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After three tense days

Lecturer banned from York



York lecturer Jeffrey Forest (right) at his literature table last Friday, moments before his arrest by Metro police; C.M.D. Becksted of York's safety and security services (left) looks on.

By Ted Mumford

Social science lecturer Jeffrey Forest was suspended by the university Monday, the last of three days of emotional confrontations between students and members of the York Student Movement.

President H. Ian MacDonald gave Forest notice of the two-week suspension late Monday afternoon.

Forest is one of three members of the York Student Movement (YSM) arrested after fighting broke out at the YSM's literature table at 2 pm Friday afternoon.

The York Student Movement is the campus arm of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), a Maoist group which sees Albania as the only true socialist nation. *Excalibur* has been unable to identify a single student member of the YSM.

Forest insisted to *Excalibur* that there are student members but refused to name them.

Forest was charged with assault occasioning bodily harm to a York student. James Nugent (who is not a member of the York community) was charged with disturbing the peace by fighting. Barbara Ann Nunn, a university staff member, was charged with disturbing the peace and possession of a weapon (a 2 by 2 about three feet long) dangerous to the public peace.

A fourth person, Włodzimierz Szenberg, who has not been a York student since 1973-74, was also charged with disturbing the peace by fighting.

Forest maintains it was he that was assaulted, and he acted in self-defense. "If anybody hits me, I have the right to attack them back," he said.

Much of the schoolday last Thursday, Friday and Monday saw crowds varying in size from 100 to 200 people surrounding the YSM literature table in central square. On each day there were heated debates on the topic of Zionism, and the YSM's policy towards it, as outlined in its booklet "Zionism is Racism".

Only those in the eye of the storm were involved in the verbal battles, while others farther back in the crowd were content to spectate and sometimes join in chants.

The trouble began last Thursday when York student Nary Rotberg tore down a poster of Joseph Stalin hung above the YSM's literature table. Nunn and Forest were manning the table at the time.

Rotberg told *Excalibur* he was then pushed several times by Nunn. When she did not comply with his repeated requests to stop, he pushed her once, said Rotberg.

The YSM members, he said, "just preach, they won't listen. They have the nerve to put up a picture of a tyrant who executed thousands of Jews, and yet they say Zionism is racism. I just can't resist tearing down a picture of that type, just as I would if they hung up a picture of Hitler."

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James Nugent, one of the four arrested last Friday.

Rent strike averted

By Paul Stuart

A rent strike has been narrowly averted in the Bethune College Residence.

The strike, which had gathered 35 supporters by Monday night, was called off when the college administration sent a memo to residence students notifying them that the repair of the building's leaking window frames had begun as of Monday.

Twice in the last month students in about 15 rooms endured smelly, soaking carpets when heavy rain pelted the residence, forcing water through aging caulking.

Olga Cirak, Administrative Officer in Complex Two, explained why repairs were delayed, when contacted on Tuesday afternoon:

"They can't come and caulk windows when it's raining because they can't guarantee the work."

Contracting a firm to make the repairs was the responsibility of Physical Plant, not the college administration.

Sara MacLennan, a member of the "flood committee" which was organized at a recent meeting of the Bethune Residence Council, told *Excalibur* that some rooms on the eleventh and twelfth floors of the building still had wet carpets by Monday night.

"According to one student, he's been down to the porter twice and asked for his rug to be shampooed. It smelled pretty bad up there and all he's got is a can of Lysol," she said.

Asked to comment on the situation, Cirak replied that to the best of her knowledge, "they've begun shampooing all rugs in the residence."

As to the action the college would have taken had students carried out a rent strike, Cirak said: "We'd have supported them, no question."

Would you pay \$4,000 for this?

Prof calls for higher fees

By Hugh Westrup

York University economics professor John Buttrick has advised the Ontario government to reduce its financial support of post-secondary education in favour of higher tuition fees.

The recommendation is contained in a report on the province's educational problems Buttrick prepared for the Ontario Economic Council while on sabbatical last year.

In the report Buttrick predicts a

budgetary problem if government policy does not change. Under the current system of government aid, post-secondary costs are almost certain to rise more rapidly than the government can afford, he says.

To ease the strain on the government's pocketbook, Buttrick recommends that students pay for the instructional costs of their post-secondary education.

Buttrick justifies this proposal with the argument that the private benefits of higher education far

outweigh the social benefits.

"The bulk of the benefits of higher education are captured by the students themselves in terms of higher incomes, more pleasant jobs and reduced risk of unemployment," he said. "The spill-over benefits to those who don't go beyond high school are not that large."

Buttrick describes the post-secondary population as composed mainly of children from middle- and upper-class homes. Government-subsidized education is therefore a scheme in which the taxes of the low-wage earner pay for the education of the rich.

"Why should the low income taxpayers pay for benefits they don't get," he said.

Buttrick believes the university's true value to all of society lies in its supply of research and public service. Government subsidies should be provided to "any institutions that are engaged in socially valuable research and public service activities or that are producing hallmarks of culture."

At present, the revenue from tuition fees covers about 20% of a university's instructional costs. Implementation of the Buttrick scheme would increase yearly tuition fees of the average York student to almost \$4,000.

The political reality of the plan in Ontario Buttrick foresees as a fee increase of about \$100 per student. Increases beyond that would not be possible unless all provinces instituted the plan.

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Merger wouldn't be cheaper say Harbinger and centres

By Laura Brown

"Amalgamation with other organizations which have different aims and functions wouldn't save money."

This is the response from Sue Kaiser, coordinator of Harbinger, answering the student council executive suggestion that Harbinger merge with the Women's Center and-or the Counselling and Development Center (CDC) to save money.

The future of Harbinger is in question at this time due to its poor financial straits. The student council (CYSF) cut Harbinger's budget by \$6,000 from last year. The necessity of the centre was challenged by some council members.

Kaiser told *Excalibur* that CYSF

has a total misunderstanding of what Harbinger does. Since Harbinger does not see itself solely as a women's organization, amalgamation with the Women's Centre would not be feasible.

Kaiser said "Men would not feel comfortable going to a women's centre."

Kaiser said anti-gay bias plays a significant role in the council's challenge of Harbinger, and if they amalgamated with another center the work done with gay men could be cut.

When asked about the feasibility of amalgamating with the CDC, Kaiser said that the center does not have much training in areas such as birth control and sexuality.

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Forest, trying to free himself from police on his way to the squad car.

A behind-the-scenes
look at York's
Yeomen hockey team
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