

By DAVID BYRNES

After four years observing Latin America as a correspondent for the *Globe and Mail*, Oakland Ross confessed last week that although he knows more than he did about the region previously, he is still "genuinely confused." Ross spoke at Ryerson during a visit to Toronto last week.

"Before I arrived I was in a state of what you might call 'ill-informed

Excalibur alumnus speaks of experiences

confusion,'" Ross explained to a group of Ryerson journalism students jamming the school's auditorium. "Now, four years later, after travelling reasonably extensively, and after several adventures and one or two scary moments, I feel that I've advanced to a state of what you might call 'better-informed' confusion,'" Ross said.

Ross, a York alumni and former *Excalibur* editor, has been writing for the *Globe and Mail* from Mexico since 1980, covering the Falkland Island conflict, the invasion of Grenada and reporting extensively on the social turmoil in Central America.

In his characteristically vivid way Ross related some of his experiences

as a war observer, and discussed the tendency for journalists to become insensitive to the loss of "real lives" in war.

Ross clinically described the bloody corpses of two men who had been shot during a bungled robbery attempt, and how, at the time, he felt nothing but disappointment that the

shooting was not a development of local political violence.

"When we talk of revolution," Ross said, "we're also talking about death and dismemberment and very real people. These things are neither glorious nor pretty, but they're all too easy to forget."

Ross told the audience to "hold on to your passports. To hold a US or Canadian passport is probably the greatest luxury in the world."

Other Campuses

By ADAM BRYANT

Dead at 18

A tragic death on the University of Saskatchewan campus last month has attracted the attention of many campus newspapers, and prompted the U of S administration to crack down on student drinking.

The body of 18-year-old Shawn Reineke was found following a rowdy residence party, having been dropped seven stories down a garbage disposal chute. Reineke, who was not a U of S student, was discovered in the early morning on September 29 having died at the university party shortly after noon. Some of the students who lived in the residence said the body was covered in mustard, whipped cream and residue from a fire extinguisher.

The residence manager said Reineke did not likely fall into the garbage chute because of its small size, which lead police to suspect that he was shoved.

The contention of the police that alcohol played a large part in the man's death has prompted administration to state that no liquor permits will be approved until the university's current policy of granting liquor licenses is

reviewed. It has also been suggested that the license requirements be changed and security stiffened.

The Argus
Lakehead University

Hot & cold

U of T and Queen's are known for their historical stone buildings. Trent and Lakehead are equally well-known for their extensive woodlands. But did you know that Brock University in St. Catharines can boast about their amphitheatre? The only drawback is that it is hardly ever used.

The amphitheatre is plagued by a variety of structural problems that discourage both performers and spectators alike. For starters, the seats face the west, which means the audience can't see the stage until after the sun sets around 9:00 p.m. in the summer. In the winter it's simply too cold for performances.

One faculty member of the Brock Theatre Department said the amphitheatre does, however, serve a purpose: "You know it's spring when you see people out there sunbathing."

The Press
Brock University

Strike cripples colleges

By MARK ZWOLINSKI

A breakdown in negotiations between faculty at Ontario's 22 Community Colleges and the Board of Regents has left widespread concern over future education standards.

About 7,600 teachers, counsellors and librarians walked off the job last Thursday, fueling speculation that many of the 120,000 full-time and 500,000 part-time college students will lose their year.

Several thousand students who had marched on Queens Park in protest Saturday afternoon received additional bad news the following evening when the latest conciliation efforts broke down without any ground gained.

Education Minister Bette Stephenson was met with an entrenched College Union (Ontario Public Service Employees Union—OPSEU) when she approached them in an attempt to find a way to end the strike.

Stephenson would not talk about back to work legislation to the media, but said that the students will not lose their year "no matter what."

Grimmer predictions came from the student body, including Seneca College student council president Phil Gunn, who said most students can ill afford a lengthy strike.

"I think there will be quite a few who will quit," Gunn said. "Rather than face a catch-up situation, you'll see a lot quit and try for jobs."

The key issue at stake for OPSEU negotiations is the reduction in current workloads for its 7,600 teachers.

"It's really the only issue," Katie Fitz-Randolph, a spokesperson for the union, told the *Toronto Star* last week. "What we're actually talking about is increased staffing, not salaries."

Figures compiled in a survey by the colleges say that teachers work an average of 40.9 hours a week,

counting time spent on preparation, marking, and counselling. The union, however, rounds that figure off to 49 hours per week for a certain percentage of the teaching body.

Wage increases are said to be set at a five percent hike for one year, raising the average teaching salary to about \$39,000 with the highest at about \$44,000.

In the classrooms, overcrowding is a major concern.

"The strike is to ensure that students get a quality education," said English teacher Nina Butska, who is also picket captain at Humber College.

"Classrooms here are designed for 20 students but we now have upwards of 30 and even 40 per class. There's just no way we can take care of individual student needs with numbers like that."

Union figures also show the student population has increased by 20 percent over the last five years, resulting in crowded classrooms.

The Board of Regents, however, regards the union's focus on heavy teacher workloads as a non-issue.

"If I thought they (teachers) were overworked now, I'd be amenable to discussion on that subject," said Norman Williams, chairman of the Council of Regents. "But I just don't think that's so."

Williams says the real problem with meeting OPSEU demands is money.

"To reduce the overall workload by one hour, and try to retain the same number of overall instruction hours for the students would cost \$20 million," Williams said. "We just haven't got that kind of money."

OPSEU feels the formula, drawn from an agreement between Ryerson's Faculty Association and their board of governors, represents a "suitable" guide for teaching hours, preparation, counselling and class size.

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