

YORK BRIEFS

Africa teach-in today at 2

A teach-in on the African people's struggle in Zimbabwe and South Africa begins today at 2 pm in Central Square. Films will be shown in Curtis Lecture Hall G from 12 pm to 2 pm. Speakers for the forum include George Archer and Mtshana Noubé of the McGill Committee on South Africa; Alex Gumbo of the Zimbabwe Students' Association in Toronto; Jojo Saloojee from the African National Congress; and B. Hedippo from South West Africa People's Organization. Discussion will cover the historical development of the Zimbabwe situation, and analyses of the current struggle. The event is sponsored by the Black Peoples' Movement at York in support of the struggle of African people in South Africa, and to clarify the press coverage of South African events.

Women move for fed election

A newly formed Women's Movement for Political Action will field independent candidates in the next federal election. Kay Macpherson president of the peace organization Voice of Women announced at a planning meeting Saturday her willingness to run as an independent candidate. Broadcaster and journalist June Callwood said she would not run, but would "work hard" to support any women candidate. The candidates are running independent of any party in order to get as many women as possible into the race. "Sometimes winning the nomination is more work than winning the actual election," said Macpherson. "We've had years of going to the government, of presenting briefs to the government. It's time to talk about more women representatives in the Commons," she added. At present, there is one woman MP. The group sees the whole process as an educational experience, and as a chance to bring up issues. Their aim is not so much to get women elected as to raise a political consciousness in a great number of women. "Of course if we get some women elected to parliament at the same time it's an added boon," Macpherson said. Their approach to government is a planned "shadow cabinet" of Canadian women who are specialists in various fields to analyse and criticise government policies. Financial backing is scarce or non-existent. Callwood commented, "women in the past have been the ones to organize all this sort of thing. We should be good at it. Besides, there's women's scrounge power. We won't run the campaigns their way."

Support for York task force on women

A task force to study the status of women at York is a motion before senate today. The motion got the required 10 faculty signatures and included Chatelaine's editor Doris Anderson from the board of governors. Stong College Master Virginia Rock who spearheaded the action said, "people who know about the motion applaud it heartily." She speculated that senate approval of the task force may be delayed while a York-wide response to the Wright report is discussed. She added the delay would include postponing nominations for the approved task force to review the Stong College Proposal.

Symposium for health food nuts

A symposium on the newest fad in eating — health foods and herbs — will take place Wednesday at 7:30 pm in the senate chamber on the ninth floor of the Ross Building. Featured speakers include J.N. Reichert, administrator and director of the Nutrition for Milk Foundation of Ontario; G. McMillan of McMillan Health Foods; Lionel Paisen, vice-president of Canadian Health Food Dealers National Association; and a representative of consumer and corporate affairs. Facts and fads about health foods is the topic.



Brian Belfont



Ron Andrews

Belfont and Andrews vie for United Left Slate's presidential candidacy

Ron Andrews and Bryan Belfont have declared their intention to seek the presidential nomination to represent the United Left Slate in the March 7 and 8 elections for Council of the York Student Federation.

The proposed program for the United Left Slate demands student-staff-faculty control of the university and the elimination of the board of governors. It also demands the abolition of student and book fees.

The four point program also demands a 24 hour daycare centre and the establishment of a women's studies program. On the anti-war platform, it demands an end to all military research on campus and calls for the end to Canadian government complicity in the war.

The fourth point on Canadian studies will be ratified at the ULS meeting today at 1 pm in Lecture Hall Two E. Voting is open to all those who agree with the platform.

Young Socialist member Bryan Belfont says he totally backs the left slate program.

New Democratic Party Waffle member Andrew said he supported the platform but felt he would be able to lead a less partisan campaign and unite any of the divergent left and liberal forces behind him. Even if he lost the candidacy, he said he would back the slate.

He said it was crucial that the Young Socialists not

dominate the slate. He felt that CYSF had been mismanaged and it was time for a complete change.

