

Jesuit speaker spurs lively debate on the Vatican controversy

By ANDREW MURRAY

Uruguayan Jesuit Juan Luis Segundo, well known for his theological work, *The Liberation of Theology*, spoke last Tuesday at Vanier College to over 70 students and faculty who came to find out what all the controversy in Rome is about.

Since last autumn, when the Vatican summoned theologians Leonardo Boff and Gustavo Gutierrez to Rome, and Cardinal Ratzinger issued a document criticizing "Some Specters of Liberation Theology," a cloud has hung over this growing Christian movement. Known as a "theology of the oppressed" by progressive Christians and as "Marxist claptrap" by Christians on the right, the Ratzinger document suggested the Vatican has accepted the right wing view.

North American Catholics, inspired by the grassroots energy of the Brazilian base communities and praising the heroic martyrdom of El Salvador's Archbishop Oscar Romero, lost legitimacy within their church.

Segundo urged the audience to consider the document "heretical" and representative of elements within the Vatican favoring a return to a tribal, authoritarian Roman church.

Many of the questions which followed the presentation asked for elaboration on his basic points. Why had the Pope criticized Nicaraguan priests, yet deeply involved the Church in Polish politics? Why was Gutierrez criticized for use of Marxist analysis, while the Pope advocated workers owning "the mode of production" in his teachings on the nature of labor?

Ratzinger and John Paul II are two different persons, Segundo pointed out. John Paul was at odds with the liberation theologian's grassroots orientation because of his experience in the highly centralized, authoritarian Polish church, but in terms of social analysis, John Paul used Marxist categories as freely as the liberation theologians.

Ratzinger, on the other hand, represents a different element within the Church, which rejects Vatican II

and its resolution to acknowledge Roman Catholicism as one Christian church among many, and as one world view which could benefit from dialogue with others (religious or secular).

As if to illustrate Segundo's point

about ultra-conservative Catholics, Professor Percy Jack accused the guest speaker of disobedience to Papal teachings. The moderator intervened to explain that Segundo had already covered this question, but Jack's inquisitorial tone proved

provocative, effectively galvanizing discussion on the issue.

With questions ending, 30 people in the audience remained to have one of the most spirited theological debates witnessed on campus this year.

Students pushing for Native Studies course

By GRAHAM THOMPSON

Several students in York's Native Students Club are attempting to get the University to establish a Native Studies Program within the Faculty of Arts.

The students have been collecting names on a petition asking the administration to "state its policy towards Native Studies," and "Set up a body to look at the question of Native Studies at York University," says Environmental Studies student Ed Metatawabin. The group will present its petition to Vice President of Academic Affairs Bill Found at a meeting with him today.

The students are pushing for a program in Native Studies because

they are dissatisfied with the way Native issues are dealt with by other disciplines such as Anthropology.

"Anthropology has not been doing its job," Metatawabin said. "They present the social problems as innate within the native peoples," when it actually "stems from a dependency on the federal government."

Metatawabin said by dwelling on only the negative aspects of Native culture (such as alcoholism and the difficulties encountered by Natives adjusting to urban life) that a stereotype is created about Native culture.

Currently Native students in elementary and secondary schools are trained to prepare for a life away

from their communities, says Metatawabin. Instead he wants students to retain skills and knowledge to enable them to stay within, and develop, their own communities. Establishing Native Studies programs in universities will also provide motivation for younger students to continue their education because the curriculum will be relevant to them, Metatawabin said. Also, graduates could provide leadership within the Native communities themselves.

Currently, Trent University offers both undergraduate and graduate programs in the field, there are also programs offered in Lethbridge and Alberta University.

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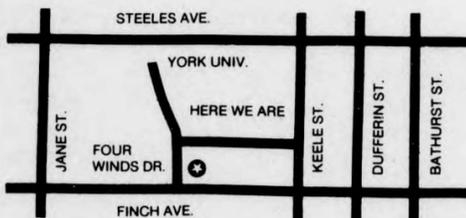
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