

Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity — Lord Acton

Tarnopolsky is not for York

Last April, professor John Yolton sent a memorandum to all faculty about president David Slater's search for a vice-president. After a 11 year vacancy, Slater wanted the post filled.

The representative committee contained 11 faculty from various colleges and one graduate student. It was told to select three candidates and Slater would pick one. The senate would not ratify the appointment — it's administrative — even though the vice-president would control all academic affairs in the university.

Out of a list of six, Slater made his choice: Windsor law dean Walter Tarnopolsky, sometime chairman of ad hoc certain inquiries by the Ontario Human Rights Commission. He casually announced it to senate two weeks ago.

Tarnopolsky follows the notion that says to discriminate against Americans is allegedly illegal, (under the Ontario Human Rights Code). There can be no doubt that Tarnopolsky stuck to the letter of the law on that one. Of five tenured professors at Windsor, four are American. The same four sit on the hiring and tenure committee with only one Canadian entitled to vote.

But Tarnopolsky, the civil libertarian, accused of anti-semitism? Admittedly, it's a little hard to swallow.

In private correspondence, the only tenured Canadian, Hugh Silverman, Q.C., wrote to ex-Windsor law professor Sy Langer, "Are you going to raise the rampant anti-semitism issue?"

And later, "Tell it how it was, the anti-semitic attack on me."

Thankfully, we now know something about Tarnopolsky and Windsor.

Most of the Canadian faculty at Windsor are young, inexperienced, and very fearful for their jobs. Tarnopolsky

is a manipulator. Faculty charge he doesn't send memos to his fellow law deans or faculty members. He talks on the phone instead — that way there's a clean record. Of course, there's no way of proving it.

Of the first year Jewish students who applied to write supplementary exams in June, all were denied despite valid medical proof of their inability to take the exams. A student who charged there was discrimination against him was refused counsel to plead his case. Five non-Jewish students got their marks changed without asking for re-reading. One is the president of the student law society. These are facts.

But where does Tarnopolsky's OHRC record come in? Like a master politician in the Stanley Gray case, he chastised the McGill administration for firing him without compensation. Like a good compromise, the burden of guilt is shared by both quarreling parties which leaves the compromisor high and dry with a good clean image.

His record leaves many questions:

Why was a Canadian Jew, Sy Langer, with a post graduate degree from Columbia pressured out despite student petitions, while less qualified Americans were retained?

Why are Americans teaching Canadian labor law, contract law and other Canadian law subjects?

Why the obvious discrepancy in the handling of Jewish and non-Jewish students?

Why have at least 15 top students (Many Jews among them) just transferred to other law schools?

Why was a Jewish student denied of all things, the right to counsel?

And finally, why is Tarnopolsky in such indecent and secretive haste to leave Windsor after three years of a six year term? (Even the board of governors there didn't know of his plans.) Does he really want the York challenge?

There are a few answers. Could it not be that he has embarrassed Windsor so much they want to let him go? He has alienated the Tory cabinet by calling the minister of university affairs, John

York - nothing special for the TTC

The weatherman says there is another hard, cold winter coming on. The student body at York has increased again by more than 10 per cent. And the TTC is still insisting on regarding York as just another stop on its thousands of miles of roadways.

Two proposals have been put forward over the years by the York administration: one is for a limited express service that would leapfrog up from the Lansdowne subway station stopping only at major arteries such as Eglinton, Lawrence, Sheppard Ave. and so on. The other is that the buses, once they do finally arrive on campus, stop at the foot of the Ross Building ramp rather than the windswept territory east of Winters College.

The response to the first suggestion was that only some 13 per cent of the users of the Keele Street bus route get on

or off at York and the majority of users would be inconvenienced. To the second, the appointed directors said it would be impossible for the buses to turn around near the ramp. Besides, if they did it for York, some other subdivision or factory centre would demand the same service.

