

# Security

by Jacob Katsman

**Caretakers reported to Security** that a group of males were causing a disturbance in room 133 in McLaughlin College on September 25 at 2:25 a.m. A strong odour of hashish was evident, and the scent led to the discovery of the banned substance on the table. Two of the males were identified as York students and the other two were believed to be visitors. Metro Police were called in and issued notices of trespass.

**A student left a gold plated watch** on a counter in a ninth-floor washroom in the Ross Building on September 21. Returning the next day to claim the forgotten item, the student realized that the watch was no longer there. Estimated value of the watch is \$800.

**The mechanical rooms** in Curtis Lecture Halls, the Ross Building, 22 Moon Road and 4,6, and 8 Assiniboine Road were found to have been broken into on September 25. It is believed that in each case the initial entry was gained through the maintenance tunnel system during the weekend. Investigation showed that the perpetrator(s) gained entry by forcing the padlocks on tool and spare parts containers. The items confirmed missing at this time are one ratchet set, an electrical cord, a cordless drill, a soldering iron, some hammers, chisels and screwdrivers. The loss is estimated at \$350.

**A Scott Library user** ran off with two books on September 25 which were not available for circulation. The male was described as white, 5' 10", 170 lbs, short straight brown hair and approximately 20 years of age.

**A female student complained** on September 26 that a male student was following her. The male in question has in the past been subjected to a complaint involving the victim. The matter has been referred to the Sexual Harassment Education and Complaint Centre for resolution.

**A student broke his leg** while playing touch football on the grass area between Ross and the Administrative Studies Building on September 25. He was taken to York Finch Hospital for treatment.

## analysis

# No place for closed minds

by Randall Terada

**B**ethune Lives! These words echoed through the corridors during Orientation at Bethune College earlier this month as the college strives to fulfil a mandate that seeks to change the constricted space colleges have traditionally occupied at York.

"It is rather short sighted to see university life as a mere academic jaunt from classes to the stacks to the parking lot," says Chia Yi Chua, chair of Bethune's college council, reciting an activist ring that traditionally has resided at Bethune, naturally so, considering its namesake.

Norman Bethune (1890-1939), is a quixotic figure in Canadian history to say the least. Surgeon, painter, inventor, and kick-ass communist, Bethune turned Canada's armchair solipsism on its head.

In his rather short life, Bethune achieved much notoriety and respect, more so amongst the people of China than Canada. He redesigned a number of surgical instruments, of which the pneumothrax apparatus and rib shears were the most widely adopted. He provided medical assistance for troops fighting against fascism in Spain, and later in China, and his untimely death prompted Mao Tse-Tung to express in a well know essay how profoundly Bethune's spirit of humanitarianism affected the people of China.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Norman Bethune's death and he is the subject of a feature length film co-produced by Canada and the People's Republic of China with actor Donald Sutherland in the leading role.

"Bethune wasn't the type of guy who would go somewhere and just sit back and enjoy the guest privileges, remarks John Montesano, editor of the college paper the *Lexicon* "He wasn't a passive guy, his activism and social conscience has influenced this paper in the way all papers should be."

Bethune College is not without controversy. In keeping with the recommendation of the York administration, the college recently adopted the theme of "Science and Society" as a defining feature of its role within the York community. But, this has prompted an internal debate which has yet to be resolved.

"The adoption of this theme which will play such a major role in our college life was the result of an arbitrary decision by administrators with absolutely no open discussion or semblance of democratic input at all," insists Dr. Stanley Jeffers, professor of physics and a nine-year Bethune member.

"The theme Science and Society is being interpreted too narrowly, which means the college stands in danger of being merely a recruitment arm of the Faculty of Science," he said. Jeffers feels the new affiliation will result in a

"divorce from the richness of its past tradition and the legacy of its namesake."

But Montesano, a science major, is not so sure that the theme has meant an abdication of the college's tradition.

"Right now the theme is still pretty undefined, there are no college courses set up as yet, no seminars, in fact there's no academic base to build upon. It's up for grabs," he said.

Chua feels positive about the adoption of the theme and as an example points to the renewed diversity of the college. "We have held a seminar by the astronaut Steve Maclean, we have the offices of the Chinese Students Association (Hong Kong), the Association of Chinese Scholars and Students at York, the Malaysian/Singaporean Students Association," he said, "and Bethune College is home not only to the Science majors but Physical Education as well."

The issue, according to Jeffers, is whether the progressive essence of Bethune is being neutered in the name of an abstract sense of diversity which is to a certain degree apolitical, and acritical, "but we have to wait and see," adds Jeffers. "The college has a new master [Fred Morgan] who deserves a chance."

Thus, the future is open for debate at Bethune College. So the next time you enter, check your intellectual straightjacket at the door. This is no place for closed minds.

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