

R414  
6/6

**The Best of  
Times p. 10**



**More Ben p. 11**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1991

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 33 <sup>34</sup>

# excalibur

**YORK UNIVERSITY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER**

## Five thousand protest war

by Laura Martins

Five thousand demonstrators braved the cold and slush last Saturday to protest the impending war in the Persian Gulf.

The march which began in front of the U.S. consulate and ended at Nathan Phillips Square, was one of many demonstrations held around Canada and the world.

The crowd which included students, war veterans and parents with young children chanted anti-war slogans such as "no blood for oil" and "hey, hey, ho, ho, we won't die for Texaco."

Speakers denounced the January 15 deadline and insisted that a peaceful solution to the crisis was still possible.

"There's still a chance for peace," said Michael Magee, an organizer with the Toronto Disarmament Network. "The will is there among the people to find a compromise; it's now up to our leaders to act on that will."

One protestor criticized the Mulroney government's knee-jerk support for U.S. Gulf policy.

"Our committal of forces toward the Iraqi blockade prior to the U.N. authorization, Rambo's rhetoric, and the upcoming thoughtless switch to an offensive military role cost Canada its reputation as



Elizabeth Pryer

**PROTESTERS MARCH:** Anti war sentiment ran high at last Saturday's demonstration against Canada's involvement in the Persian Gulf crisis. Demonstrators called for the withdrawal of troops and more time for sanctions to work.

peacemaker which took decades to create and one branch plant pro-U.S. government to destroy," said York alumna Robert Pryer.

Organizers called for withdrawal of Canadian troops from the Gulf.

"Our military forces should not be used to implement someone else's aggressive

foreign policy," said Karen Bojli of the Toronto Disarmament Network's youth wing.

Others felt sanctions against Iraq should not be abandoned.

"Sanctions have not been given a chance to work. The longer the delay, the greater the chance that Saddam may pull out of Kuwait or even be deposed," said student Vicki Taylor.

Some related the Gulf Crisis to the recent Soviet crackdown in Lithuania.

"It is remarkably cynical of the Soviet government to choose this time to do their dirty work in Lithuania. If there is war in the Gulf then by the time the crackdown is completed in the republics, the world will have barely noticed," said protestor Joe Irwin.

Police reported no incidents except for one involving Bob Perry who carried a U.S. flag and a pro-U.S. placard. He scuffled twice with protestors. Though he is against war, Perry believes that the international community should stand up to someone like Hussein.

The sentiment of the protest was represented by Nancy Pocock, a Quaker and an anti-war activist who stated, "We don't need to save face, we need to save lives."

## Former Premier teaching at York

by Ken Turriff

Former Premier David Peterson gave a press conference at York University's Glendon College last Thursday to announce his tenure as a visiting professor at York.

It was Peterson's first press conference since his election defeat last September when the New Democrats unexpectedly won a majority government and Peterson lost his own seat in his home London riding.

Peterson said he decided to teach at Glendon because it is a bilingual campus. According to Peterson, "[Glendon] is a model of what this country could be." He also said that he was attracted to Glendon by the smaller class size compared to other university campuses.

Peterson said he will be a "floating lecturer." He will be called upon by various professors to give lectures at Glendon and on the main campus in economics, political science, administrative studies, as well as at the Osgoode Law School.

Fielding questions from reporters, Peterson refused to reflect on his election defeat or evaluate the performance of Bob Rae's NDP government to date.

Responding to a question concerning a return to politics, Peterson said, "I have no plans to go back to

political life." He did indicate, however, that he was considering writing his memoirs after concentrating on teaching.

Peterson said little about his involvement with the failed 1987 Meech Lake Constitutional Accord, but cautioned that the death of Meech Lake will go down in history books and the future consequences may never be fully known.

Following his press conference, Peterson proceeded down the hall to give his first official lecture to a second year political science class, where he continued to be mobbed by reporters.

Peterson invited his students to discuss the Canadian political issues that concerned them the most. Seizing the opportunity, the students focused primarily on issues such as federal-provincial relations and the future of Quebec and Canada.

Peterson hopes to convince students to pursue public office during his tenure at Glendon. "This country doesn't need destroyers, it need builders," he said, stressing that politics can be a very honorable and rewarding profession.

Professor Peterson advocates an open door policy and invites students to drop by his Glendon office at any time.



Clive Cohen

### Excalibur Copps Ben in Hamilton

Ben Johnson comes up short against a strong field in his first race since the Seoul Olympics. Ben placed

second in a time of 5.77 seconds, far off his record 5.55 pace.

by Josh Rubin

Big Ben is back — sort of.

In his first race since his disqualification at Seoul, Ben Johnson was edged out by a former narcotics officer in a 50-metre matchup in Hamilton last Friday.

The explosive start, once the hallmark of Johnson's steroid-induced former self, was gone.

Ironically, this forced Johnson to tear a page from the book of arch-rival Carl Lewis.

With ground to make up, Johnson proved that he can accelerate (albeit not too smoothly) for an entire 50 metres, and ended up with a time of 5.77, just short of Darren Counsel's 5.75. Whether or not he can keep up the pace over a full 100-metre race remains to be seen, however.

At a post-race press conference, Johnson claimed he was satisfied with the result, but added that there's a

difference between training and racing.

"Right now I'm fit, but not race-fit," said Johnson.

Johnson also refused to lay the blame for his second-place finish on one restart and two false starts.

Nor was there a hint of reticence about the strength of the field he was up against.

"These are the same guys I'm going to have to beat in Barcelona," said Johnson.