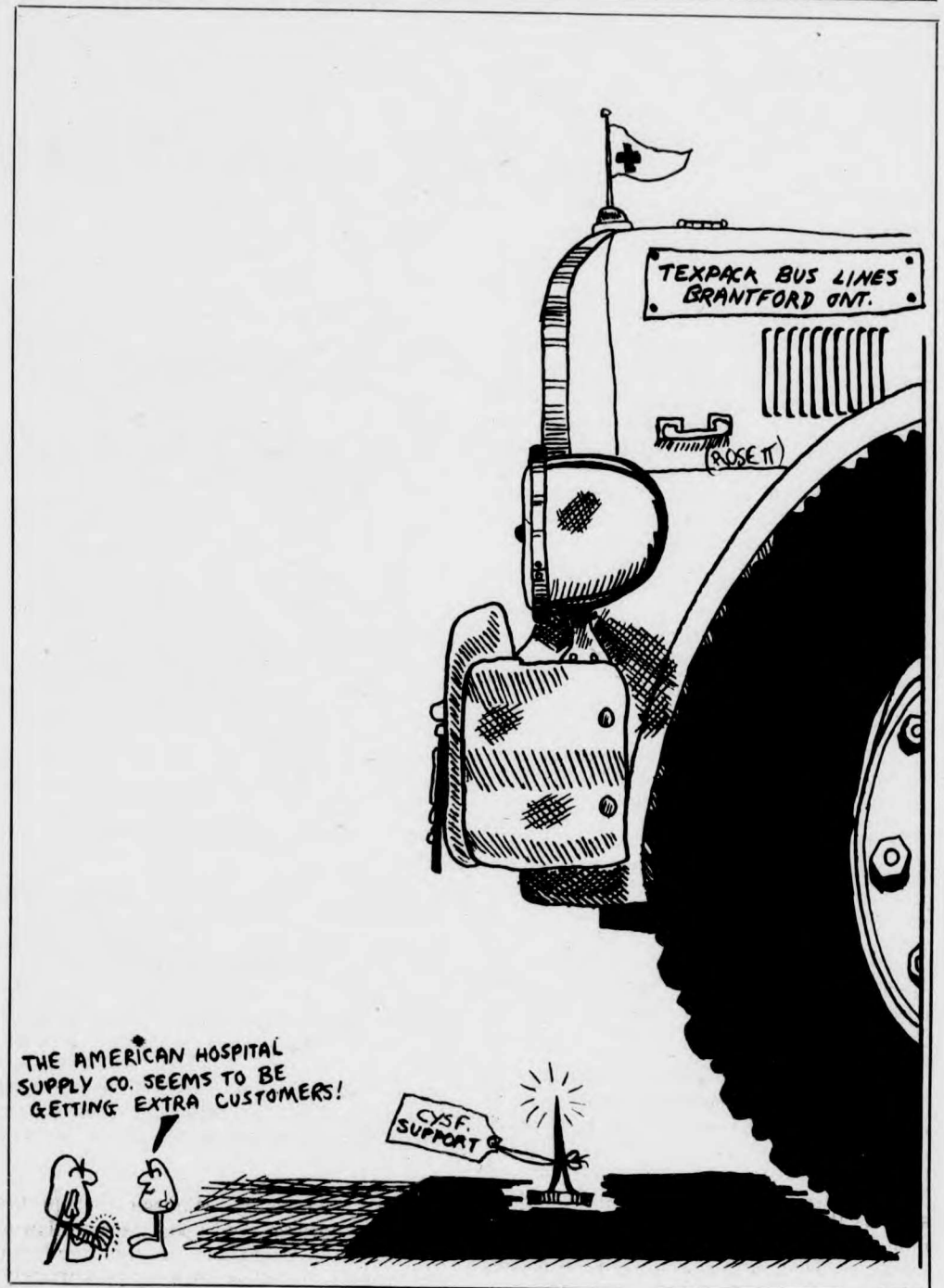
Let's examine those reasons. In the first place, the survey taken that arrived at the 13 per cent figure was conducted in mid-summer of this year. Could it be that there are more people on campus when classes are in session? Might it be that the figure is more like 50 to 60 per cent?

This year there are 5,700 full-time parking permits and more than 3,000 Atkinson stickers. Is this just because people prefer paying the fees and car expenses, or is it perhaps because it is virtually impossible to get to the campus in anything under an hour or more from parts of the city where

surely becomes: does he fit the president's own criteria for selection with "a first class academic reputation as a scholar and a teacher" and "a deserved reputation for integrity and sound judgment in the councils of academe?" Does he have "an ability to elicit co-operation and agreement on high stand (sic) programs?"

To say that Tarnopolsky fits the president's own criteria is ludicrous. With student opinion already massing against him, we have two non-negotiable demands: the dropping of Walter Tarnopolsky's name; and parity on a new committee to select the vice president.

The TTC is known to be, at least to some extent, responsive to public pressure. It might be mickey mouse, but if a group of people from this campus got together, they could in a concerted telephone campaign, tie up all lines to the TTC headquarters for 24 hours a day. Maybe if chairman Ralph Day and his various functionaries had to answer 100 calls a day for a week they would get the point that people here are not satisfied with public transport service. Maybe they'd realize the campus is not just a factory or subdivision. The drivers on the route are hassled because the buses are always overloaded; other riders are hassled because there are never seats on the Keele bus because of York students; York people are hassled because they're jammed like sardines on their way to classes or work and home again. And yet, at least in terms of the noise they're making, they seem to feel less hassled than anybody else.



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