

Bethune says "No"

James Carlisle

In a decisive vote, Bethune College firmly rejected the proposal to join CYSF last week.

Despite the endorsements of the Master of Bethune, the College Council chairperson and the majority of College Council members, 153 voted to remain independent and only 90 voted

to accept union with CYSF.

Although this turnout represented slightly more than 10 per cent of the staff, college fellows and students eligible to cast ballots, it was a large representation for such a referendum according to chairperson Andrea Doucet.

This is the fourth time in eight

years in which Bethune has rejected union and asserted its independence.

CYSF President D. Keith Smockum told *Excalibur* that the independence question turned into an emotional issue and was not intellectually debated. "The voters were isolated from reality," he contended.



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Rash of thefts ends in violence

Hugh Westrup

A week of petty thievery on campus climaxed last Wednesday with the beating of a York employee.

While investigating the latest report of a theft in the administrative studies building, Leonard Birchall, executive officer of the building, came across three youths who he stopped to question.

"Two of them ran away but he cornered one, who pulled out a pipe from inside his jacket and started hitting him," said Safety and Security Director George Dunn.

The three escaped but were later apprehended off campus by Metro police. Robert Hanlon, 18, of Driftwood Court, was charged with assault causing bodily harm and possession of a dangerous weapon. Hanlon, his 16-year-old brother James and a juvenile were also charged with four counts of theft under \$200.

Birchall was treated for cuts and bruises by York Health Services and returned to work the following day.

Wednesday's incident was practically a rerun of an occurrence involving the same youths on Saturday. The juvenile and the younger Hanlon were discovered by a hockey coach in the women's locker room of the Ice Arena. An immediate investigation revealed that money and personal items had been stolen from the room. The two were arrested on five counts of theft and one count of possession of stolen property.

The older Hanlon was charged with common assault after attacking one of the women complainants who had been robbed.

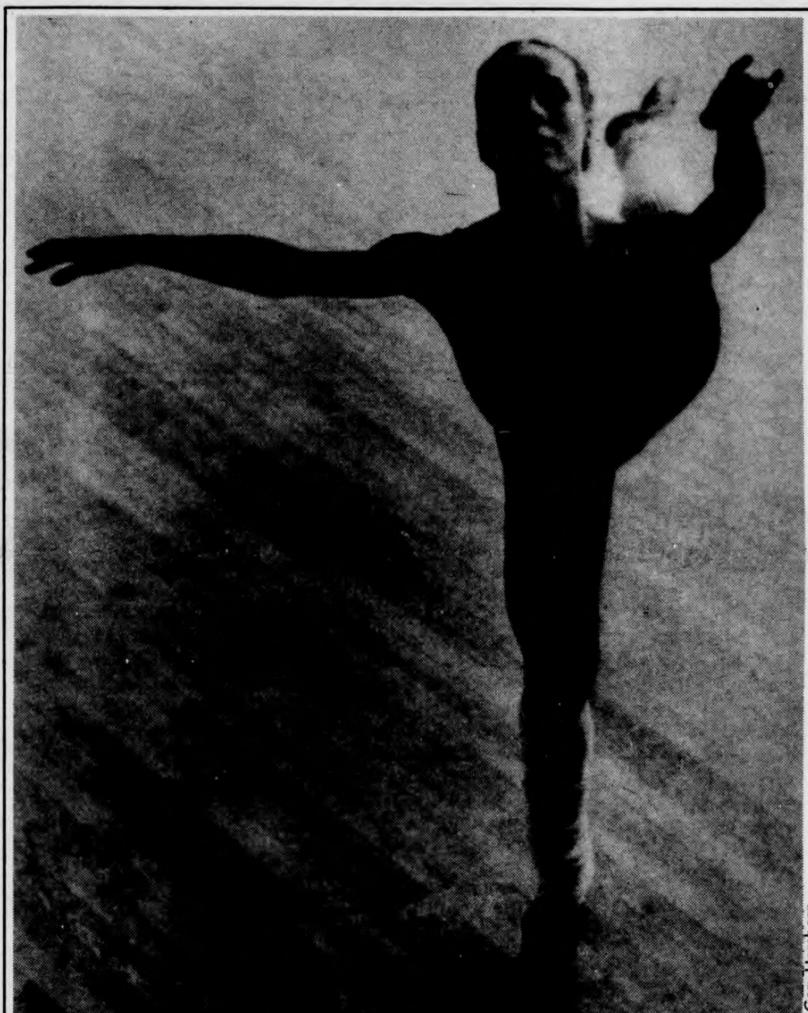
Prior to Saturday, reports of missing wallets and purses had been circulating through the Central Square area.

