

Hippie havens discussed by North York mayoralty candidates

By IAN KELLOGG

York University's property taxes, North York hippie havens, and Mel Lastman's record as mayor were among the major issues discussed as three of the five mayoralty candidates in North York's December election spoke at a bearpit session this past Tuesday.

Mel Lastman, the incumbent mayor; Bill Sutherland, a long standing controller on the North York council, and Ken Minty, a truck salesman, presented their views to over 100 students who gathered to listen. Most York students are in the North York constituency.

Speaking first, Lastman, appealed for student votes on the basis of his record. He mentioned low taxes, his "open door policy", the encouraging of construction of "small houses on small lots" and hence lower housing costs. He defended tenants rights (pushing for rent control, and the establishing of standards for better lit parking lots), and something of direct concern to York, his work with the university administration which has led to plans for a joint track and field complex here.

ALL CREDIT

Sutherland was next. A controller for the past 12 years, he joked, "I take credit for all the good things Mel has mentioned but none of the bad." His criticisms of Lastman's administration centred around taxation.

While tax rates have remained low during the last few years, Sutherland feels the long term cost has been too high. He said this year's low taxes have been financed not only by a five million dollar surplus from 1975, but by an additional four million dollar loan. As a result of this "artificially low tax" he said there will be only a million dollar surplus this year. Sutherland said, "For every dollar you borrow it costs \$2.40 to pay it back".

Lastman challenged Sutherland's figures. He said the council will have an 18 million dollar surplus at the end of 1976, not a million. With that much money around he said "it would be stupid to raise taxes."

Sutherland's other points were his concurrence with Lastman on the need for small houses on small lots, his opposition to charging for shopping centre parking, and his pledge to set up a complaint bureau.

ONE ISSUE

Minty spoke last. He is running on one basic issue, poor planning of the new municipal centre. Minty feels there has been a lack of communication about the project. He wants "some kind of plan that we can lay down."

Lastman said he didn't want to discourage a new candidate like Minty but he was getting tired of hearing Minty's "false" arguments. Lastman then handed Minty two cross-Metro newspaper ads from 1974 announcing plans for the centre and calling for input from constituents.

The candidates answered students' questions for almost an hour. A bylaw which prohibits three or more unrelated people from renting accommodation in North York provoked the longest exchange. The first questioner said the bylaw was a hardship for York students.

Lastman said the bylaw was before the Supreme Court and will be decided upon soon. Sutherland said his son is contravening the law, but when asked if he would change it he replied, "bylaws can be changed". Minty felt the bylaw was supposed to prevent "hippie havens" and that "now con-

sideration could be made to changing the bylaw".

Lastman disagreed with the hippie remark and said the bylaw had been implemented to save water. Jay Bell, the moderator of the discussion, couldn't see that three unrelated persons used more water than related ones.

The mayor finally did agree, that if the Supreme Court upheld the bylaw he "would definitely change it."

Barry Edson, president of

CYSF, asked Sutherland about the provincial government's plans to possibly tax university property. Sutherland said the provincial government's Blair Commission was investigating the matter and he asked, "Have you at York appeared before this Commission? York should make a stand."

One this same issue, Lastman said York already pays some tax and "they should not pay more." He feels it is too expensive to attend university as it is.



Running for re-election, North York mayor Mel Lastman faced students in the bearpit along with two other hopefuls.

SMALLEST WITH THE BIGGEST BARGAINS

MANY BRAND NAMES

SPEAKERS RECEIVERS
TURNTABLES AT
BETTER THAN
AVERAGE SAVINGS
TO YOU
BUY OR RENT.



At The Consumer Stereo Warehouse
We serve our mail order customers from coast to coast with brand name equipment at low prices. We also have a small showroom so you can listen to some of the more popular brand names we stock. If we don't have what you want in stock our prices will make a small delay worthwhile.

Open weekdays 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. - Saturdays 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

CALL NOW 481-0123

CONSUMER STEREO WAREHOUSE

3406 Yonge Street (at Melrose)
South of the 401 by 1 mile

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES AND NEW MUSIC CONCERTS

PRESENTS

The Fires of London

WITH COMPOSER

PETER
MAXWELL
DAVIES

MON., NOV. 22 at 8:30 p.m.

