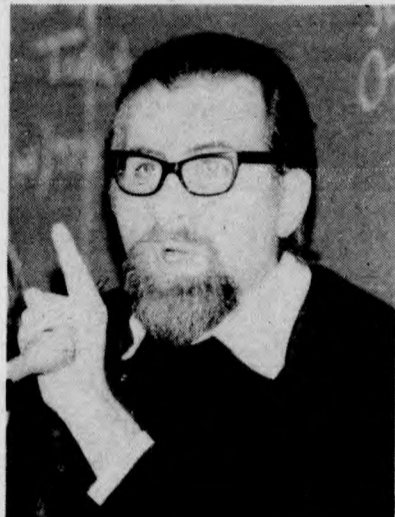


Stong conference probes industrial pollution

By Scott Clayton

Stong College was the site of a conference on "Science the Politics of the Environment" last weekend.

The main concern of the conference was to bring together experts, public interest groups and victims concerned with industrial pollution of the environment and its direct effects on the health of human beings.



Karl Steinen photo

Our Generation editor Dimitri Rousoupoulos warns of plainclothes RCMP agents in the back row of environment conference held last week at Stong College.

The gathering was sponsored jointly by Stong College, the CBC Ideas program, Alternatives magazine of Trent University, OPIRG (Ontario Public Interest Research Group), and the Quaker Committee for Native Concern.

The tone of the conference was darkened not only by the turning off of the fluorescent lights in the Curtis lecture halls as a health hazard, but also by descriptions from the speakers of the atrocities inflicted by

industry on the environment and the human costs of pollution.

Two of the more familiar instances of pollution mentioned were the asbestos dust at Thetford mines and Mercury pollution in North-western Ontario. Closer to home are the unhealthy lead levels in the air and topsoil around lead plants here in Toronto.

The primary concern of the conference, however, was the difficulty that victims and public interest groups encounter when trying to discover the real facts about general industrial contamination, and the extreme and shocking difficulties they meet in trying to correct the malfeasances.

Dr. David Parkinson of Toronto, in his inquiry into lead pollution in Toronto, battled the media, lawyers, government officials, fellow physicians and company officials.

He eventually won a lawsuit brought against him by the company involved.

Professor Robert Page of Trent University described the frustrations inherent in attempting to represent the public in Ottawa pipeline hearings against highly paid panels of experts in the employ of multinational oil companies.

Max Allen of the CBC Ideas program told how the public is misled by government and industry information intended to divert criticism. Such propaganda presents problems in a hypothetical and potential sense, even when victims have already been affected.

The 225 delegates to the conference represented the Green Peace Foundation, Pollution Probe, the National Indian Brotherhood, the Consumer's Association of Canada,

the National Science Council, and York's Faculty of Environmental Studies.

Virginia Rock, Master of Stong

College and the event's main organizer, believes the key results of the conference are an increased awareness of common problems and

the need for better communications network to aid and provide moral support for individuals and groups combatting pollution.

CYSF A student service

The following are excerpts from CYSF vice-president Tom Silverhart's comments on the CYSF budget. Due to space limitations, all his comments cannot be printed this issue. The balance of them will appear next week.

Social and Cultural Budget

Last year \$4500 was expended on CYSF and Social Co-op events, and it is unfortunate that the cooperative concept of social events and entertainment is not more successful. In this budget \$4000 has been provided. Hopefully, surpluses in other areas will enable this figure to be increased. Social events and entertainment are part of university life and when provided by CYSF are available to the entire student body.

The club allocation is in excess of the amount expended in 1976-77 (approximately \$500). It must be considered that prior to last year, organizations that now receive funds through CUAC received allocations from either clubs or student societies, the latter allocation being considerably less than that of CUAC. (In 1975-76 total allocations to clubs and course unions amounted to about \$5,000.)

Clubs should submit their budgets immediately. The deadlines for budgets has passed, and funds will be allotted on a priority basis.

Harbinger

In my opinion the matter of granting funds to Harbinger is one that should receive a great deal of thought. Priorities change and some organizations do, to a degree, outlive their usefulness. However it is rare for such an organization to admit this fact and efforts will be made to redirect interests. In fact, last year, considerable off-campus activity was undertaken and the organization became rather preoccupied in specific areas.

It would appear that at this time

Harbinger provides no service that could not be obtained elsewhere. However, it is an organization with some (one - ed) full-time staff and volunteers, and as long as funds are provided it will function to the extent that such funds will permit.

Maybe the service, if it is proven to be necessary, should be absorbed or incorporated in the activities of the Women's Centre.

Women's Centre-Breakthrough

The Women's Centre and the publication Breakthrough, having more or less the same aims and objectives (sic), have apparently combined (sic). An allocation of \$1250 has been made to them.

Unallocated

At this time \$2577.00 of the budget remains unallocated. Of this amount, \$500-1,000 has been given consideration towards Harbinger. Myself and the finance committee recommend that the remaining funds be used towards the establishment of a student Health Plan and a food co-op.

**Tom Silverhart
Vice-President, Finance**

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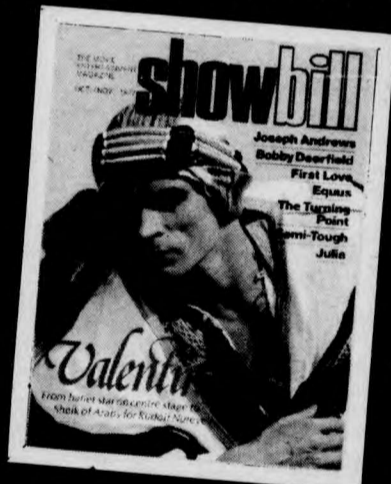
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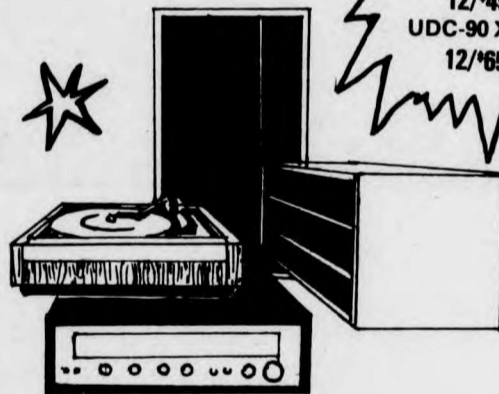
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