

Pay your library fines or forfeit your degree

By B.J.R. Silberman

Twenty-seven degrees were withheld from students at Convocation last spring. Some of these students owed above \$25 in library fines and others were still holding library books, after having borrowed them for over 60 days.

In the early part of 1974, startling figures were brought before the York Senate. They showed that on a single day in the middle of the academic session, "58 per cent of the 21,740 books out on loan to students were overdue, 43 per cent of the total for a period of longer than 40 days."

For faculty members the statistics were even higher. They indicated that 80 per cent of the 927 books out on loan were overdue and 65 per cent for longer than 40 days. These figures prompted the Senate members to realize that a stricter set of sanctions were needed for holders of overdue books.

On 23rd January 1975, a motion was passed in Senate that York University could withhold degrees when a graduate or undergraduate student owed library fines above \$25, or had been holding a book for longer than 60 days.

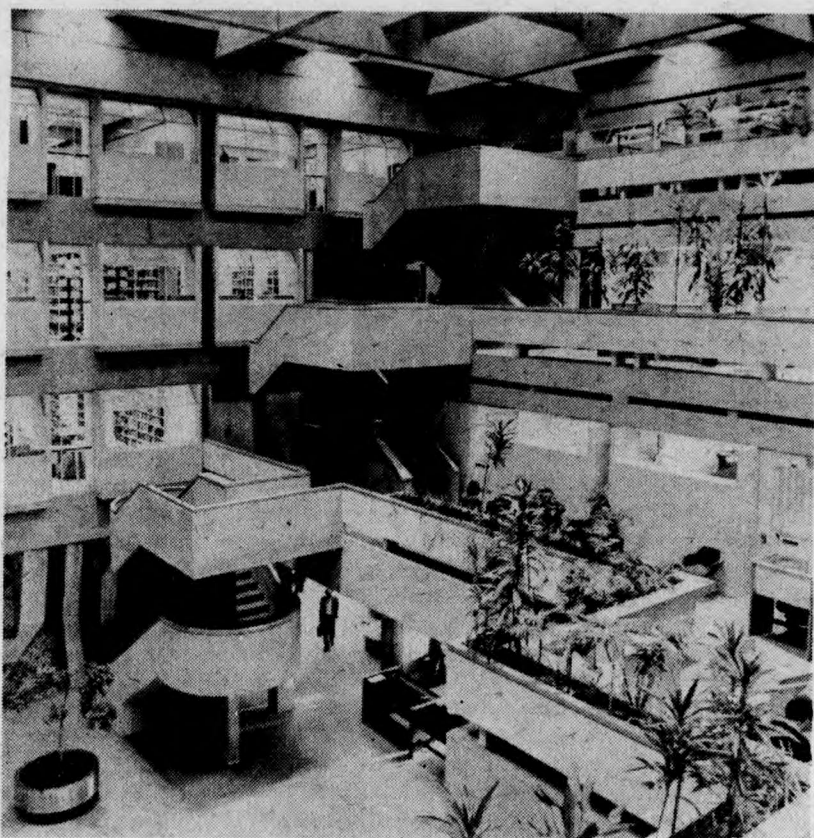
When asked if the university could legally enforce this jurisdiction, F.W. Johnson, cir-

ulation head at Scott Library responded that he didn't know it had been debated legally. He said that the York motion from Senate had been accepted and that students could appeal to the Senate Library Committee.

Fred Diamond, a professor of Sociology at Glendon, wondered if the York law would stand up in court. He said, "a student could say, 'look, I never signed a contract with the university that says I can't get my degree if I don't pay my library fines.'"

Diamond suggested that the withholding of a degree would only be for the unsuccessful completion of courses unless it was otherwise stated in the York contract that they could withhold it because of library fines. As an aside he added, "but how would they get the money for fines without applying some sort of pressure on the delinquents?"

The Legal Aid organization at Osgoode (CLASP) responded to the question of the legality of withholding of a degree would only two separate occasions. The first time CLASP was contacted by Excalibur, the response was that the university sets the rules and could through such an established contract withhold a degree if the library fines above a certain



Bryon Johnson

amount were not paid.

On the second occasion CLASP stated that if a student took York to court because of the withholding of his degree due to library fines, the court's decision would depend very

heavily on the interpretation given to the law by the residing judge.

When asked how a student could appeal to the York senate library committee over the withholding of his degree, V.V. Murray, chair-

person of the committee, replied that a student could write to him or appear in person before the committee.

Murray stated that less than 10 appeals were made last year. Most of the appeals were settled by the students either paying the total fine or some part of it. He said that most appeals were, "gee, I just forgot" or, "I got so wrapped up in my work..."

"In all cases," Murray said, "the senate library committee ascertained that all the correct procedures such as sending out notices had been followed and that the person had had a reasonable opportunity to realize he had an overdue book." He added, "it's a court of law in a sense. If the law has been properly applied and not observed what can you do?"

Murray cited several cases in the past when appeals were made. He said there had been instances where students had suffered from illnesses such as amnesia or nervous breakdowns. "In all these cases," he stated, "the fines were reduced or forgiven."

He recounted another case where a student had incurred over \$1,000 in fines. "At that time" he said, "F.W. Johnson forgave him 50 per cent of the fine and the student still appealed."

