

Heroes and Beer debaters split hairs

Scientists acquitted for lack of evidence

By DOUG TINDAL

As an evening of light entertainment, punctuated with an occasional thought-provoking moment, Tuesday night's Heroes and Beer presentation was a success.

As a serious enquiry into the Social Responsibility of Scientists (as it was advertised), it displayed an unfocused quality of pervasive mediocrity.

The discussion, sponsored by Bethune College, featured Robert Haynes and Gerry Little (biology)

against Ioan Davies (sociology) and George Szablowski (political science).

Little, perhaps the most entertaining and cogent of the four, was also responsible for distinguishing between science and technology, which drew the majority of the discussion away from the topic.

"There is a difference between a dope-peddler and a scientist," he asserted, "in that the dope-peddler can be reasonably certain of the use to which his product will

be put. The scientist enjoys no such advantage.

"When the Laser was invented it was as unformed as a human baby. It can now be used to repair damaged retinas, send telephone messages, or, if the Pentagon succeeds, to produce a death ray."

The dichotomy between science and technology, "the bastard child of science" as Little put it, was not resolved. Some members of the audience maintained that a scientist is concerned only with posing well-formulated questions, that all

else is mere technology. Others were reluctant to accept any distinction between the two.

And so we never did find out a great deal about the social responsibility of scientists.

Szablowski attempted to sidestep the science-technology stumbling block by suggesting that scientists were at least responsible for "legitimizing methodology".

He said that scientific methodology, is used by government and the social sciences, that this is not necessarily good, and that scientists are responsible for making it look good.

It really wouldn't wash. Haynes, a member of the Science Council of Canada, introduced another dichotomy, identified by the aphorism "Policy for science or science in policy".

Policy for science implies a government policy which allows or aids science to develop along the lines of its internal logic. Science in policy entails the use of science to advance national political objectives.

Haynes said that scientists are fighting to maintain their autonomy rather than to be a tool of government, no matter how beneficent.

Davies compared scientists with poets.

"Scientists, if they believe in what they are doing, are totally impervious to the decisions of the policy-makers," he said.

"They are like poets in the belief that their work is detached from other people, that it exists only in the lab." That argument didn't get much mileage.

Little, who had obviously come

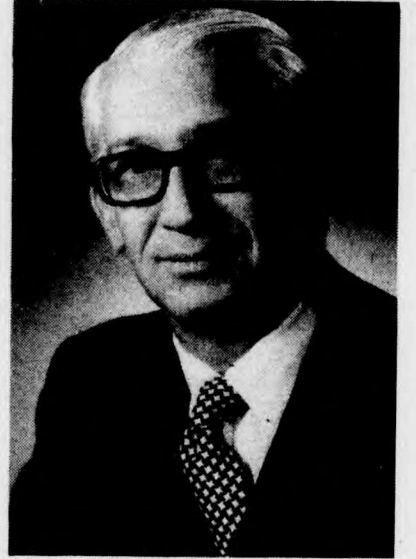
prepared, rebutted the analogy with three aphorisms.

"The physicist measures the velocity of light," he said. "The poet ignores the velocity of light. The social scientist criticises the velocity of light."

"At this level, the social scientist has his intellect indecently exposed."

And so the scientists won on points.

YORK UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENT



Bertrand Gerstein

The appointment of Bertrand Gerstein as Chairman of the York University Board of Governors was announced today. Gerstein, 57, succeeds James Lawrence Lewtas who died on October 7th.

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Gerstein was educated in Toronto Primary and Secondary schools and is a graduate of the University of Toronto. He is Chairman of the Board of Peoples Jewellers Limited and has served as Chairman of the Board of Mount Sinai Hospital, President of The Canadian Mental Health Association (Ontario Division) and President of the Canadian Jewellers Association. He is a member of the City of Toronto Redevelopment Advisory Council.

Gerstein has been a member of the York University Board of Governors since January 9th, 1961.

Social co-op recovers from shaky start

By THERESA JOHNSON and BETTY HUTTON

For the first time in York's history, the university has a Social Co-op. Directed by Gord Travers of Winters College, Bethune student Mark Benniter and CYSF president Dale Ritch, the social co-op was established as a co-ordinating body to recruit less expensive, yet quality entertainment for York.

Each college represented by the co-op have contributed \$300 with

CYSF's \$1,000 contribution, for a contingency fund.

Travers told Excalibur that the co-op will be an effective group on campus, capable of uniting the colleges and reducing possible conflicts-of-interests.

"I think the co-op will work well with Concert Productions International to bring big name music to York," said Travers. He admitted, however, that the co-op was off to a shaky start this year,

but, that all problems will be remedied when all the colleges decide to join the group.

On the other hand, Benniter feels the existing college segregation will hinder the co-op's attempt to unite the colleges. He predicts other problems for the co-op, such as, conflicting college interests and the difficulties that accompany advance booking.

According to Benniter, the social co-op will not affect Bethune's activities this year because most of Bethune's events were previously scheduled before the co-op was established.

CYSF Dale Ritch said he was pleased to organize York's social events and that he was willing to work with the colleges to build a solid foundation for the co-op.

"The co-op's success," he predicted, "will depend on the amount of co-operation that we will get from all the members in the co-op."

Nominating period is extended

The nominating period for the student position in the President's Committee on Goals and Objectives for the university, was extended to Monday, November 17. Nominations close at 3 p.m.

So far only four students have dropped by the CYSF office to pick up an application form for the vacant student position, said student caucus senator Alan Cox.

Applicants will be interviewed by the student senate caucus on Thursday November 20 and 27. They will be quizzed on matters concerning familiarity with the university, committee functioning ability, and commitment to work.

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