In the wake of Wednesday's encounter, and the frontpage exposure it received in Friday's *Toronto Star*, Security Director Dunn pointed out that incidents of violence are still rare on campus.

"York isn't really a violent place," he said. "We're singularly fortunate considering the number of people here."

To prevent any further thefts, Dunn advises people to leave valuables in locked drawers or cabinets whenever they leave an office or room. He also recommends that items of value not be taken to the Ice Arena or Tait McKenzie.

Dunn noted that University insurance does not cover thefts of personal belongings.



"If I had one-legged dancers, I'd double enrolment": Fine Arts Dean Joe Green

Power!

Do you long to exercise unchecked power over thousands of helpless students?

If so, you have until Friday, Feb. 29 to file a nomination to become President of the York Student Federation. Those seeking posts of more limited authority can run for one of the three Vice-Presidencies open in external affairs, university services or women's commission. A seat on the Board of Governors, as student representative, is also up for grabs. Voting will be held on March 12 and 13.



This year's President, Keith Smockum, was acclaimed last spring after the only other contender withdrew to become business manager.

Smockum, interviewed early this morning, stated that he was "undecided" about whether he will seek re-election. It is rumored that other possible contenders may be Barb Taylor, CYSF Vice-President of External Affairs, K.C. Whelan, CYSF Vice-President of University Services and Andrea Doucet, chairman of Bethune College.

When asked if she was running, Doucet stated that she will definitely not be.

Whistle blown on Mountie violence

Jonathan Mann

Harassment and violence by the RCMP is "the name of the game" on the Vancouver Narcotics beat, says a former RCMP undercover narcotics agent.

Last Tuesday, ex-corporal James Hunt, a sixteen-year veteran of the force, told a shocked audience at Glendon College that beatings, harassment, and illegal wiretapping were common practices among members of his Vancouver squad. "If you've worked in investigating narcotics, you're going to be involved in it," he said.

A member of the Vancouver narcotics squad for ten years before leaving the force in 1973, Hunt had many regrets. "In retrospect," he said, "I wouldn't do much of what I did—not the wiretapping or letter opening, because I could rationalize that—but the violence. We could beat people up to within an inch of their lives. We did it all the time."

Hunt made clear that these beatings were not just used to speed up investigations. "Some men wanted a reputation as the strong man on Drug Squad, someone that other policemen and junkies talked about with awe. They'd just go around and beat people up," he remarked.

Violence is especially common among the officers who deal with addicts and dealers on a regular basis. "Some guys used to work the streets for eight or nine years. That's all they did."

But this treatment wasn't limited to suspected criminals. Hunt claims that American draft dodgers were also harassed.

Hunt indicated that illegal telephone wiretapping was "normal procedure" used often in pursuing investigation, "only limited by the number of tape recorders."

Hunt stressed that violence and wiretapping were not squad policy, but added that "a good investigator will find the evidence first and face the consequences later. But there rarely were consequences. Your superiors wouldn't argue with success."

In the event that an agent is held accountable for his actions in court, Hunt claimed that there's "no hesitation with regard to perjury in protecting oneself or other members of the force. It's done every day." He said that some men would even falsify their notes, in case they were subpoenaed.

Hunt, a dark-haired, solidly built man in his forties, was also highly critical of the

training he received after joining the force in 1957. It's the same training, he says, that was given to those currently in positions of authority in the RCMP.

For the first six months of the then ten-month training period, horseback riding "was just about all there was to do." Hunt recalled that getting along with horses was so important that if you didn't get along with them, you didn't get in. Other training included shooting, swimming, boxing, and classroom time spent studying the Criminal Code, the Narcotics Act, the Indian Act, etc. These skills were hardly essential to his day-to-day duties. In fact, in his sixteen years in the RCMP, Hunt said, "I never had to fire a revolver, I never had to swim to save a life, I never had to use the kind of force they taught me." He mentioned that some background in psychology would have proven far more helpful.

The trainees were "dehumanized by instructors." Hunt asked himself whether he was better suited to be a policeman after training than he was before. He answered that "as far as I'm concerned, the amount of knowledge was offset by the stripping of our identities."

Hunt is currently a construction worker, and is preparing a book on his career.