

Press silenced over loan to Atkinson Student Council prez

By BERNARDO CIOPPA
and GREG GAUDET
and GARY SYMONS

The Atkinson College Students' Association requested that news of a \$4,000 loan to its president, out of student funds, not be published in the college's newspaper.

The loan agreement, made last May, was between ACSA treasurer Avi Cohen and president Rosamond Rogers before consulting with other council members. The agreement was then ratified by the ACSA Assembly at its next meeting.

According to council minutes of May 1983, "the treasurer A. Cohen informed the Assembly of an emergency transaction that was made. Monies were loaned to a member of the Association for a short period of time. There was a contract made for a period of six months; \$4,000 loaned plus interest charged."

The same minutes read "The editor (Mary Ellen Kelly) agreed that this part of the Assembly proceedings will not be printed in the *Atkinsonian*."

The section of the meeting dealing with the loan was held in camera.

According to Manon Krohn, ACSA's Director of Internal Affairs, Rogers needed \$9,000 to meet payments on a newly-acquired house. Cohen said that, at the same time, he lent Rogers an additional \$5,000 of his own money.

Rogers failed to pay back ACSA's loan by the agreed due date of November 1983, yet, according to Cohen, she did repay his \$5,000 personal loan. In its November 17 General Assembly meeting, Council voted to extend the debt agreement to April 1984.

"Nobody questioned her (Rogers) too closely on that (the extension of the repayment

time)," said Kelly.

Council's Director of External Affairs Courtney Doldrun said some council members plan to question Rogers about repayment in their February 18 General Assembly meeting.

When contacted, Rogers refused to comment.

Kelly said she believes details of the loan should have been printed. "But I felt that some of the more disruptive and less beneficial elements of the Association would take over the leadership," she said.

"It (the loan) was not right. It should never have happened. It was approved after the fact," she said. "Students should have been notified because it wasn't right."

Kelly said although students should have been told, it was a moral judgement on her part not to print the loan details.

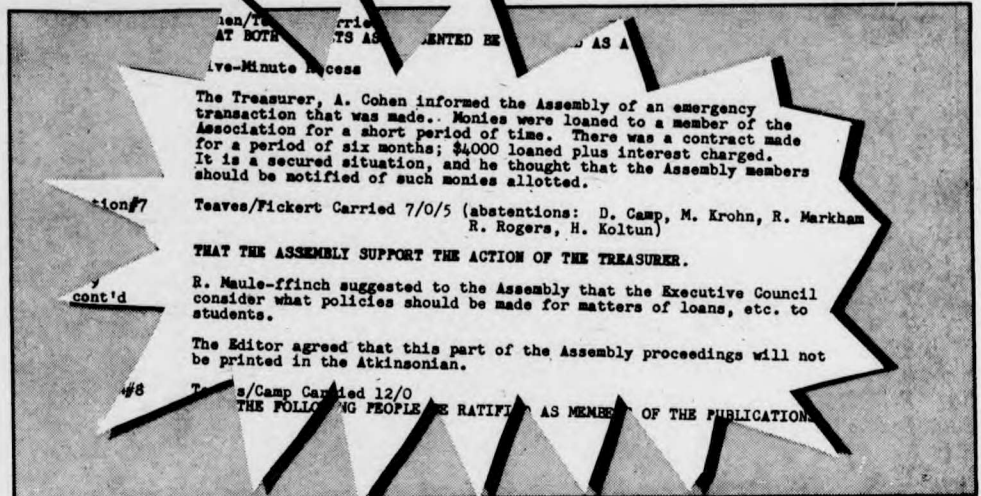
Krohn said she could understand the in camera discussion because it was a sensitive issue, but "the newspaper had a responsibility independent of council to let the students of Atkinson College know what's happening with their money," she said. "Without accurate and uncensored news we cannot be accountable or responsible."

According to Doldrun, Kelly should not have been asked or have agreed to withhold the news. "It's not just the money, but the way it was done," he said.

Seven council members were in favor of ratifying the loan, while five abstained. There were none against.

"I abstained because I knew it wouldn't make any difference and I felt it would be politically unwise," said Krohn. "I still feel that I partook in something wrong."

