

CYSF backs boycott

Michael Monastyrskij
Verdun de Manor

Opposed to what it sees as the Nestle corporation's unethical practices in underdeveloped countries, the Council of the York Student Federation has urged York students to join the boycott of all products made by the Swiss-based corporation.

The CYSF and other supporters of the boycott, coordinated by a group known as Infact, charge that Nestle's high pressure selling of infant bottle formula leads to the death of thousands of Third World babies annually.

Elaine Hick, Director of Women's Services, is a leader of the CYSF's campaign against Nestle, which began after Nina Herman of Infact spoke at council meeting last March.

Infact believes that Nestle encourages mothers in underdeveloped countries to give up breast-feeding in favour of bottle-nursing under unsuitable conditions. In the Third World, water supplies can be polluted and there is often no means of refrigeration.

According to Hick, Nestle representatives, carrying photos of chubby white children, give

new mothers free samples of formula. A week later, the mother's breast milk has disappeared and she is dependent on the company's product. And if she is unable to buy enough, she will dilute the formula.

Hick acknowledges that "Nestle is not the only company there by any means, but hopefully if Nestle pulls out the smaller companies will also pull out." Nestle, maintains that its practices are ethical and that it follows the World Health Organization's voluntary



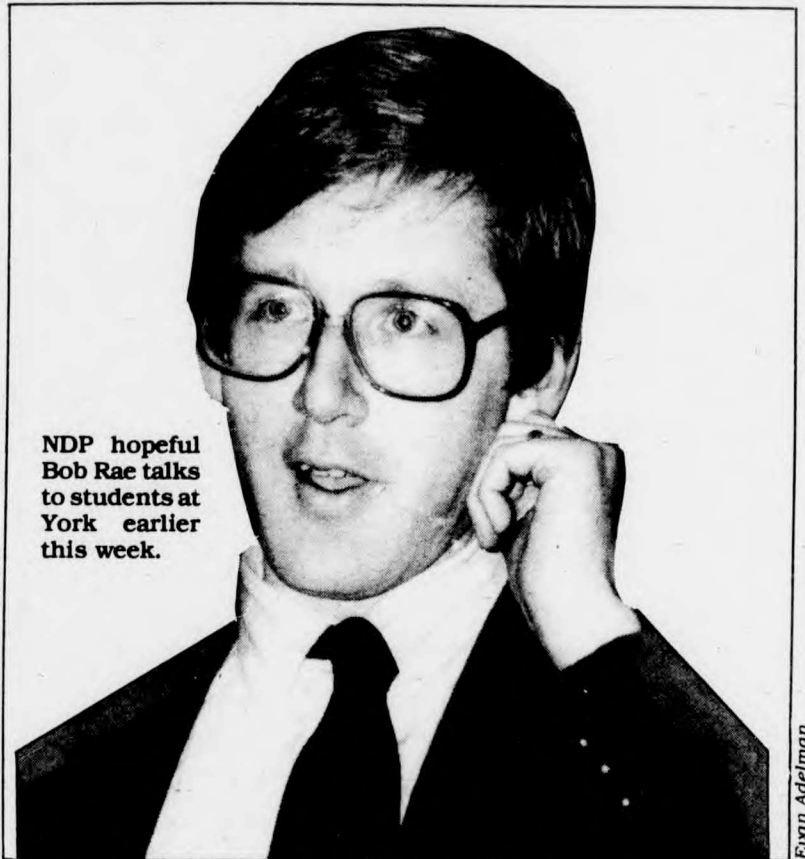
guidelines regarding the sale of infant formula. In literature sent to CYSF offices, the multinational states it only sells formula to those mothers unable to breastfeed, or as a supplement to breast milk.

Although the former student government passed a resolution supporting a Nestle boycott, Hick says that little was done. She approached Founder's College for help, but was informed action would only be taken if other colleges joined the campaign. Winter's College, on the other hand, gave fifty dollars to Infact while an ad informing students of the boycott appeared in the college's newspaper, The Seer.

Hick hopes that this year's CYSF will accomplish more and that other colleges will be consulted. More information concerning the boycott can be obtained by calling Hick at the CYSF office, 667-2515.

The following products are made by Nestle:

Taster's Choice, Decaf, Encore Nescafe, Nestea, Quick Montclair Mineral Water, Cherry Hill Cheese, Wispride Cheese Swiss Knight Cheese, Beech-Nut Baby Foods, Libby's, Maggi Souptime, McNeill and Libby Crose and Blackwell, Nestle Crunch, Nestle Puddings McFeeter's Honey Butter Stouffer Frozen Foods and Gusto Pizza.



NDP hopeful Bob Rae talks to students at York earlier this week.

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Rae berates 'dodos'

cont'd from page 1

demand justification for plant closures; notice and compensation for those affected; public encouragement for cooperatives and local enterprises that could be alternatives to foreign and absentee ownership." He added that the sad economic shape of the province is being compounded by technological competition and high interest rates.

