

# excalibur

February 26, 1987  
Volume 21, Issue 24

Circulation: 14,000 combustible copies

YORK UNIVERSITY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

## York student charges TTC driver with assault after Wilson Stn. tussle

By KEVIN CONNOLLY

York student Steven Laing's trip on the 106 Express bus Friday, February 13th began with a fare dispute and an exchange of insults and ended with charges of assault and forcible confinement being laid against the driver Glen Gilpin.

According to Laing, a third year General Arts student, the problems began when he boarded the 10:30 a.m. Express bus with his arms overloaded with books. Laing remembers flicking a token toward the fare box with his thumb as he passed, and says that he heard the "metal sound" of the token making contact with the farebox. Laing says that the driver said nothing to him until the rest of the passengers had boarded the bus. Laing says that Gilpin then stood up and followed him to the back of the bus and challenged him about the fare.

"First he made a number of irrelevant, smart-aleck comments," said Laing, "something like 'You young punks think you own the world,' and, 'You university students think you can do anything, don't you.' I asked him several times what he wanted and after staring at me for about 15 seconds with his arms crossed he said: 'Do you intend to pay for this ride, or do you want that for free too?'"

After disputing Gilpin's statement that he had not paid his fare, Laing said that he handed the driver another token, which Gilpin took without acknowledgement.

"I yelled and told him I was going to speak to his supervisor, and he said 'You will do no such thing,'" said Laing, "Then I said, 'After the scene you just made in front of these people I certainly will, you asshole.'"

According to Laing, the driver

said nothing more until the bus arrived at Wilson Station, at which time Laing approached Gilpin again, telling him that he was going to speak to his supervisor if he didn't get an apology. The other passengers had by this time already left the bus.

"He pressed the button to lock the back doors and stood in front of the opened entrance doors with both hands on the poles, blocking my way," Laing related. "Then he argued about my not paying the fare and I asked him why he had not said anything immediately."

Laing says that Gilpin continued to prevent him from leaving the bus. "Then I told him that I was capable of lifting and throwing twice my weight and that I would appreciate it if he would step aside so that I could go and speak with his supervisor . . ."

At this point, according to Laing, Gilpin assumed the boxing position, with both fists raised, and challenged him to a fist fight.

"I told him I was not looking for a fight and that if he tried anything I would press charges," Laing said.

According to Laing, Gilpin then threw two solid punches to the right side of his neck, "bulldozed" him towards the back of the bus two or three times, and, after Laing had pushed his way past with his elbows, punched him once more across the top of the head.

Laing, who works part-time as a telephone operator at Bell Canada, phoned the police at 52 division downtown, and laid charges of assault and forcible confinement against Gilpin.

Both Gilpin, who lives in Rexdale, and TTC officials declined to comment on the case when contacted by *Excalibur*.

## Centre co-ordinators seek subsidy from University

By LORNE MANLY  
and JAMES FLAGAL

The co-ordinators of the Student Centre initiative are pressing the Administration for a firm indication that they will offer a two to three million dollar grant to help finance the construction of the Centre before students vote in the upcoming referendum March 10th and 11th.

"We're having very positive negotiations with the Administration," said Rob Castle, executive assistant of the Student Centre initiative. "What we (hope) as a minimum from the university is three million dollars up front to get the building going and start paying off the mortgage." Castle and Blink, Council of the York Student Federation President, meet with President Harry Arthurs this Friday.

Students will go to the polls in less than two weeks to vote on the construction of a Student Centre. Voting for the Centre will entail a seven dollar per full course levy, which will not be collected until the Centre is operational. Funds will be needed until the levy begins and this is where the University enters the picture.