"At the point of the decision (to lend the



Record of the \$4,000 loan made by Atkinson Council to its president is recorded here in the Council minutes of May 28, 1983.

money) no consideration was made to position, color, or religion. If the person was an ordinary student under the same circumstances, I would have given them the loan," said Cohen.

According to ACSA's constitution and by-laws, there is no policy concerning loans. "The same loan would be unlikely to have been made to the average Atkinson student under the same circumstances," said Kelly.

Several members of council said that no loans have been made to any Atkinson students in the past.

"There has been no talk of similar loans to students previous to Rogers' loan," said Hadley Koltun, student senator for ACSA.

Koltun said much discussion on the loan ensued in the May 1983 meeting "because it is a precedent setting case." He said if the ACSA was willing to lend money to a student in need then

a "case could be made for any student."

"It's a wrong thing to do if the precedent cannot be generalized to all Atkinson students," said Koltun.

Claudio Lewis, then vice-president, said during the discussion of the May meeting, he told council "it would be wrong to make this a policy because other people could come and say they want money too."

"I wouldn't say anything bad about the president because she is good in many respects, but I think for her credibility she should resign," said Doldrun. "She has done a good job for two years, but this is the kind of thing governments fall on. The most honest thing for her to do is step down."

Elections for ACSA executive positions will be held 18 February, 9:30 a.m., Senate Chambers.

Charges laid against clerks in \$11,000 student fund scam

By BERNARDO CIOPPA

Two Atkinson College clerks were charged last Thursday with the theft of more than \$11,300 in student tuition fees.

Investigating officer Stephen McCarthy of 31 division said that during 1983 two York employees pocketed tuition monies paid by part-time students at Atkinson College.

According to William Farr, York's vice-president (Finance and Employee Relations), the duo, who worked in Atkinson's Student Accounts, issued receipts to those enrolling in courses but never registered them in the course. "When something official like an exam

happened, the applicant's name wasn't on any list," said Farr. He said student complaints led to an audit in October 1983. When the auditor revealed his findings, Farr said he called in the fraud squad.

Police investigators said they expect the \$11,300 sum to increase and are checking records from 1982 and earlier.

No money has been recovered.

Charged with theft over \$200 are Farida Mirza, 31, of Bramalea and Mirella d'Antonio, 27, of Woodbridge.

Farr said the two women are under suspension without pay from the university.

CYSF to give Radio York a chance

Grants struggling station referendum request for \$2 per student levy in coming CYSF elections

By LILY CONTENTO

The CYSF has approved Radio York's request for a campus-wide referendum to decide whether students would favor a \$2 levy on their tuition fees to cover the station's expansion costs.

The referendum will be held as part of CYSF's March elections. The results will then be forwarded to York's Board of Governors prior to November 15. If accepted, the levy will be charged to students during the 1985 school year.

Radio York lost a similar referendum last year in the CYSF elections in March. 747 students voted against the radio station levy on tuition fees while only 719 voiced their approval.

CYSF President Chris Summerhayes said he believes the students will respond affirmatively. "There will be a more positive look at Radio York than last year, because they have been doing a better job," said Summerhayes.

"Radio York is the lowest-funded campus radio station in Canada," said station manager Jack Cales.

Radio York is presently heard in the York cafeterias, one of the Bearpits, and campus

pubs. Yet, according to Cales, "Radio York is being heard infrequently. Bars often switch to other stations and there is too much noise in the cafeterias."

One of Radio York's priorities is to reach the University's residences. In addition, the station is planning to get a low power FM transmitter to become a campus community radio station which would serve the Downsview area. Part of the money will also go toward the replacement of old equipment.

Asked if he would approve of the \$2 levy, Rodrigo Marques, a second-year Political Science student said: "\$2 is not a very large increase, and it will be better for the York community to have a wide reaching radio station."

"A better radio station will foster a more unified school spirit, and it will raise York's standards," said Valerie Macioce, also a York student.

Summerhayes hopes that the \$2 levy will cover all of Radio York's expenses so that CYSF will no longer have to provide it with an annual grant. He believes that the levy is "a good idea."