"Doves" took the right approach, says Avinari

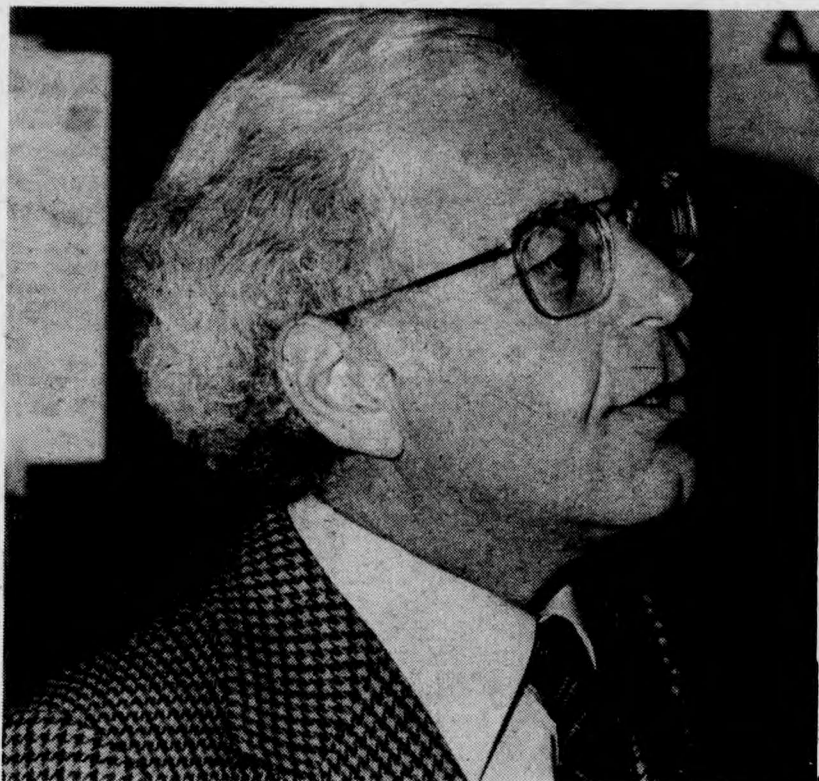
By Kim Llewellyn

Former Director General of Israel's Foreign Ministry, Shlomo Avinari said Monday, "the Camp David agreement proves one thing — the doves were right and the hawks were wrong."

Avinari was speaking to an audience of 60 in Curtis E on the implication of the recent Camp David Summit. The address kicked off the Jewish Student Federation's *Israel Opportunities Week* at York.

Avinari offered his analysis of the internal political conflict in Israel between the hard-line "hawks" and the more moderate "doves."

The "hawks" are basically saying, according to Avinari, there



Gary Hershorn

Shlomo Avinari, former Director General of Israel's Foreign Service

will never be peace because it is not in the Arabs ideology. The "doves" are saying "we don't know there is going to be peace, but let us not exclude the possibility that one day an Arab leader will recognize us."

"I'm over-simplifying, you understand," he allowed. "In a country of three million there are many variations. Some people are doves in the morning and hawks at night."

That negotiations take place as soon as possible to determine the final status of the West Bank and-Gaza strip was one of the items agreed upon at the Camp David

Summit. Since 1967, this item has been a source of disagreement between the "doves" and "hawks", said Avinari.

"The doves point of view was not 'let's give the territories back,' but 'the day will come when Israel will be caught in the agonizing dilemma of whether we want to hold on to the territories. The Hawks say this is a false dilemma.'"

According to Avinari, the territories are a very real dilemma. He congratulated Begin on dealing with them at the Camp David Summit.

"I've never been a Begin sup-

porter, but when the chips were down he made the right choice. He took a position which for 30 years he opposed."

Before he confined his remarks to Israel's internal split, Avinari made general comments about the nature of the Middle East conflict:

- "The Middle East clash is not rooted in a clash between the great powers. The great powers are involved, but in fact in 1948 their positions were completely reversed."

- "The root of the struggle is between the Jewish national movement and the Arab national movement. It is a history of nationalist consciousness. The territories that came into Israel's possession in 1967 are a secondary issue."

- "Most territorial disputes in the past have been about clashing claims of marginal territory. In our case we didn't just quarrel about the borders, we quarrelled about the whole lot. According to the United Nations, if there are two conflicting claims to the same piece of territory the only solution is partition."

- "From a moral and ethical point of view the blame lies with the Arab leaders 30 years ago. The Arabs saw the conflict in 1948 as a conflict between absolute right and absolute wrong. What if they came to the agonizing reality that there is another community and they have to come to terms with it? This year would have been not only the 30th anniversary of Israel but the 30th anniversary of Palestine."

National athletic unions merge

OTTAWA (CUP) — The groups representing men's and women's intercollegiate athletics in Canada have merged.

As of June, the Canadian Intercollegiate Athletics Union, representing male athletes, and the Canadian Women's Intercollegiate Athletics Union, representing female athletes, merged to form the Canadian Interuniversities Athletics Union (CIAU).

The new group will represent both men's and women's sports.

According to CIAU executive vice-president Bob Pugh, the merger occurred because of the similar objectives of the two groups.

"It was felt to be in the best interests of the two programs, given their duplication of programs and the fact that all institutions belonged to both groups."

He said he thought the merger would not inhibit women's sports, but hoped it would instead enhance them.

The merger will not affect the national championships formerly conducted by the groups, he said.

Pugh said the merger was supported by both groups and had been negotiated towards for over a year and a half.

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