Greg Spearn, Vice-President of the York University Development Corporation who along with Peter Struk (Assistant Vice-President of Physical Plant) and John Becker (Assistant Vice-President of Busi-

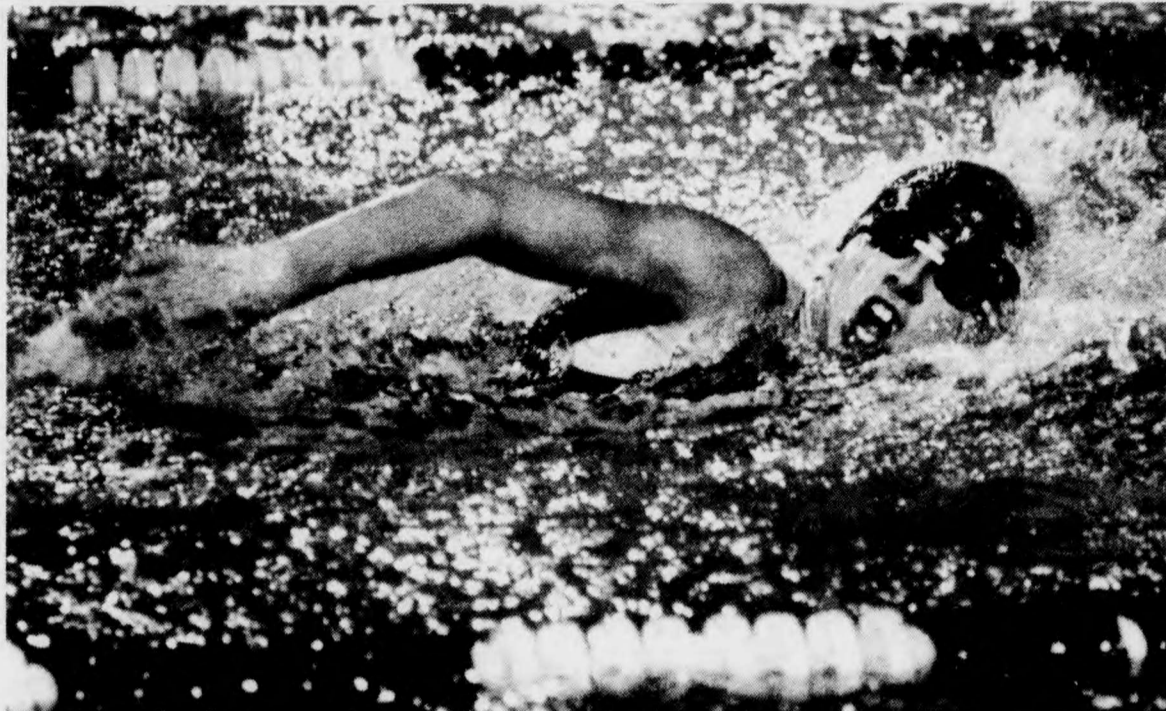
ness Operations) conducted feasibility negotiations with Blink and Castle, said that "nothing (in money terms) has been committed" by the Administration. But Spearn agrees that for the Student Centre to get off the ground, two to three million dollars is needed from the University and has recommended the infusion of this money to York President Harry Arthurs.

"The Centre can't be built using a student levy alone," Spearn said. "It needs a subsidy and we're trying to quantify how much the amount is . . . for the thing to fly."

Spearn stressed that it is now up to the University to decide if (a) it wants to do it (pay the subsidy) and (b) if yes, where it is going to get the money." Spearn explained that the University "has to look at its borrowing capacity or at the activities YUDC is doing. If land ends up being sold (by the YUDC in the near future), then the money can be used towards (the Centre subsidy)."

Both Castle and Blink expressed the importance of protecting student interests and investments within their agreement with the Administration. The second question on the referendum ballot will ask students if they are in favour of creating a student controlled management board for the Centre. Firm support for this initiative, Blink said, "will solidify

cont'd on p. 11



**SWIMMING, STRETCHING EVERY NERVE:** Veteran Yeowoman Debbie Marinoff powerstrokes the final length of her university swimming career.

## Conference looks at consequences of putting culture on free trade table

By LIZ REYES

"The issue of cultural penetration has been with us since the days of confederation," Toronto Star journalist David Crane commented at Monday's Encounter Canada Conference. "There were always complaints that we were being inundated with American news (products) and deprived of Canadian news."

Crane made these remarks while addressing a small informal group of students and professionals on Canada/US cultural relations. Other speakers at this segment of the annual conference sponsored by Vanier College council were Florian Sauvageau, a professor at Laval University in Quebec, and Calvin Rand, the founding chairman of the Shaw Festival. The forum focused specifically on the consequences of Canadian cultural industries being placed on the free trade bargaining table.