The government was also criticized for its attitudes toward women. Rae stated that with regard to employment, women faced, "a wall of systematic discrimination that offends any sense of sexual equality." Departing from his written text the leadership hopeful stated that we are suffering because of the

Conservatives' backroom view that the primary role of women in society was childbearing and the rearing of children. Likening the government's attitudes toward women's rights as having gone the way of the dodo and pointed out that, "many dodos are still wandering around the halls of Ottawa, Queens Park, Bay Street and Osgoode Hall."

Speaking about NDP, Rae argued that the party will not do well federally until established itself provincially and pointed to Manitoba as an example of what is happening in that direction. Rae also believes that his party needs to broaden its appeal and cited young professional and immigrants as two groups with no political affiliation, and who are thus potential NDP supporters.

Faculty Focus: Shelly Romalis

P.J. Todd

Dr. Shelly Romalis, associate professor of Anthropology at York, is "committed to changing the present system of childbirth because it involves being a patient, thinking of oneself as unwell, as vulnerable." Romalis' new book, published this month is called *Childbirth, Alternatives to Medical Control*. In it she has written two essays and edited a further six. "I and the other authors involved examine childbirth as a cultural and political event. It's an attempt to

delivery. This is not the reality, according to Romalis, but rather a reflection of "the peculiar dynamic in the doctor-patient relationship which produces feelings of inadequacy in women and thus an inability to cope with pain and a desire to take medication."

As a member of the *Toronto Birth Centre Committee*, she is seeking support for the establishment of an out-of-hospital centre for childbirth that could offer OHIP coverage. "The impact of medical

technology on childbirth has been very powerful: it can and has saved the lives of mothers and babies, but it can have devastating effects if it is misused."

Dr. Romalis is especially concerned with helping women and their partners "understand the influences that mould and shape the childbirth experience" and she wants to "help widen the options available" to child-bearing women.

Dr. Romalis' new book will be available at York's bookstore.



Even Adelman

York author Shelly Romalis.

merge scholarly literature with personal experience as parents and educators." Romalis teaches Lamaze natural childbirth and has drawn on her class experiences for the book: "I have had the opportunity to observe the births of Lamaze class members' children both in hospital and in their homes. *Childbirth* is free of complicated medical jargon and easily accessible to non-professionals: "I would like to encourage women to take responsibility for their own health care and for decisions around this crucial life experience."

Romalis suggests that one of the misconceptions central to the natural childbirth issue is that the large number of women choosing medicated births do so because of an inherent need for medical intervention, or because of a potential 'risk' factor in

Crawley continues Connection complaints

Elliott Lefko

Lamont Alphonso

Once again the Council of the York Student Federation is under attack because of its association with the beleaguered Campus Connection.

In a statement released to *Excalibur*, Jim Crawley, acting president of the York Gay Alliance, complains that "the CYSF has been involved in the Campus Connection process since September 1981. They have yet to show themselves competent or knowledgeable in their management of the search process nor aggressive in re-opening the Connection. The CYSF can only hope to get their act together in time to appoint a coordinator for April to start work in September, 1982."

CYSF President, Greg Gaudet, who last week was quoted in *Excalibur* as feeling "slighted" by earlier comments made by Crawley, says that CYSF has "no formal responsibility for setting up a hiring committee for a Campus Connection Coordinator."

"Because we are the Central Student government, and the main funding body of the Campus Connection, we felt that we should take a role in finding a coordinator," said Gaudet.

In responding to Crawley's latest allegations concerning the committee's competence, Gaudet says that "we have had

our act together. Just because we haven't hired anybody, doesn't mean we haven't been aggressively looking."

A forum, organized by Crawley, the Women's Centre, and CYSF, will be held in the Bearpit on January 20. Anyone interested

in applying for the position should contact David Kelly or Greg Gaudet at the CYSF office (667-2515).

John Gray interview continued

cont'd from page 1

I wouldn't live there, but I see nothing wrong with exporting culture.

Billy Bishop opens Tuesday at the Royal Alex. Isn't that a first for an original Canadian play and playwright?

Yes and no. Billy is the third Canadian production to have appeared at the Royal Alex, after *Anne of Green Gables* and *Maggie and Pierre*, but it's the first Canadian play to be part of their regular season.

You seem to be the great Canadian success story. Are all of your studies and professional work concerned with Canada?

Yes. I was born in Ottawa, and my father, an air force officer, was transferred to Nova Scotia when I was very young. Growing up, I went to Mt. Allison University near Sackville, N.S., the setting for *Rock 'n Roll*. I took my theatre degree at U.B.C.

Then to York U.?

No, a friend of mine and I started our own theatre company called the Tamahous in Vancouver. It was experimental theatre, and we worked as waiters until we got enough money to put on a show.

Sounds like *Our Gang*. Did you receive any grants for your work?

Sure, we got money from Opportunities for Youth, and L.I.P. grants. I think Trudeau was trying

to oblige a disoriented element of society — add them to the fabric of the Liberal party. The Arts would become a glorified, universal Trudeau fanclub.

How did you like York?

It was good production. I liked York. The Fine Arts Faculty was superb. The students were talented and professional. I still have some fond memories of that place.

Can there be any hope for Canadian "art"?

Not as long as we stay the way we are. Canada imports culture and exports resources. If we didn't import, we would think twice about exporting resources. We are feudal serfs compared to the U.S. Lords.

