

Work within system young PCs say

by Paul Creelman

The Progressive Conservative Youth Federation doesn't go along with the idea that demonstrations and sign waving are ways to solve the funding problems, according to national PCYF president David Small.

"In Ontario, for instance, there seem to be a lot of people in the universities, and in organizations such as NUS who feel that demonstrations and placard waving are effective ways to make changes in government policy," said Small.

"For instance, when I was at Carleton, we used to get involved in the funding question by all piling into a bus to go down to Toronto. We'd go down, wave signs, and drink beer all day. That would be it. I think it is obvious that the best way to change things is to work within the system. The most effective way that students have to express their points of view is through the same method the lobby groups use—that's the way government's ears are bent."

However, Small admits that

the Youth Federation have not been bringing motions about student funding and the issue of accessibility of education to the Conservative Party.

"Student funding is not a big issue with the PCYF", says Margaret Crock, Atlantic Director of the National Board of the PCYF.

"There aren't as many students interested in funding problems as you would think. However, there has been some discussion of bringing a motion about funding to the Progressive Conservative party, and I wouldn't be surprised to see one come up."

Small things that students have to temper their demands with reality, noting that students only pay for about 20% of the cost of their university education, and the rest is funded by the government.

"I think there is evidence that university is not accessible to everybody. We all have a commitment to universal accessibility, but you have to realize that the cost you pay is only 20% of the total cost of your education. In a situation

like public transit, we wouldn't put up with an organization that only returns 20% of the cost required to run it."

Greater fiscal involvement on the part of the university is the solution, according to Small, who feels that universities themselves are the best ones to make the decisions about funding.

"I've never felt that govern-

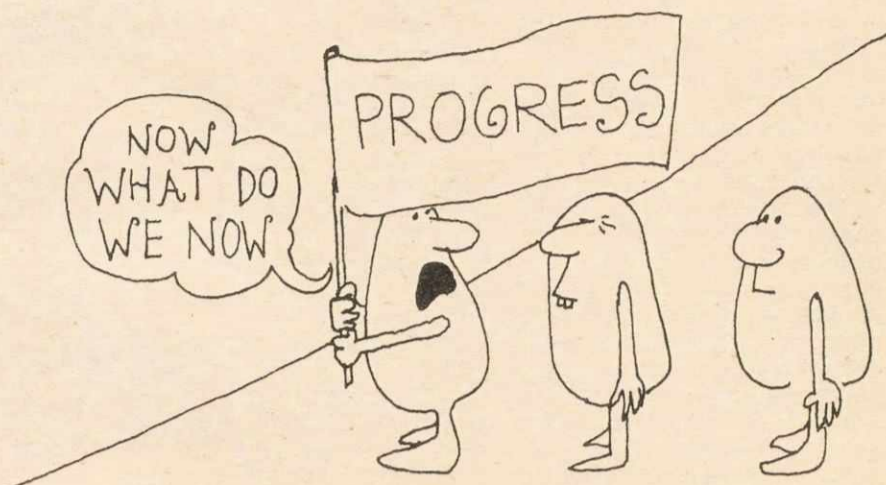
ments could do a better job than the people who were right there on top of the situation", said Small.

Despite the PCYF's poor track record on funding and other student issues, many areas of concern such as social services are priorities with the youth organization. According to Small, the PCYF has shown its concern for social services at least partially because students are not very well off themselves while going through school.

"In terms of the resolution process, we have a very strong voice in the party as a whole. For instance, Terry Deagan, the president of the Nova Scotia PCYF was involved in extended discussions on several of these issues, and several resolutions regarding indexing of old age pensions and similar issues will be brought before the party during the conference. In terms of the commitment of young people to these problems, I

often feel that the youth party feels closer to issues of social welfare because we aren't very well off ourselves during the years we are at school, and can feel a bit more sympathetic towards the problems of those in a poorer position. The Liberals and the NDP don't have a monopoly on concern about the situation in Canada and those in less fortunate positions than ourselves."

Small states that the position of the youth organization is not overly affected by tradition, in that the PCYF will take a position which is in conflict with other Conservatives if the issue is important enough. He points out that when a motion to express sympathy for the death of John Lennon was vetoed by members of the Progressive Conservative party in the House of Commons, that the youth PCYF was quick to express its feelings to the rest of the party.



Rum flavoured.
Wine dipped.

Crack a pack of Colts along with the cards.

VIA Rail holds students hostage

by Greg Dennis

The biggest snowstorm in recent memory left almost 200 Acadia University students and Annapolis Valley residents stranded in Halifax for over four hours Sunday night.

A jam-packed CN train station reverberated with campsongs like "I'm Henry the Eighth I Am" as the tired would-be travellers became desperate in searching for ways to pass the agonizing wait. According to VIA Rail, the train was held up by Sunday's inclimate weather. In addition, delay was caused by the unusually large number of waiting passengers necessitating additional cars.

Many students were in Halifax for Friday night's Teenage Head performance and/ or Saturday's Beatlemania concert. The 39 centimeter snowfall made highways impassable and resulted in cancelled bus service to the Valley.

Some students wrapped hankchiefs or scarfs around their eyes and, sitting placidly in their chairs, claimed they were being held hostage by VIA Rail.

"We're being treated

well," remarked one hostage. "But it sure will be good to get home again."

One elderly lady, who apparently could not handle the long wait and especially the singing, went over the deep end. According to a spokesman, she started stratching madly at the ground and squawking like a chicken when someone said, "82nd verse, same as the first." Someone else said they sat for two hours reading Calculus and is thinking about suing CN because of "irreparable brain damages."

One parting good note to this story: many Acadia students swore they'd never come to Halifax again.

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