

## Liberal finance critic Donald Johnston at the U of A. Liberals enter rebuilding era

by Bill Daskoch

The Conservatives' lack of direction and the overly-close ties of the NDP to organized labor makes the Liberals the most important political institution in the country, claims Liberal finance critic Donald Johnston.

Johnston, speaking at a well-attended U of A Liberal club meeting on Feb. 1, said, "The Tories are not ready to govern."

"To govern is to choose, and that means tough choices," said Johnston, adding, "but the Tories didn't come to choose, they came to consult."

Johnston attacked the Tories for inconsistencies between campaign rhetoric and action. As examples, he used the \$15 million Petromont bail-out, the adoption of the Liberal-proposed one per cent increase in the federal sales tax (which the Conservatives had bitterly opposed while in opposition) and "the silly little pamphlet" on proposed changes to social policies.

He further attacked the Tories by saying, "Their intellectual cupboard is bare" and "There are some good people in the Conservative Party but there are also some intolerant, racist, elitist sons-of-bitches who are effectively representing the reactionary elements of society."

"It's a real struggle between the Red Tories and the Red Necks," added Johnston.

On the subject of the NDP, Johnston claimed the majority of their funding was provided by organized labor and the NDP policy was unduly influenced by the Canadian Labor Congress.

He said if the NDP really wanted to become the official opposition in the future, it would have to weaken its links with organized labor. He added that if the NDP continued its move towards the political centre, "They might as well join the Liberals."

When asked if having the NDP strongly influenced by the labor movement was any worse for the

Canadian people than having men such as Conrad Black or Paul Desmarais (two very powerful Canadian corporate magnates) in positions of strong influence within other political parties, Johnston hastily replied, "It's not the same."

Johnston elaborated by saying that men like Black and Desmarais were far from being the major sources of funding for the Conservatives but admitted he didn't know how much influence they commanded.

The subject of special interest groups financing or influencing the Liberals was not raised.

Johnston felt the Liberal principles of social justice and progressive reform would ensure the party a position of importance in the coming years.

"It's an exciting time to be a Liberal," concluded Johnston, adding, "There will be lots of opportunity for young Liberals to participate in the rebuilding and policy making process."

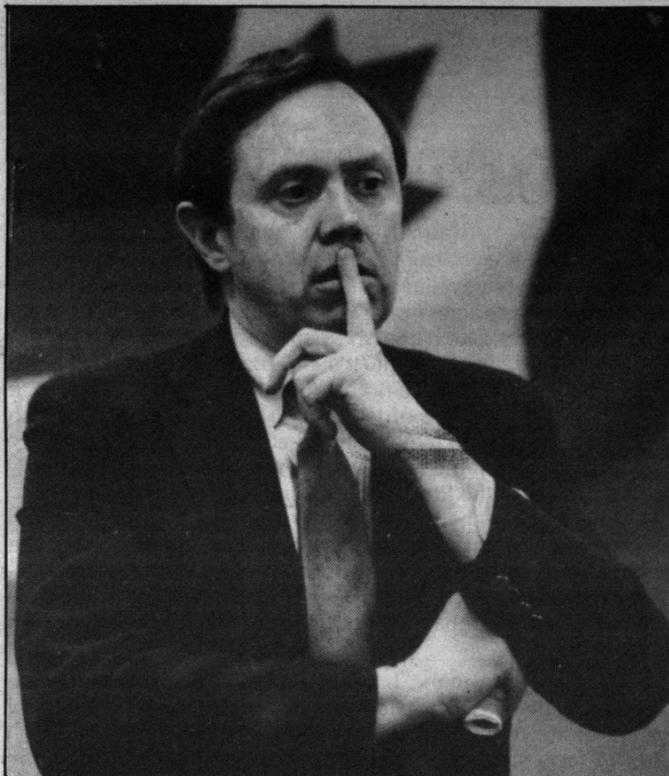


Photo: Chris Menard

Liberal finance critic Don Johnston says the Tory government cannot make the tough decisions.

## U of A cheaters won't have names released

by Mark Olyan

For the foreseeable future, students caught cheating at the U of A need not worry that their names will be released to the general public, as was done at the U of T, says Edward Blackburn, U of A Officer of Student Discipline.

"We've discussed it (the publishing of names) and the legal implications if the accused were found not guilty are serious. I don't think we'll have to resort to these sort of things."

In the period from 1977 to 1982, eight disciplinary hearings for academic matters took place at the U of A. Six of the cases ended in suspensions, while two of the students were found not guilty.

From July 1, 1982 to June 30, 1984, 15 cases were heard. 13 ended in suspension, one in academic probation and one in expulsion.

"Suspensions have been, on average, one or two years," said Blackburn. "I have seen some cases where it has only been a semester, but normally it's a year or two."

Expulsions from the U of A are listed for three years on an individual's transcript. After this time, the university must re-admit the student.

A disciplinary panel consists of two students and a faculty member, all of whom must be approved by the General Faculties Council.

According to Blackburn, "the students (on the panel) are graduate students, six in all, from Arts, Science, Business, Education and

Law, and they all serve a one year term."

As a rule, the disciplinary panel sees only those cases involving flagrant academic dishonesty, said Blackburn, because many instructors prefer to deal with the student themselves.

In order for a case to be heard by the panel, the instructor must report the incident to the Dean of his faculty. The dean informs Blackburn that he wishes to proceed, a disciplinary panel is assembled, and a date for the hearing is set.

The hearing, usually held in University Hall, begins with the complainant presenting his case and witnesses. Next, the accused and panel members may question the complainant. Finally, the student presents his side of the story and final summations are heard.

"After about half an hour deliberation," said Blackburn, "the verdict is delivered. We try to expiate the case as quickly as possible."

The student may bring an advisor with him, but Blackburn downplays the value of bringing a lawyer.

"I would say the majority of students do not come with advisors, but there is a significant number who do, and occasionally some are wealthy enough to afford lawyers. I don't think the presence of a lawyer has really affected the outcome."

Often advisors for the accused are sent from Student Legal Services or the Student Union Om-

budsman.

According to Blackburn, if proper grounds are present, "any punishment is appealable."

However, he went on to say that he could not remember a single (appeal) case that was successful in getting the student acquitted. "On the other hand, we have reduced the punishment."

Although he felt the statistics were too small to be conclusive, Blackburn said, "in some years you might have a preponderance of one kind of cheating. I believe one or two years ago it was a question of

people writing examinations for other people; other times it's plagiarism, and this year it's been just cheating and copying."

"The most elaborate cases I think that I've heard of or sat on, have involved computers," he said.

"Where computers are involved, you have possibilities of code transfer, which are very difficult to track down. Supposing an instructor sets an assignment, like some program to code. It would be very easy to allow any other student access to that code, and this student could then change it a little bit

and present the work as his own."

No one can be certain what type of cheating is most popular at the U of A. One professor in the English department reported that plagiarism definitely occurs, "but I'm just not sharp enough to catch all of them."

Blackburn felt that no one type of cheating has ever prevailed at the U of A. "I've experienced every type, but nothing really predominates. I've had them from writing an examination for someone else, through to plagiarism, through to copying. You just meet the whole lot."

### Yard Apes



### by Hans Beckers

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