

150 hit by tear gas bombing

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minutes she and her professor joined the students flocking down the stairwell.

"At first I was fairly calm about it," said Gotha, "but when I got down to around the second floor I started to panic. I thought we had more floors to go down, but I came out on the second floor."

Gotha, who suffers from allergies, collapsed after running onto the second floor plaza.

Gotha lost her purse and had her shirt ripped by ambulance attendants trying to assist her to breathe easier.

"I don't know if I'm mad about my shirt, losing my purse, or not being able to hand in my essays, but I think somebody should pay for this," she said.

Two other York students, Morry Zelcovitch and Rodney Joffe, told of their attempts to rescue other students trapped in classrooms adjacent to the hallway where the canister was thrown.

"We were trying to get to some people in the room, but we got fought back by the smoke," said Zelcovitch.

Macdonald Bourne, of the duplicating service, was on the loading dock under the ramp when the incident took place. He said he saw two men take a girl suffering from vomiting out of the Ross building when the gas then "hit" him.

"I started to choke and my eyes watered," he said.

Student Bob Charendorf said he was standing beside the large windows in the Central Square Concourse when "a girl came running out, screaming 'help me, help me,' and then collapsed."

Another student, Anthony Granieri, said he was in the middle of an Urban Economics exam in 137 South Ross when he heard someone yelling "No, forget it, get out, get out." He said he became curious, left the room to see what was happening and was stricken by the gas. "My throat was burning and my eyes started watering," he said.

Social Sciences Professor Indhu Rajagopal said she had just entered the Ross building and taken the south elevators when the gas took effect. She became disoriented in the elevator, she said, and couldn't get out until the seventh floor. Once out of the elevator she said she held her breath and ran down the stairwell. Rajagopal said her face was burning from the effects of the gas.

University provost Tom Meininger said he went directly to the scene of the gas explosion after hearing there was a fire at the other end of Ross.

"The hallway was deserted, except for a few students standing by the doors near the post office," he said. "I wasn't affected by the gas right there as the closed doors by the post office acted as a seal," he said.

Meininger said he remained in the area



A York student is treated by ambulance attendants for eye irritation caused by CS gas.

assisting with the evacuation. "At first we were afraid the canister was a bomb," he said. "We tried not to get too near it."

North York Fire Department installed large fans to clear the gas and closed off the building until 6 p.m. that evening. The building was open for classes Friday, but the Office of the Provost posted notices advising students and staff to leave the building if they experienced

discomfort.

Meininger said there is considerable doubt whether the senders of the letter actually are responsible for the release of the tear gas. "The real question," he said, "is to what extent is this letter credible."

He added, however, that "for people who are purportedly pursuing humanist aims they're going about it in an inhumane way."



Photo: GARY SYMONS

Law and Society student Suzanne Gotha is loaded onto an ambulance after collapsing in Central Square during the gas bombing last Thursday.

Emergency mobilization

By ANDREW ZARNETT

"Within three minutes of receiving the call via our alarm board, the first fire vehicle had arrived," said North York Fire Department Chief Joe Gibson of the tear gas detonation at York last week. "Upon arrival we called the ambulance department."

Seven minutes later, the first set of ambulances arrived. "When the attendants confirmed the need for increased personnel and equipment, we moved quickly," said Bruce McLean, planning liaison officer of the Department of Ambulance Services. "We pulled our two ambulance buses from downtown and responded with a number of other ambulances. Then our headquarters emptied and all available ambulance personnel, including the commissioner, headed on up to York."

According to Betty McVey, director of Patient Services, Northwestern General Hospital, the ambulance department told her of the number of victims they could expect and how the patients should be treated.

About 100 injured were taken to five hospitals—North York, York-Finch, Etobicoke, North Western General, and North York Branson—complaining of throat and eye irritation and nausea. Another 50 victims were treated on campus, with saline solution to cleanse their eyes and some needed oxygen to help them breathe.

"We alerted all the periphery ambulance areas (Richmond Hill, Thornhill, Vaughn) in the event we needed a backup," said McLean.

