

## Students to lobby provincial government

# Federation campaigns against unemployment

Peter Ferentz

The Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario has launched a campaign to promote student employment.

The campaign, which began



Photo: Himbara

on November 22 and runs till December 2, includes, the distribution of information pamphlets on all Ontario university campuses; sending signed post-cards to Premier Davis and Prime Minister Trudeau demanding more jobs for students; a C.F.S. -O Mass Lobby, today, at Queens Park; and on December 22 a meeting at Queen's Park with cabinet ministers Frank Miller, Bette Stephenson and Margaret Birch.

The C.F.S.-O campaign pamphlet says, "The toll unemployment has taken on young Canadians, particularly students, is most distressing. Using Statistics Canada figures, the pamphlet points out that the unemployment figure for Canadians aged 15-24 was 20 per cent last summer and that as of July, 82,000 returning students were unemployed (16.5 per cent) in Ontario.

C.F.S.-O argues that these figures would be "double and possibly triple if they were to include youth who could only find part-time jobs (as little as one or two hours a week) and

those who simply gave up looking for a job because of the lack of openings."

Saying that many students depend on summer work to get through the year, the pamphlet mentions that students from lower and middle income families are already underrepresented at universities and that "students from these backgrounds could

not possible afford to attend a post-secondary institution without a well-paying full-time summer job."

The pamphlet also deals with the problems facing women, explaining that males receive higher paying jobs in general and that lower income parents are less willing to financially support their daughters than their sons.

C.F.S.-O Chairperson Helena Mitchel, says that "Government has not seen the unemployment of youth as a priority." She says that many students did not return to school this year, and that though there were many reasons for this, a lack of money stemming from a lack of jobs was an important factor. She says that the present

minimum wage is too low to put most people through university and that while a lack of jobs is keeping some young people out of school, others are at school precisely because they can't find jobs.

When asked what she thinks the future will bring, Helen Mitchel says simply "The problem is going to get worse."

## Letter sent to CYSF

# Peace Association requests referendum

J. Brett Abbey

In a recent letter to the C.Y.S.F., the York Association for Peace argues there is a need for a York referendum on balanced nuclear disarmament.

Professor M. McNamee, co-chairperson of the Y.A.P. writes, "the 1983 C.Y.S.F. election would provide an appropriate opportunity to poll the opinions of York students on this matter."

McNamee, is also an active member of Operation

Dismantle, a national organization that is seeking a world-wide referendum calling for balanced nuclear unilateral disarmament. He says, "many referendums held at the lower levels and municipalities such as York, could ultimately pressure the government for a nation-wide referendum." He believes, "these referendums could be gathered together and, with the inclusion of a national issue vote, be taken to the United Nations. Operation

Dismantle members believe that the Russians will also support this issue.

McNamee says the "primary consideration for a York referendum on this crucial issue" should be "the recent overwhelming support of the Ontario referendum held in Toronto and across Ontario. Approximately 80 per cent of those who voted in Toronto were for balanced nuclear disarmament, as were approximately 70 per cent of recent Ontario voters."

Maurizio Bevilacqua, President of the C.Y.S.F., says "we will have to examine the issues and consider the possibility of having a York referendum." When asked whether he was in favour of a referendum, Bevilacqua replied, "I am in favour of anything that will benefit the students". Bevilacqua says "the idea will first have to be discussed at the committee stage, and then the executive council, before it can be brought to council for a vote.

# Ethical studies group seeks discussion members

David A. McAdam

Canadian Student Pugwash a national organization of university students devoted to discussing social and ethical issues related to science has existed at York for about a year, but still lacks needed support.

Co-ordinator Rod Brittain is convinced that greater support would make the York CSP more effective. Scanty attendance at this year's Remembrance Day Convocation, which commemorates the Silver Anniversary of the Pugwash Movement, illustrates the need for increased student backing.

## CSP affiliate

Brittain acknowledges that "getting groups started in universities is difficult." He is currently engaged in recruiting members from all sectors of the university community, particularly from the student population.

The CSP is an affiliate of the

Pugwash Movement which grew out of the Bertrand Russell / Albert Einstein Manifesto, issued in London, England in 1955.

## Concerned citizens

According to Pugwash literature, "The first Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs was held in Pugwash, Nova Scotia in 1957... to promote greater communication between scientists... with a view to preventing a nuclear holocaust." Pugwash is now an international movement with participants from over fifty countries.

"(Pugwash) is neither a mass movement nor a membership organization." Rather, it is an informal and official group of concerned citizens who are interested in such issues as, nuclear and general disarmament, international security and development, problems of developing countries, and environmental control.

In June, 1979, the movement added a new dimension with the first Student Pugwash Conference in San Diego. That year, Frazer Homer Dixon established the CSP, with members from such institutions as, the Queens University and the universities of Toronto and British Columbia.

## Funds unavailable

At the national level, there is a steering committee and an executive board of directors, which is responsible for finances and directing activities. The board also ensures group continuity. Funds are provided through social and medical science grants, as well as through donations from the business sector.

At York, virtually no funds are yet available to CSP. However, to date only minimal costs have been incurred. Vanier College's "Encounter Canada" co-sponsors most activities.

A key role of the CSP is "to provide

a forum for open and balanced discussion," says Brittain. The group determines its success through "counting the hours of education provided, plus through tangible measures," such as the number of publications concerning matters raised in conferences. "Our means of alleviating problems," says Brittain, "is to identify and discuss...we don't offer solutions."

Brittain believes that on the whole, the CSP "entertains a wide spectrum of interests and beliefs (and has been) quite effective in getting people to talk things over."

## Not a lobbyist group

Questioned about the limitations of discussion in helping to solve problems, Brittain responds, "we are not a lobbyist group...I don't think we'll ever become one...We educate the individual so he can decide his own course of action." "Some people mumble because (the Pugwash movement) has not taken

an activist stand, Brittain admits. However, he points out that members who have concerns can make them known individually, or via other organizations. "We recognize the need for activist groups...but we also need to promote discussion," Brittain stresses.

## Regional conference

With this in mind, Brittain reiterates that the CSP plays a key role and encourages students to become members of the organization.

From March 3-5, 1983, York CSP in association with Encounter Canada will be hosting the CSP Ontario Regional Conference. Other activities planned for next term include a seminar ("Ethics and Parental Diagnosis").

Brittain welcomes participation in CSP activities. For further information he may be contacted at 409 Vanier Residence, telephone: 665-7578.

  
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