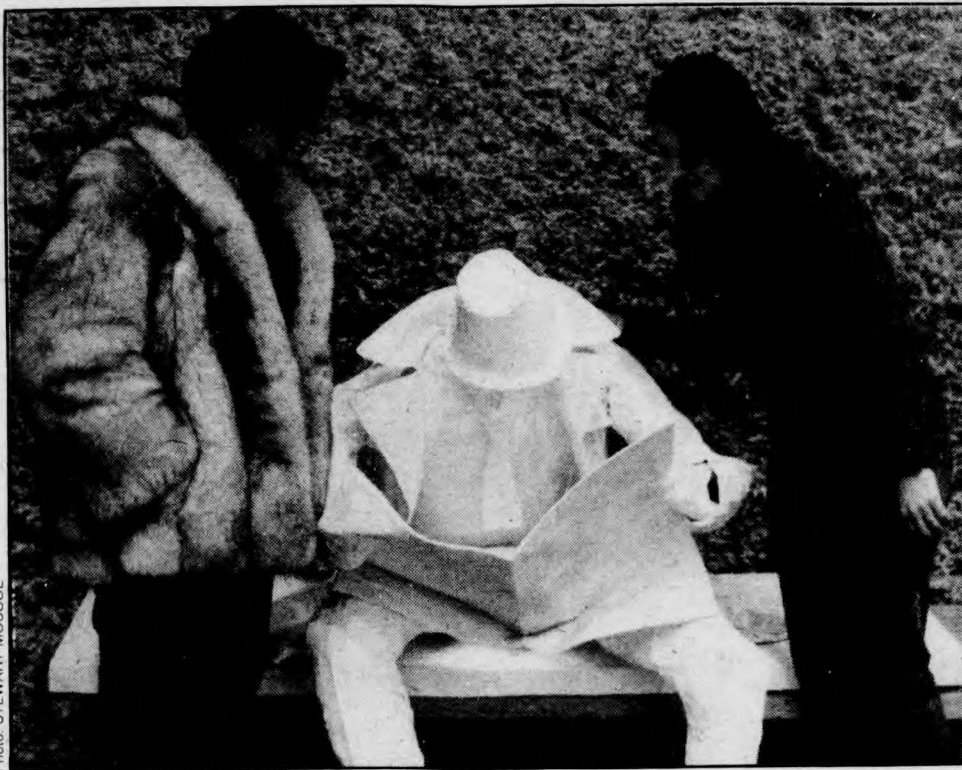


Photo: STEWART MOSCOFF

A frigid Jack Frost prefers *Excalibur's* intellectual titillation to the attentions of two York lovelies. After coming in from the cold last weekend the mysterious visitor has set up shop at this bench in Central Square's bear pit.

Macdonald almost spaced out

By LAURA LUSH

President H. Ian Macdonald says he barely missed going into space on the U.S. space shuttle this year.

In the Canadian Space Program's final selection process, Macdonald said he was surpassed by only 60 of the more than 4,000 who hoped to ride the shuttle in late 1984 through 1985. Masking his desire to travel in space, Macdonald regarded his application as "a bit of a lark."

Prompted by an early ambition to travel into space, Macdonald applied to the Program for Canadian Astronauts, which was widely advertised in the national media. Six finalists were picked, three of whom will represent Canada's first astronauts in space. Former York science graduate Steve Maclean was one of the lucky six chosen.

Macdonald described his lifelong fixation as a "contemplation of what lies beyond the universe." A childhood dream gradually developed into "quite a serious interest.

Sometime before I left this world I wanted to go into space," Macdonald said.

"After 10 years at York, who would be more spaced-out than me," Macdonald quipped.

When it came time to apply Macdonald said he filled out his application with "deadly serious" intentions. He said he foresaw that his non-technical background and age would place him in a "longshot" position. Applications were sent to the National Research Council in Ottawa and interviews were granted to the final group of 60 applicants.

"I hoped I'd win," Macdonald said, who was nonetheless pleased with his strong finish. Even though the NRC was looking for people with medical, science, and engineering backgrounds Macdonald said that one could probably "compensate for this by preparing yourself technically."

Specifically, Macdonald said he could offer "good judgement, experience, maturity" and the necessary leadership skills required to enter space.