governmental control.

In this philosophical light, Cook could then be seen as a believer in society and the good will of government. "I think of myself as part of a collective" he replied to Ridpath the individualist.

To ensure the survival of a societal unit, Cook said an extensive social welfare system is essential. "We have an obligation to assist the casualties of life. A good social welfare system equalizes the wealth, and redistributes human and natural resources."

What remained of the debate were questions that deepened the split between the two speakers. At times Cook was receptive to the discussion of Ontario's social policy, but Ridpath effectively steered wayward back to the differences in philosophies.

As Ridpath concluded, "any discussion of concrete issues takes place within a set of principles." Whether one agreed with his assertion that "social welfare is leading to totalitarianism" one had to admit that, for the professor, the debate was a triumph of persuasion. The ideological underpinnings were clearly articulated in a cool atmosphere that would sustain the debate beyond the doors of the lecture hall.

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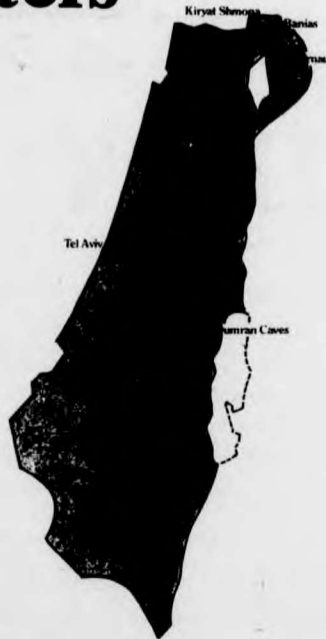
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