At the height of the emergency the ambulance department had 75 staff on the scene, 12 ambulances, and three ambulance buses while the fire department had 23 fire fighters and six fire vehicles.

"The TTC was advised that we would require five buses to transport injured people shortly after I arrived," said McLean.

Val DeLory, NYFD District Chief, organized fire crews to evacuate all floors in the Ross Building. The crews also set up ventilation units throughout the building to fan out the gas.

PM's decision catches campus Liberals and PCs off guard

By CAROL BRUNT

York University New Liberals president Rosalyn Lawrence said she believes Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's resignation brings to an end an era of Canadian politics.

The Prime Minister made the announcement of his long-expected resignation yesterday afternoon in a letter to Liberal Party President Iona Campagnolo.

York student Paul Pellegrini, president of the Toronto and District New Liberals, said "I was sorry to see him go because I think he was a great leader for Canada. He is a great man and it will be very hard for the country to replace him."

Brian Patterson, a member of the York Progressive Conservatives, said that he

admires Trudeau "as a politician because he has the ability to insult a lot of people and still be Prime Minister." Matthew Marshall, communications chairman of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Campus Association said, "I see Mr. Trudeau's resignation as a personal admittance that his conception of a just—interventionist—society is not the society desired by the majority of Canadians."

The official announcement came from Ottawa at 2 p.m., and according to radio station CKO, at a time when every "leadership convention hopeful" is out of town.

As to the timing of the announcement, Trudeau reportedly said "Why today? Because it's a good day."

Pellegrini believes the announcement was

made now because Parliament is not sitting and Liberal members will be able to rally support without risking a non-confidence vote in the House.

The timing of the announcement, according to Marshall, is "very indicative of his character. He's always been more concerned with his personal preferences than party loyalty as witnessed by ceding to Iona Campagnolo the role of announcing his retirement."

It was announced that Liberal Party executive members will be meeting tomorrow and Saturday of this week to choose a date for the leadership convention. Pellegrini sees John Turner and John Roberts as forerunners in the leadership race. "I don't think she (Campagnolo) should run. She's president of the party

and responsible for running the leadership convention," he said.

"I think the resignation is going to hurt them (the Progressive Conservatives) because they can't use the anti-Trudeau feelings in the country for their own benefits."

Patterson believes the Conservatives will have to make a decided attempt to "stay in the media—in the public eye."

According to Marshall, "The Conservatives are somewhat indifferent because the man-in-waiting (Turner) will not secure seats in either western or eastern Canada and allow Quebecers to choose the truly bicultural candidate Brian Mulroney."

Lawrence said the resignation will generate interest in the York New Liberal club.

Radio York referendum cut by elections officer

By LILY CONTENTO

The CYSF Election Tribunal decided Tuesday that Radio York can't hold its referendum because CYSF failed to officially inform the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) of the referendum on the ballot.

Article IV of By-Law 2 of the Charter of the CYSF states that the CRO must be provided with the "Precise and final wording of the particular question(s) at least seven calendar days prior to the opening of the campaign period." The campaign period begins tomorrow.

CYSF president Chris Summerhayes said that

Council was under the impression that the public notice was sufficient. "We didn't really know that we had to inform him," said Summerhayes.

The constitution does not specify who in the CYSF is responsible for providing the CRO with the notice and, according to the CRO, nobody is to blame for the misunderstanding.

"Our hands are tied—basically it's a human error. There's nothing we can do," said Radio York station manager Jack Cales.

Concerning the Tribunal's decision, Summerhayes said, "While I may disagree with the Tribunal, they are the people we appointed to

be our arbiters, so I can't do anything but support them."

"I'm very disappointed because we've been planning this referendum all year round," said Cales.

Both Radio York and CYSF are considering alternatives.

The station is thinking of an independent referendum and will be meeting today to negotiate an agreement.

"It's a shame that such a small technicality will determine whether or not Radio York will expand," said Cales.

**IMPORTANT
EXCALIBUR STAFF
MEETING
(constitution)**

Today at 4:00 p.m.
111 Central Square