According to Crane, "a number of problems with respect to cultural policies in Canada arise from the fact that Americans and Canadians look at the issues through different-coloured glasses. The Americans see what we call a cultural industry simply as an extension of the industry they call entertainment. They see it as an industry not different from manufacturing automobiles. They feel it is an industry where they have an advantage and that in the view of consumption terms, the rest of the world has a healthy appetite for what they produce."

Sauvageau agreed with Crane. "We emphasize the cultural side," he said. "We see radio and television as part and source of our Canadian identity and it has always been like that in Canada. The Broadcasting Act itself is a declaration of cultural sovereignty in dealing with the Canadian media—that it be owned by (Canadians) and broadcast Canadian content."

The importance of ensuring that cultural policies are not sacrificed in the free trade talks was also discussed. Crane listed various regulations which maintain and increase the level of Canadian ownership in cultural industries such as Bill C-58. It protects Canadian's ownership of magazines and newspapers by restricting the tax deductibility of advertising to Canadian publications. Various government grants also serve as incentives to strengthen Canadian cultural industries. If

placed on the bargaining table, there is the potential for the annihilation of Canadian protective legislations, and total encroachment of American industries, Crane added.

According to Rand, however, Americans view such legislation as unfair and unreasonable. "The people in the United States hardly know what the word cultural sovereignty means," he said. "They're not interested at all in culture. The word is used very little. Grant programs are very new to the United States. There are the citizens who may be interested in local theatre groups, ballet companies, or if he's an investor in films, but that's about as far as it goes."

"Culture in the United States is something that happened in a very diverse and individualistic way," Rand added. "Their only interests for culture occur when there is a self-interest concern; when they want to get a film distributed or a book published in Canada." Rand, an American who lives in Buffalo and in Canada, added that he is trying through educational programs to change the U.S. perception of Canadians but feels that such programs are not enough.

The three speakers concurred that the important factor in the trade negotiations with the U.S. is to ensure that our own cultural industries, magazine publishers, television producers, and performing artists will have a chance to participate in the Canadian market.

Sauvageau, who is the co-chairman of the Task Force Report on Broadcasting released last fall, pointed to some of the problems within the Canadian market. "The American radio and television models are in our minds," he said. "Our Canadian productions are produced the U.S. way. All (Canadian) radio formats have been transformed based on the format created in the U.S. for their market purposes to the U.S. models."

"Even (our) news stations are based on U.S. models such as the station in New York city," Sauvageau said. "Presently, it is tremendous to broadcast the news from outside. We now have (at Radio Canada) a young lady in the cold outside on Dorchester Boulevard telling us every evening that it is cold outside. We need to develop our own model, the Canadian way."

Sauvageau added that so many specialty channels launched in Canada went into bankruptcy because of the different market structures here. "We cannot import everything they do and believe it will work in the Canadian system, especially in the French language areas," he said. "The government has a role in the proliferation of choice that is available to Canadian consumers."

Sauvageau expressed a need for universities to undertake that will illustrate to the Americans the effect of the high Canadian consumption of American productions. Because there are few Canadian correspondents stationed in foreign bureaus, Sauvageau said, Canadians see the world through American eyes, and in the case of Quebec, through the eyes of reporters in France.

According to Rand, "the U.S. sees Canada as an extension of the United States. They don't realize any difference. They feel free trade is a natural extension of an entertainment industry. They're not taking a malevolent policy point of view, but rather, it stems from ignorance, history, assumptions, and a hard-nosed economic point of view."

All three speakers emphasized that Canadians must maintain their sovereign rights. "We should be able to make whatever decisions we deem necessary to protect our own culture," Sauvageau concluded.

## INSIDE

### FEATURES

#### STUDENT INITIATIVE CREATES U.N.

**MODEL:** Over 350 delegates from universities across Canada gathered in Toronto last week to form a North American Model United Nations Assembly. York students garnered six awards in the three day event. *Excal* globetrotter Sujata Berry offers a detailed account of the conference. . . . . Page 5

### LETTERS

#### AN AWESOME NUMBER OF LETTERS:

February 24 marks a new milestone in *Excal* history as we shattered our Letters record, set a mere four weeks ago. We received 17 letters but unfortunately, space limitations mean we could only run 13. Stay tuned for the rest, next week. . . . . Pages 6, 7, 9 & 11