

NEWS

John Turner addresses York liberals



A. Clive Cohen

by Faisal Kutty

Students need to clean up the economic and political mess created by the Conservatives said former prime minister John Turner and former Liberal MP Maurizio Bevilacqua.

Turner and Bevilacqua were on campus last week to address a gathering at Osgoode Hall.

The two Liberals said that the new generation has a lot of work to do to and both called for increased student participation in federal politics.

"Free Trade saps Canadian sovereignty and compromises Canadian cultural integrity," said Turner, a former Rhodes scholar.

In his lecture entitled the "Aftermath of the Free Trade and Meech Lake", Turner, speaking to a mostly partisan crowd attacked

several areas of free trade and Meech Lake.

Commenting on the various areas that come under the deal, Turner said, "Free trade in agriculture is the most stupid thing I ever heard from a Canadian point of view."

Turner also accused the Mulroney government of selling out.

"The leaving out of subsidies is a virtual admission by the Canadian government that the eventual harmonization of the two systems is inevitable," Turner said.

Turner was not bombarded with challenging questions over his term in office stating that he was only speaking as a lawyer.

"Turner's address was informative in that it highlighted areas that our generation is going to deal with," said York student Frank Ciarlo a former active Liberal. "But

as far as giving us any new information, he really didn't."

The same concerns were voiced by Maurizio Bevilacqua, the York North by-election incumbent and 1982/83 CYSF President.

Bevilacqua is running for re-statement in the House of Commons after being forced to leave in June over voting irregularities in his riding during the last Federal election.

Bevilacqua was on campus the day following Turner's visit to address the York Liberals during their general meeting. His goal in the lecture was to harness some supporters for his current campaign in the 358 poll riding, the largest in Canada.

Unlike Turner, Bevilacqua had to face some tough questions from Steve Reid, last year's president of the York Conservatives.

Bevilacqua said that the Liberals practice a "politics of inclusion and not a politics of exclusion," and he urged everyone to get involved.

Echoing Turner, the former York student said that he is "for Senate reform as certain institutions are losing their credibility."

"I want a system that keeps a strong central government, and we have to negotiate a new deal with Quebec," said Bevilacqua who had argued against the ill-fated Meech Lake Accord.

The politicians blamed most of the current unemployment in Canada and especially in Ontario on free trade.

The proposed GST also came under attack from the two.

"The GST shifts billions of dollars in taxes from the corporate sector on to the public," Bevilacqua said.

York coalition combats covert racism

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Saunders also noted that reading lists for most english classes give the impression that the majority of english books are written by North American or British authors.

"In fact, english language literature far extends the canon we are offered," Saunders said.

"If the english department wants to claim social or political integrity, they must take action to hire professors who don't come from powerful parts of the world," Saunders stressed.

Anne Pilgrim, chair of the english department, pointed out that the latest tenure tract appointment was given to Arun Mukherjee, who currently teaches a course in African and South Asian women's fiction.

Pilgrim also said that students coming into first year now have a larger selection of courses that focus on non-European english language literature.

Nevertheless, Saunders maintains the administrators in the english department have done pitiful little to counter European and North American bias in the department.

Inspection of the 1990-91 english mini-calendar reveals only

one course, below the fourth year level, which deals exclusively with english language literature produced outside Europe or North America.

Students dissatisfaction is hardly limited to the english department. Several students expressed concern with the limited number of courses dealing with Native issues in the history department.

"There is a tremendous amount of concern in the faculty. We are not the retrograde dinosaurs the students think," said professor Gerry Ginsburg, chair of the history department's curriculum committee.

"We are anticipating making further appointments in black and Native Canadian history to try and broaden our scope," Ginsburg said.

The professor also noted that this kind of change takes time, "you can't just reform a department in the twinkle of an eye. It requires effort and funding."

A leaflet, put out by the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) which helped organize the event, gives several examples of institutional racism, among them is an example drawn from York's political science department.

The leaflet claims that of the

eighty-six courses offered this year, "twenty-one courses [focus] on Canada but only one on Latin America, one on Africa and two on the Caribbean."

Professor Stephen Newman, director of undergraduate studies in political science, says that he does not fully understand the complaints of the students.

"Sure we have many more courses in Canadian politics than any other country . . . but I don't see this as Eurocentrism," suggested Newman. "It may be an example of Canadian chauvinism, or an example of the degree to which scholars devote their studies to the information at hand."

"I don't think it is strange that Canadians are more interested in the politics of their own country, and this applies to both faculty and students," Newman said.

Ghomeshi said that interest is

often a reflection of the selection that is offered.

"Perhaps more interest would be generated in other areas if there were more courses offered," Ghomeshi said. "For example, there is only one course in Middle Eastern politics [offered at York], and yet this is an area that is of definite concern to many people."

Newman, pointed out that "you have to recognize [the difference between] a complaint that recognizes institutional racism and one that merely reflects a disappointment in lack of availability."

"Ideally, we would teach the politics of all regions, but we don't have the resources to do that. For example, it is outrageous to me that a department of our stature does not have a permanent appointment of a Soviet expert . . . but the money isn't there," Newman said.



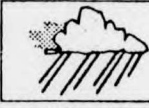

Newman feels that the issue extends beyond a question of course selection, "students need to look at the way in which women, minorities and ethnic groups are dealt with in courses in Canadian issues."

Nikki Gershain, a member of the anti-racism coalition, explained that "our focus on institutional racism is not an implicit attack on the administration or the faculty or the university system in general."

"Institutional racism is a large problem, and while the awareness of the faculty has increased over the past few years, we have a long way to go to eradicate the problem," Gershain said.

"The real significance of Wednesday's event," said Gershain, "is that it is the first step that students are taking to address the issue."

Weather Swami's four-day forecast

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			
cloudy with rain High 10 Low 3	mostly cloudy, with showers, mild High 13 Low 5	mostly cloudy, scattered showers High 9 Low 3	cloudy, showers, with wet flurries High 5 Low 2



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Monday, November 26
 Senate Chamber
 (9th Floor, Ross Bldg.)
 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Topics to be discussed:
 Palestinian Rights, The Intifadah,
 The Occupied Territories, Peace . . .

Sponsored by:
 York Arab Students Association (Y.A.S.A.)

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