

Conference reflects concerns of Norman Bethune

Bethune College examines Politics of Health

By Laura Brown

This year's Bethune conference, entitled *The Politics of Health*, will offer three days of discussions on the problems, developments, and controversies of various aspects of health care in Canada and the Third World.

From today 'til Saturday, this conference will bring together the perspectives of the social sciences, the professional experience of doctors, the role of public policy and examples of reforms and revolutionary transformations in the administration of health care.

Each year since the college opened in 1974, the college has organized a conference on themes inspired by the concerns of Dr. Norman Bethune.

According to Bethune master David Shugarman, *The Politics of Health* is very much in line with the spirit of Bethune.

"Bethune was concerned about the two types of health care... one type for the rich and another for the poor," Shugarman said.

"In the '30's he called for a system of socialized medicine and his life can be epitomized by his concern with bringing together political change and changes in the health care system," he added.

Keeping in step with Bethune's life-long dedication and concern, the college is enthusiastic and proud to announce that one of the conference's main highlights will be a special address from the Honourable Tommy Douglas.

"To an extent, Douglas is the father of North American medicare," said Shugarman.

"As the first premier of Saskatchewan he acted as his own health minister and was committed to health care reform.... and largely due to his efforts,

convictions and persistence, the first Medicare system was introduced into Saskatchewan in the early '60's."

The conference kicks off with discussions on Third World health care, followed by topics ranging from problems within medical research, women and medicine, and the presently controversial subject of OHIP.

Shugarman feels that "anyone would be and should be interested in this conference.... health care is everyone's concern, not just a concern for doctors, nurses, politicians, drug companies and hospital administrations."

According to Shugarman, there is a growing awareness of health which is evident in the increasing emphasis on the quality of food eaten and physical fitness.

Furthermore, "we all have to go to doctors occasionally, and we ought to be concerned about the

cost of health care," Shugarman noted.

Shugarman stated that after the conference he will try to have the papers published in one book which will probably be sponsored by the University League for Social Reform and Bethune College.

The Hon. Tommy Douglas will hold his address in the Bethune College Dining Hall Today, April 5 at 7:15 pm. And for information on the conference schedule, contact Joyce Thompson, Room 205E Bethune College (667-6456).

Get on the voters' list

Government enumerators are knocking on doors in the York University residences this week and next in search of names to add to the federal voting list.

According to Betty Boyce, returning officer for York Centre, only those students who plan to be living in this electoral district on election day will be registered here. Others should be enumerated in the area where they expect to be on May 22nd.

Boyce advises students who plan to return home for the summer to instruct their families to include their names on the voters lists in their home electoral districts.

Anyone who misses the current nationwide enumeration blitz or whose name doesn't appear on the initial voters list will still have a second chance to register later this month at a court of revision. In York Centre, information on courts of revision will be available after April 27th at 630-5741, the office number of the returning officer.

To be eligible to vote on May 22, one must be a Canadian citizen no younger than 18 years of age.

Trudeau attacks provinces at York

By Lawrence Knox

When Prime Minister spoke at a Liberal Party pep rally here at York last Saturday, he attacked the provincial governments rather than his own for the failure of medicare. Mr. Trudeau, speaking to 500 Liberal supporters and party hopefuls, blamed the Conservative provinces for not using the money properly and making the scheme less universal. He pointed out statistics that showed that 30% of the doctors in Alberta were charging additional fees and 17% of Ontario doctors have opted out.

"It's not the federal government who are to blame over doctors dropping out of medicare, but the Tory provinces who are not using the money as they are supposed to under the contract they signed with us in order to get that money," Trudeau said.

"It's very important and the Minister of Health and Welfare Monique Begin has said so clearly, and I have said so, that we will make sure that the contract is

adhered to. Of course, we know under the constitution that health services come under provincial jurisdictions, but we know that the people of Canada, all the people of Canada, through their taxes pay 50% of it through the federal government and that means the federal government is entitled to make sure that the contractual arrangements, including universality and total accessibility for Canadians are respected."

Trudeau made these statements because he also feels that the quality of life is very important. But, Mr. Trudeau also knows how important Ontario and particularly Toronto is to the Liberals in the May 22 election. By attacking the Tory provinces, he hopes that people who traditionally vote Conservative provincially, will back him federally next month.

Mr. Trudeau said Tory leader Joe Clark hasn't said anything about medicare because he would probably have to deal with Ontario

Premier Bill Davis, who said he publicly supports Clark through the campaign.

"He (Clark) knows he has to, if he wants to talk tough on medicare, he will have to tell Premier Davis and Premier Hatfield and Premier Sterling Lyon, that they'll have to pull up their socks and probably Premier Lougheed too, which is a tough thing to do. He wears cowboy boots."

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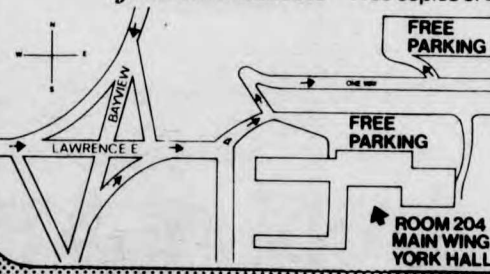
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