

Feds finally back down; Meszaros granted visa

DOWNSVIEW (CUP) — Istvan Meszaros, the Marxist professor Canadian immigration authorities tried to exclude from a teaching post at York University on the grounds he was a "security risk", has apparently won his eight-month fight.

Meszaros received word January 5 that he had been granted an entry visa to Canada. He had returned to England December 29 after being in Canada fighting his case since September. He returned only after Manpower and Immigration Minister Robert Andras had assured him he would personally review the case.

Meszaros will return to Toronto, January 20 to begin teaching political philosophy at York.

Meszaros' lawyer, Paul Copeland, of Toronto, said the eight-month court and legal costs would be about \$8000, which he hoped to collect from York University. In a similar case two years ago, York picked up the tab for the entry fight of Gabriel Kolko, noted critic of American foreign policy and now a history professor at York.

Meszaros came to Canada in September to force the government to open its files on the case. Immigration authorities declared him illegally in the country and he was ordered deported by the Immigration Review Board while Bryce Mackasey was still Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

The case received international attention, and academics around the world rallied to support Meszaros. Under pressure, Mackasey agreed to personally review the case if Meszaros returned to England. Meszaros refused because once out of the country he would have lost his right of appeal.

Mackasey then withdrew a conditional offer to allow Meszaros to stay and teach at York for one year only.

Dalhousie Political Science Chairman J.H. Aitchison said he was glad Meszaros

got his visa. Aitchison said he did not know all the details of the case, but said it "appeared to be a case of arbitrary exclusion without good grounds."

The case is notable for the question it raises about the review process in the immigration department. If Meszaros had not come to Canada, Copeland speculated it was highly unlikely his case would have been favorably reviewed.

And by using the "security risk" label, the government was able to blanket the flimsiest of evidence in secrecy, and use it as a club to which Meszaros had no defense. He had no idea what evidence the charge had been based on. Rumors floated that he was Russian spy and at one point, Mackasey's executive assistant Zaria Levine told a newspaper reporter that Meszaros was "no golden-haired boy".

With the help of New Democratic Party MP Ed Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby), himself a member of York's political science department, Meszaros got in touch with the new minister, Andras. In a telephone call December 24, Andras told Meszaros he would honor the promise of his predecessor to review the case.

Andras reportedly told Meszaros no grounds existed for his exclusion from Canada. The government wouldn't intervene in the appeal, Andras said, and Meszaros had all the benefit of all possible routes of appeal. The statement in effect guaranteed the government wouldn't issue a security certificate. The certificate would have prohibited the appeal board from opening the security risk issue. In that event, the board would have been forced to settle the Meszaros case on a strict question of law without any humanitarian considerations. In appeal cases a board ruling can be reversed on humanitarian grounds.

But more important, Andras' statement is seen by observers as proof the govern-

ment had no grounds for the original charge that Meszaros was a security risk. In September Meszaros said he thought the label came from some Canadian immigration official in London who seemed to think all Marxists were security risks and bomb throwers.

Meszaros fled Hungary in 1956 when the Stalinists regained control after the abortive uprising that year. He was a noted civil rights advocate in his homeland and served as an assistant to the cultural affairs minister in the short-lived revolutionary government.

He went to Italy and then to Britain where he later became a British citizen without any problems. While teaching at the University of Sussex he was offered a position at York and resigned. But when he applied for landed immigrant status in Canada, while still in London, Canadian authorities there refused and the battle began.

York University officials played a very low-keyed role in the dispute. York president David Slater sent telegrams to Mackasey but left the bulk of affairs to Arts dean John Saywell.

When the original refusal of Meszaros' landed immigrant status application arrived in late June, Saywell sent Meszaros a telegram offering one year's salary as settlement, plus an offer to help Meszaros get his old job back at Sussex.



The site of the Master Plan, beautiful downtown Halifax.

City's master plan

Illusion of participatory democracy

Elsewhere in these pages, there is a report on the latest public meeting on the City of Halifax Development Plan. Several things must be said both about the meeting and about the plan.

