



Why are these people laughing?

See page 11 to find out.

Excalibur

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Atkinson threatened

Gary Cohen

Amidst considerable turmoil, discussions continue concerning the 1981-82 Atkinson College budget, which if adopted in its original form, may lead to the cancellation of over one-quarter of the college's courses.

The original proposal, presented to Atkinson on March 16, cut \$440,000 from last year's budget. Professor R.A. Fothergill, Chairman of English at Atkinson and a member of the college's Administrative and Budget Committee described the original proposal as "devastating" to the future of the college.

Fothergill sees the possibility of about 100 of Atkinson's 379 courses being cut from the 1981-82 Autumn-Winter session.

"The loss of 100 courses," says Fothergill, "would be entirely disastrous. The budget (proposal of March 16) limits our capacity to register students and is self-destructive. If courses at Atkinson suddenly evaporate students will seek elsewhere for what they want."

According to Fothergill, courses taught by part-time faculty will be hardest hit by the proposed budget cuts. He sees the loss of part-time course directors as a heavy financial blow to the university.

"A course taught by a part-time course director costs about \$4,500 to run. The enrollment of 24 students pays for the course, as well as providing B.I.U.s (Basic Income Units, government funding units), for the college."

Fothergill estimates that the resultant loss in government funding will be about \$1.6 million over the three year period from 1982-85. He argues that the university may also lose \$600,000 in potential tuition revenues.

According to Atkinson Associate Dean Ron Bordessa there is a feeling of anxiety lingering over Atkinson concerning the upcoming budget decision because of the original budget handed down by the university. But he said there is nothing special about the budgetary situation. "All faculty budgets are currently under review and decisions will be made on April 24."

Bordessa said that the matter was re-opened in an April 10 letter from the university president, H. Ian Macdonald. Both Bordessa and Fothergill refused to disclose the contents of the letter. Macdonald, currently in Helsinki, was unavailable for comment.

While Atkinson has been hit by rumours that 14 chairpersons have offered their resignations in the wake of the proposed budget, Bordessa and Fothergill both maintain that no resignations have been tendered. Fothergill did say that letters from Atkinson Committee were delivered to President Macdonald expressing concern from the college. Fothergill says the letters convey the message that "if the budget cuts happen, what is the point of continuing on."

According to Bordessa some assurances were given by Macdonald that courses at Atkinson would not be cut. But he commented that "those assurances were not what could be called an agreement."

Despite the president's assurances, there have been ongoing committee meetings at Atkinson this week.

"President Macdonald is working under conflicting pressures," said Fothergill. "The president understands what's at stake by cutting back on Atkinson funding. Let us just say that we are engaged in budget negotiations which are fluctuating and we will continue to make our case and see what happens on April 24."



Carol Orane, a fourth year Dance student, practices her form.

David Himbara

Meisel plans for independent media

Jonathan Mann

If John Meisel has his way, Canada may have its own Nobel prizes.

Speaking at Friday's Gerstein Conference on Mass Communication and Canadian Nationhood, the Chairman of the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission made this and a number of other suggestions for "the retrieval and consolidation on our airwaves of a substantial and genuine element of Canadian content."

Careful to stress that he was not speaking for the CRTC, Meisel

sketched a five-part program for increasing Canada's control over its broadcasting.

One part of the scheme are what Meisel called "industry initiatives and efforts of voluntary associations." Among these initiatives would be, "These mega-awards, akin to the Nobel prizes in their financial appeal and prestige." While the prizes envisioned by Meisel would be available to individuals in many fields, "Canada's Super-awards...should at least in part encourage broadcasters...to develop means

of drawing on our own conditions, opportunities and concerns."

Meisel spoke as well of:

- government regulation
- government incentives
- new government institutions
- popular support as instrumental.

Among government regulations which would help Canada develop its own truly national broadcasting industry, he suggested Pay TV licensing procedures which would favour Canadian production. "The simple imposition of various Canadian program quotas is also a

means of enhancing the production of Canadian programs in categories where these are being neglected," he said.

Meisel also suggested increasing government incentives to domestic procedures of broadcast material. "Broadcasters are obliged by the Broadcasting act to pay a licence fee which is deposited in the Consolidated Revenue Fund," he explained. "It is worth considering whether these monies...should be allocated to Canadian program production..."

The fourth tier to Meisel's plan would be a new government agency "which would facilitate the wide exposure of Canadian production." Likened by Meisel to the Canadian Film Development Corporation, "The work of independent producers, experimental filmmakers, provincial educational systems, and a host of other now "ghettoed" or "still-born" programs could, through this system, receive national exposure."

See 'We have', page 3.