BURTON AUDITORIUM

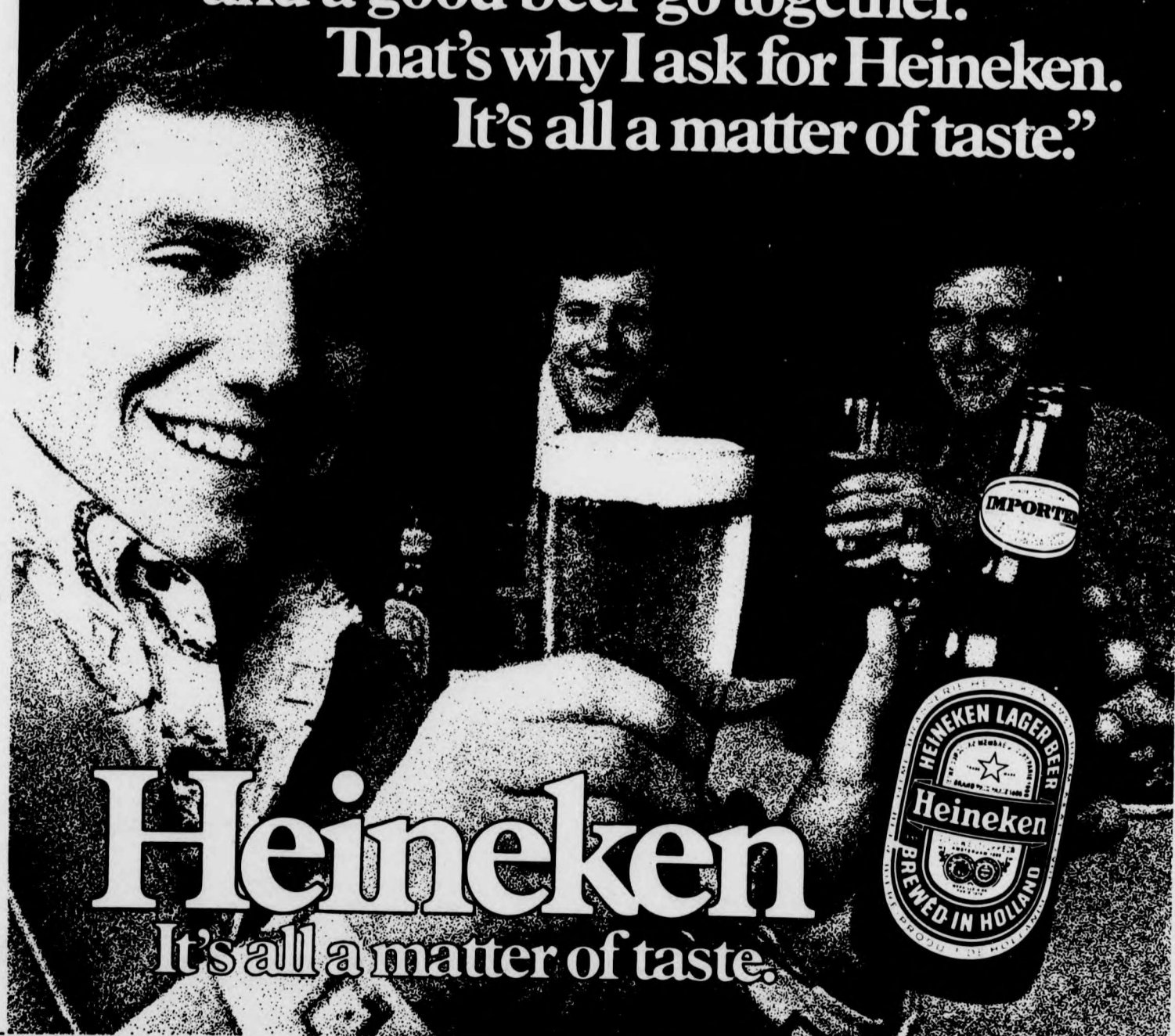
YORK UNIVERSITY

BOX OFFICE - 667-2370 MON.-FRI. 11-2 P.M.



MARY THOMAS AS
MISS DOWNITHORNE

"For me, good food
and a good beer go together.
That's why I ask for Heineken.
It's all a matter of taste."



Heineken
It's all a matter of taste.