The Master Plan is largely incomprehensible not simply because of its magnitude but because of its presentation and content. Last week, when it was brought into "open" forum for the masses, there was a great lack of answers. Mayor Fitzgerald kept trying to say that the plan was merely at the policy stage, that what we have now is just a set of concepts, the exact nature of which would largely be determined by that large unknown quantity, the people.

The meeting was cold and formal and the City Manager, Cyril Henderson, made it clear that at least one concept was out of the question — that being rapid transit.

The city seems intent that the only concepts that will be discussed are the ones they themselves have thought of.

It is also equally clear that the policies for Halifax development have already been made. There was one public meeting on Harbour Drive, the first stage of the Master Plan, at which time more than 90 percent of those in attendance wanted more serious consideration of rapid transit as an alternative.

However, in addition to the gut feelings that most citizens have about expressways running through the city, is the problem of financing. Movement for citizens voice and action reprinted a letter from the Minister responsible for DREE, Don Jamieson, in its Jan. 11 Newsletter.

"At the outset, therefore, I wish to reiterate that DREE is not committed to the provision of financial contributions (grants) for the construction of Harbour

Drive and will not entertain a request for such assistance until an accepted transportation plan is available.

"...The enabling legislation for special areas is such that projects which can clearly be demonstrated to support economic development are eligible for DREE assistance."

The Master Plan, with an extension of Harbour Drive going through the downtown core to Robie Street and eventually into a Northwest Arm Bridge, also projects that the downtown core will have a 50 percent-100 percent increase in employment. Similarly, residential areas will be built up in the suburban areas of Herring Cove Road, Fairview and the Bedford area. At the same time, it is proposed that certain historic sites and views from The Citadel be preserved.

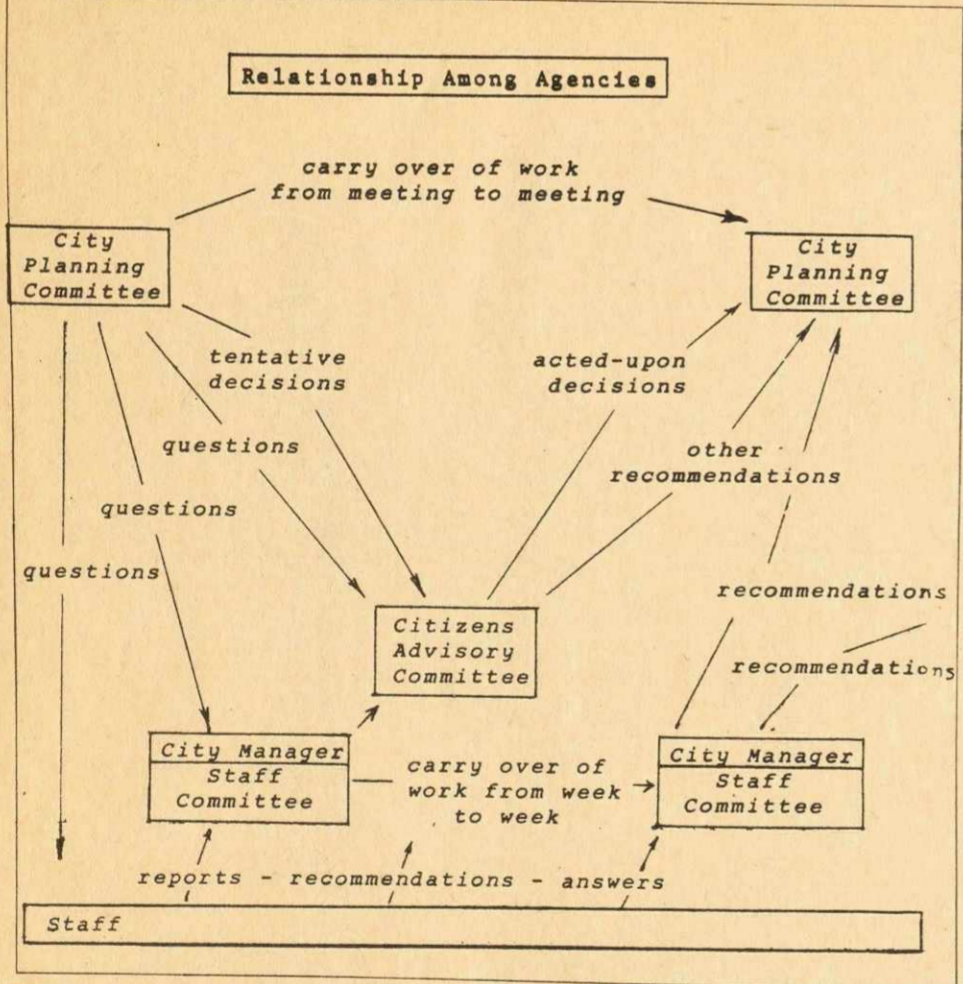
Yet, in the next breath, it is said that it is also the aim to speed traffic in and out of the city as quickly as possible. And even beyond the obvious contradiction in the City's statements.

