

Even Truscott cheers for chair

by Connie Ward
of the Ryersonian

Steven Truscott, who at 14 was sentenced to death for rape and murder, said in an interview Oct. 9 that he favors capital punishment.

Truscott, now 30, said, "I go along with capital punishment when there is absolutely no doubt of guilt. But there must be positive proof. I don't think jail helps anyone."

The copyright interview was held at CHUM radio station in Toronto by Brian Thomas.

Steven Truscott was

sentenced to death September, 1959, for the rape and murder of Lynne Harper, 12. Truscott was on death row for nine months until he was reprieved. He then spent 10 years in Collins Bay Penitentiary.

It was the first interview in which Truscott allowed his own voice and words to be used. He insists that this will be the only interview he will do.

"It will pose a threat to his secret identity," says Thomas.

Truscott said he was given sodium pentathol and LSD by authorities to force a confession.

"They didn't get what they wanted," said Truscott. "I said then I wasn't guilty and I still say it."

When asked how he felt when he was sentenced to death, he said, "I was in a daze. I said to myself, 'this can't be happening, it must be a dream.'"

Truscott, at the age of 14, was tried in an adult court, sentenced to death on circumstantial evidence, reprieved and later sentenced to life imprisonment in an adult prison, Truscott says. "A locked up animal was treated better than I was."

"Student Air" mothballed

OTTAWA (CUP) - The student air corporation, proposed by Carleton student councillor Dan Perley has been towed to the hanger for indefinite storage.

On September 23rd the Carleton student council voted not to endorse Perley's \$5 million proposal to purchase a used Boeing 707 to set up a student airline.

The council cited the fact that they are already \$113 thousand in debt as one reason for not pursuing the plan, while another councillor called the whole idea "out of the ball park."

Perley argued that setting up a student air corporation, even an unsuccessful one, would give students credibility and "may even scare airlines enough to give students a better rate."

But Perley's pearls fell before swine, and the council narrowly voted 7-8-1 not to endorse the proposal. Perley said that he was "very discouraged", adding that it was "only one block on council that's not interested" - the majority block.

At this point Perley is not certain what will become of his plan, but said he will not press the issue right now because it would be "contrary to council's wishes."

Now married with two children, he lives in a small town in Ontario under an assumed name. He met his wife through correspondence while in jail.

They were married soon after Truscott was released in 1969. Truscott's wife says, "I read the book about Steven and felt he was innocent. Then I checked out a few things until I was positively certain."

She said she is convinced her husband did not rape and murder Lynne Harper, and said she couldn't live with a man whom she even suspected of such a crime.

Truscott was asked if he had a person in mind who might have killed Lynne Harper. He said, "I have things in mind, but I don't have any definite proof."

Truscott still hopes he can get his name cleared, mainly for his family's sake.

He says he and his family have been treated well by those of the public who know his identity and by his parole officers. "The only restriction I have from my parole officer is to let him know what province I live in."

"We fear for our private life, because of our children because one will be going to school soon," said Truscott.

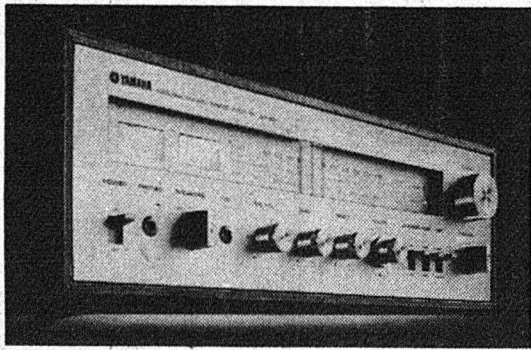
Student honored

Ninety Canadian students of exceptional promise have been awarded Special M.A. Scholarships by the Canada Council. The recipients were chosen from among 581 candidates nominated last fall by faculty members of Canadian universities.

Desmond Brown, of the U of A, was awarded a scholarship in the discipline of history.

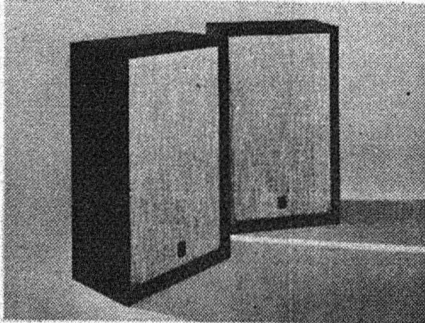
Worth \$5,000 each, the scholarships also include a travel allowance and are tenable for one year. They are available to outstanding students who have completed, or are completing, an Honours B.A. program and who intend to pursue studies at a Canadian university for a Master's degree in the humanities and social sciences.

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