

Stephenson: "Don't blame me for cutbacks. My hands are clean."

March 29, 1979, Excalibur 3

Moore named chairman of Canada Council

By Mark Monfette

Late last month Professor Mavor Moore, playwright, director and member of the Department of theatre, was appointed chairman of the Canada Council.

After several weeks of trying to corner the elusive and every busy man of the theatre, Excalibur finally managed to do so.

In a telephone interview Prof. Moore outlined his personal objectives as chairman, some of the problems confronting the Council and the basic functions of his positions.

"One of our basic aims," stated Moore, "is to maintain support for arts organizations to grow, to encourage new initiative."

He pointed out the immense growth in the arts in recent years has produced further demands which the Council, due to its frozen budget, might have trouble meeting. (The Council's budget is approximately \$42 million.)

"A second objective," said Moore, "is independence from government influence."

"There is a tendency near election time," he said, "to make grants which overlap our mandate. We must try to avoid this."

"Our independence is being compromised by government allocation of funds for certain projects — the Art Bank and the new book publishing scheme for example."

"More and more," he said, "the government has told us how our money should be spent."

Prof. Moore stated that the Council should provide a buffer between the government and the people so that the government is not required to make artistic decisions.

The chairmanship of the Council, Moore pointed out, is basically honorific. Neither he, nor any of the 21 member board, receive a salary, although expences are paid.

"And," said Moore, "there is a great deal of work involved." The council meets quarterly to review applications and to make sure that its policies are being applied.

Decisions regarding the worthiness of a particular application are made by a jury of the applicant's artistic peers.

"Juries are fallible," commented Moore, "but its the best system we've developed so far."

Anti-semitic graffitti restricts access to tunnel

By Greg Saville

Handicapped residence students confined to wheelchairs have been unduly affected by the sudden spurt of hate slogans and anti-semitic graffiti in the pedestrian tunnel in more ways than one.

Not only do they have to put up with reading racist comments (at least until York security can have them erased), but they've been somewhat restricted to their residences during bad weather since the closure of the pedestrian tunnel, March 10.

York's Director of Safety and Security Services, George Dunn, said handicapped students can contact security for escort through the tunnel on weekends, but many handicapped students have expressed reluctance and indignation at this.

"It's a real infringement on my privacy", said third year economics student Terry Humberstone. She explained that when she phoned security to be escorted to the library, she was asked to give personal information about her status as a student. "I don't see what my address or phone number has to do with this."

Vic Willies is another handicapped student who feels the tunnel closure is "a real hassle."

"You can't go to the library or to see a movie in the

Curtis Lecture Hall without getting the third degree," he said. "I know security is really trying to be co-operative and that some of that graffiti was really sick, but I don't think it is legitimate to keep the tunnel closed."

"It's impossible to go overland during winter without someone with you." he said when asked how drastic it would be to keep the tunnel closed on weekends next year.

About next year, Dunn says: "I'm not sure what the situation will be.... but we're looking at various possibilities."

One possibility is a volunteer Security Force patrolling campus.



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