There is indeed serious question as to the industrial core-residential suburbia concept of urban life. Some urban sociologists have argued against this concept because of its bad sociological effects in other large urban areas in North America.

But back to some gut reaction. It is doubtful that the City considers these so-called public forums as anything more than an exercise. The object is to divert public attention towards the illusion of participatory democracy, while City Developers slap together 30-storey buildings.

There's a high-rise medical apartment complex going up on Cobourg Road, a huge hotel complex on Quinpool Road. Land is being bought up all over the downtown area every day, while buildings are being torn down. The latest kick in the teeth was the announcement several weeks ago that the moratorium on new building starts in the downtown area was to be lifted shortly.

So we can expect a great increase in concrete office towers downtown, thus efficiently centralizing the business and corporate community. So with these fine businesses all located in one convenient area, the finances for the rest of the "Master Plan", the expressways, will be readily available, as there will be ample demonstration "to support economic development" and therefore, federal government assistance.



Changes proposed for entertainment

by Glenn Wanmaker

Student Council has accepted in principle a proposal to clean up the Entertainment situation in the SUB. However, implementation of the proposal is being left up to the Committee on Alternate Student Government.

Peter Greene, in charge of many entertainment events, reported to Council that the entertainment committee does not

work together as a unit. "We cut each other out, and we don't work together as a group at all."

He said \$8,000 was lost on three shows because of poor planning. "Give us an organization we can work with, and we'll have a lot better entertainment at a lot better prices."

His accepted proposal asked for a Council-appointed Chairman who would pick a committee to work with. The Committee would be given a budget to work with, and they would have to report to Council regularly.

Two thousand dollars will be expended on lighted bulletin boards to improve communication of Council information. The boards will be placed in the Life Sciences, the Killam Library, the Arts and Administration, the Tupper Medical building and Fenwick Towers.

Several Dal organizations received grants of between \$200 and \$300, including the Sociology Anthropology Course Union, the Ski Club, CUSO, the Chinese Society, and the Russian Club.

The motion condemning the university's directionless policy of tearing down houses with nothing to replace them was "deferred" until next Council meeting. No one could report on what the University's

policy actually is.

Several reports were presented to Council including Eric Swetsky's report on Senate. Several motions resulting from Task Force Committees on the Quality of Student Life were carried. Reports from the Course Monitoring Committee, the Leisure and Recreation Committee and the Communications Committee will be detailed next week.

Still no new Soc chairman

by Glenn Wanmaker

The touchy situation in the Sociology Anthropology Department appears to be slowly building to a climax. No one at either the high faculty level or the departmental level is making any moves, apparently attempting to delay matters as long as possible.

