

## 400 attend SU rally to hear platforms

Candidates for executive positions in students' council showed very few differences in election platforms at an election rally held Thursday.

The little-announced meeting was held at noon in the Ed gym, with the 18,000 students eligible to vote being represented by only about 400 interested observers. Each candidate was allotted five minutes in which to be introduced and to give his platform.

The three candidates for coordinator of student activities kicked off the rally, with Donald Fleming, Patricia Daunais, and David Manning speaking. Each defined the role of coordinator and then explained his ideas for fulfilling that definition.

Willie Heslup, treasurer by acclamation, took this opportunity to present his program for the coming year.

Secretarial candidates Maureen Markley and Anne McRae envision the role of secretary as one of communication. Miss Markley explained much of the previous duties had been taken over by other positions. She outlined how the new role of secretary could be to improve council-student communication. Miss McRae presented a view of education in the university.

Candidates for vice-president academic—John Mason, Trevor Peach, and Dennis Zomerschoe—indicated their views next on how their positions should be handled.

Only four of the external vice-presidential contestants presented their platforms. Brian MacDonald, Robert Bisson, George Kuschminder, and James McGregor attended, but Brian McLoughlin was absent.

The presidential candidates were the last to be presented. Tim Christian hurriedly emphasized the need for more communication between council and students, while Dennis Fitzgerald described abilities and former students' union positions, and his desire to improve the students' union. Donald McKenzie overcame heckling to deal with his intentions to lessen everyday problems of students.

The meeting itself was conducted smoothly with council speaker Lawrence McCallum as chairman. External vice-president Bob Hunka kept a stern watch over the time limit, to the amusement of some external vice-president candidates. There was little evidence of the heckling and harassment accompanying last year's election rally in which there were 19 candidates for president.

# Classes boycotted at Lakehead University

## Students protest firing of sociology prof

THUNDER BAY (CUP) — Lakehead University students extended a departmental class boycott to cover virtually the entire university Thursday, as their administration refused to reconsider the firing of sociology professor Victor Wightman.

At the same time, holes began to appear in administration president William Tamblyn's story that the firing was prompted by financial and academic, rather than political considerations.

Wightman's contract was not renewed at the recommendation of sociology and anthropology chairman Cecil French, who claimed he had the support of department faculty in the action.

Investigation proved that faculty had not been consulted in the decision, and that a majority would favor Wightman's retention at the university.

Wightman, a Ph.D. candidate, reportedly has better academic credentials than French, and is undoubtedly better qualified than Tamblyn, at least academically.

Tamblyn is the possessor of an

honorary doctorate, a bachelor of arts degree, a substantial interest in the Tamblyn's Drug chain, and is owner of a local steel mill.

The university-wide boycott was inaugurated Wednesday evening by the Lakehead students' council, who voted 14-3 for the escalation at a mass meeting attended by approximately 400 students.

The council action bypassed an earlier recommendation that students extend their boycott, which began in the sociology and anthropology department Tuesday, to the arts faculty only.

Approximately 50 per cent of Lakehead's 2,500 students stayed away from classes Thursday, as pickets sprang up at the university entrance to inform students of the move.

The council action followed a meeting late Wednesday afternoon, called by administration president Tamblyn.

At the meeting, Tamblyn declared he could see "no reason" to alter the administration's decision to fire Wightman, despite student protests.

At the same time, Tamblyn read a statement signed by seven of ten sociology and anthropology professors, "regretting that the university has not found it possible" to re-hire Wightman, but agreeing with the administration's contention that the decision was prompted by budget considerations within the university.

But several of the signators of the faculty statement were reported to have declared that they signed the document under direct pressure from the university administration.

And at a noon meeting Thursday, faculty of business instructor Ron Taylor indicated that the Wightman firing may have been the result of outside, corporate pressures on the university.

Taylor declared that Royal Canadian Mounted Police checks have been instigated by the administration on faculty members of the university.

Although the administration has denied the charges, Taylor has declared he will produce evidence of the claim, including the name of the campus security officer who expedited the checks.

At the same time, Taylor asked about the existence of a letter "written by a pulp and paper company on the north shore of Lake Superior, which complained to the university about Professor Wightman's treatment of the subject of company towns."

One of the company's directors, Taylor said, also sat on the Board of Governors at Lakehead.

"If such a letter existed, there is a strong possibility that Professor Wightman's dismissal was for political reasons," he said.

In an interview, Taylor said he hoped to produce and publish the letter by today.

Meanwhile, at least 500 Lakehead students have signed a petition.

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SU PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS addressed a rally at noon Thursday and Gateway photographer Terry Malanchuk took advantage of the opportunity to compile this composite photo. Clockwise from top left are Dennis Fitzgerald, Tim Christian and Donald McKenzie. Their platforms appear on pages three and four.

## U.S. students bound for Cuba to join sugar cane harvest

ST. JOHN (CUP) — Approximately 500 American students boarded a Cuban freighter here Thursday without incident, bound for the socialist island to join in the sugar cane harvest.

The students, forced to meet the freighter in Canada due to a U.S. embargo on trade with Cuba, were the second contingent of the "Venceremos Brigade," young Americans pledged to support the Cuban government in its attempts to harvest ten million tons of cane during the tenth anniversary of the Cuban revolution.

The sugar cane harvest has been delayed, however, due to bad weather and lack of machinery, the latter also due to the U.S. embargo. An earlier contingent of

212 students returned aboard the Cuban freighter Luis Arocs Bernes which arrived at St. John early Thursday.

Bruce Jacobs, former mathematics instructor at City College of New York and an organizer for the group, said the brigade "represents the whole diversity of the New Left," and came from campuses and Negro, Asian and Latin American communities in the U.S.

A U.S. state department spokesman said in Washington Thursday there is nothing the U.S. government can do about Americans travelling to Cuba against its wishes because the supreme court has ruled that Americans' right to travel cannot be restricted.