The only other declared candidate for the CYSF presidency is the present academic affairs commissioner John Theobald. He felt his past record with CYSF would not be a handicap but a plus because he is the only candidate "that's had experience in that office."

He said he agreed with most of the United Left Slate's platform except for abolishing the board of governors. "I look forward to closer contact with the board of governors and the various faculty bodies," he said.

He felt he knew a fair amount about how York and student politics operated and said, "I think I'm in a better position than most students to make that claim."

Although he sympathized with the platform, he said his priorities lay with producing the counter-calendar based on student evaluations of courses; backing the review of general education requirements and first year courses, especially Natural Science; and getting faculty members to sit on CYSF committees which he feels would give them greater credibility with the York community.

Tenure is for dying university

This is a commentary by the University of British Columbia political science professor Phil Resnick. It was adapted from the Ubessey and was first published Jan. 25.

By PHIL RESNICK

One indication of how little things have really changed in Canadian universities of how anti-democratic their basic structures remain, is the institutionalization of tenure.

Tenure means that power within departments remains concentrated in the hands of small cliques of senior tenured faculty; that neither students nor junior faculty have any meaningful say in the way tenure decisions are arrived at; and that the price of acceptability to the custodians of academic morality is conformity, mediocrity, and political silence.

The bankruptcy of the university does not begin or end with the department. In the broader scheme of things Canadian universities have become bastions of the existing social order — fat, rich, and complacent institutions, hooked in at every level to the capitalist powers that run this society. A cursory glance at the board of governors of any major Canadian university makes this clear.

As that rarest of creatures, an honest Canadian liberal, Harold Innis observed over 25 years ago: "The descent of the university into the market place is the lie at the heart of modern society."

Academics and research

That lie reflects itself in all kinds of ways. In THEIR CUBICLES the Dr. Strangeloves of the nuclear age pursue their "basic" research, using Defence Research Board funds and American military grants as though science were the natural daughter of the military. Forestry departments work hand in glove with the corporations that rip off forests; water resource centres help plan future Canadian river giveaways; while in the hum of the ongoing academic market activity, scarcely anyone raises critical questions.

If the students get too uppity, they are shunted off into meaningless committees. If any faculty member gets out of line, he is quickly and usually efficiently done away with.

Job security is a perfectly legitimate concern in a society where the Hobbesian adage, "Man is to man like a wolf", all too often applies. But it is significant that those with job security on the faculty are those who have been put through the hoops and who will pose no threat to their paymasters.

If behaviorism is one of the techniques of manipulation, and programming of people in advanced capitalist society, it is behaviorism that Canadian social science and psychology departments foster in emulation of those in the U.S. If history means vindicating two centuries

of bourgeois domination in Canada and Quebec, it is this history rather than that of class and popular struggles, that the universities advance.

Those who seek alternatives to bourgeois social science or to traditional literary criticism will be duly read out of court by the caste of gelded scholars that sits in judgement on anyone who breathes or moves.

There is a legitimate case for job security for those who work at the university, but it rests on a different principle than tenure. It is the elementary right to job security that should be that of any member of this society of capitalist economic did not dictate a reserve army of unemployed.

It is the right to continue teaching so long as that work is generally acceptable to both students and faculty, not merely to the earls and dukes of the university.

No university changed from top

It is the right, nay the duty, to teach in a way that is subversive of established wisdom, a criterion which would require the firing of well over 90 percent of Canadian university faculty.

It is foolish to believe that the university will be changed from the top. The civil service mentality of the typical Canadian academic, the muzzling of any serious clash of ideas in most Canadian universities, the hundred and one links that bind them to business and government are symptoms of a rot that runs deep.

Change, today as yesterday, will have to come from below. If the student revolts of the 1960s have blown over, democratization and structural changes in universities and in the larger society they purport to serve are no less necessary.

The faculty Thermadoreans think they will protect their sinecures by banishing dissent and firing those who dare to cross them. The fools. They only dig the grave of "their" university, ensuring that out of its sterility and irrelevance will come the seeds of future revolt.

Tenure cannot disguise the cracks in a dying university.