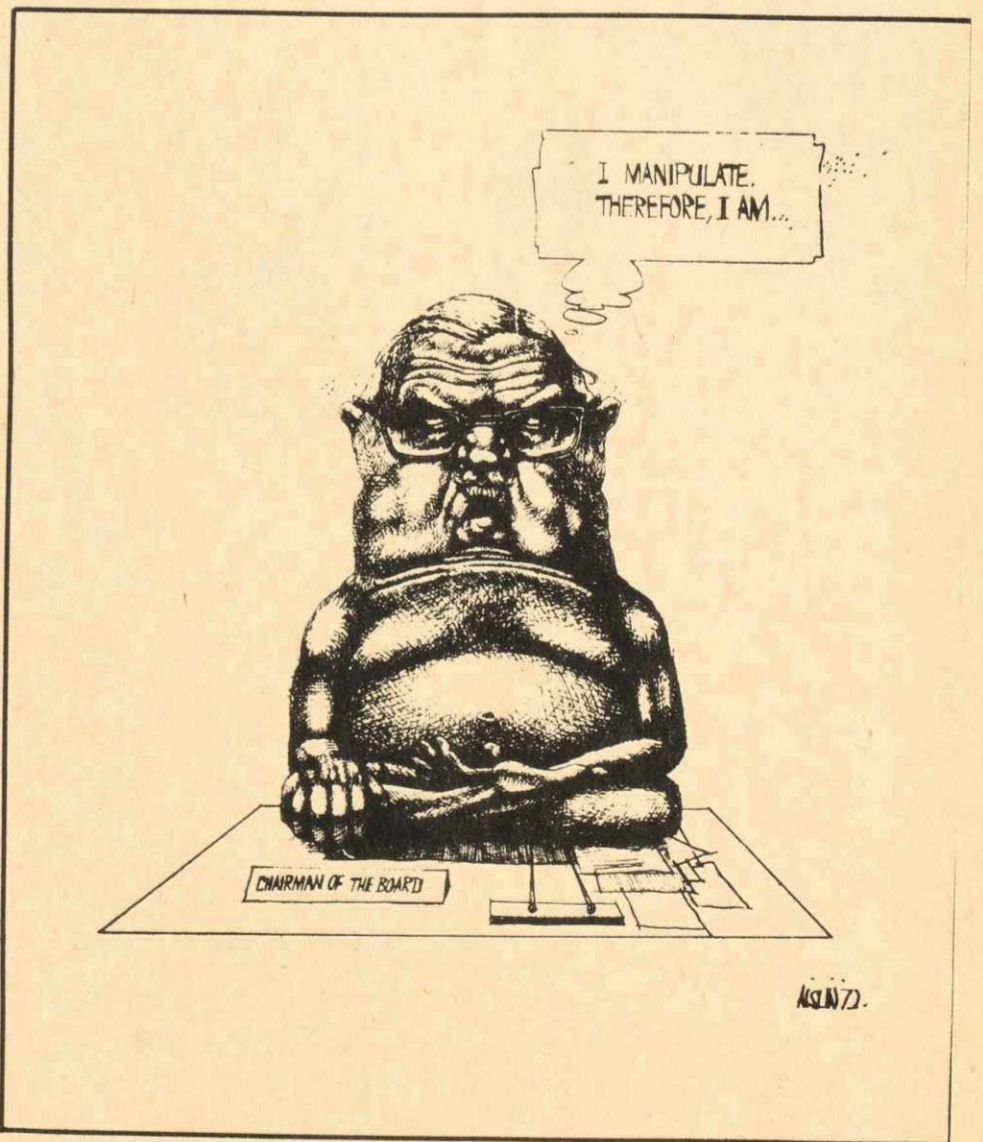
The search for a new departmental Chairman goes on, following the resignation of Don Clairmont before Christmas.

Professor Mangalam has resigned from his position of Chairman on the Graduate Education Committee, because of student success in gaining parity and reportedly

because of alienation from the rest of faculty and staff.

The latest candidate, and most likely at the moment, is Doug Campbell. Some observers say he is the compromise choice and most likely will only be interim chairman.

Faculty dismissals from the department and denial of tenure cases have yet to be dealt with, leaving at least three professors wondering about jobs next year. Normally, faculty is advised by December 31 about renewal of contracts. But because of budgetary problems, the university is conveniently delaying decisions.



FLASH!

Immediately following the last Council meeting, Arts rep Ken MacDougall moved that a special in camera session be held. No reason was given but the motion succeeded by a simple majority. All members refused to comment after the 30-minute session, though Communications Secretary Steve Long said "it was a joke," — referring to the behind doors meeting. Vice-President Joan MacKeigan concurred: "Oh look, it wasn't even worth..."

And so it was — the in camera session that is. Or is it the other way around? The GAZETTE will have the truth in 2 weeks.