Manager apologises for remarks about college reputation

MIKE MONASTYRSKYJ

At a public meeting held at Bethune college on Monday, pub manager Dave O'Sullivan apologised for comments about the college's policy and reputation that he made while negotiating use of the Junior Commons Room with the Gay Alliance at York. The Alliance had earlier charged that O'Sullivan's reluctance to allow the organisation use of the room represented discrimination against the gay community.

All events requiring the Bethune College liquor license must be approved by the College council, which will vote Thursday on the Gay Alliance Dance. Griff Cunningham, Master of Bethune, has confirmed that "In certain parts of the residence a petition against the dance is being circulated, and I've heard that it has met with resistance in parts of the College." Residence tutor Allen O'Conner was unavailable for comment.

"The entire issure raised a great deal more problems than I had anticipated," O'Sullivan told a large audience in the JCR. "I guess I overstepped my bounds and I apologise for that."

In a telephone interview with Excalibur, O'Sullivan said, "All I remember is that I made some remarks in my position that I had no right to make. I may have made some references to phys. ed. students, I don't remember." Karen Khan, Co-President of the Gay Alliance has charged that O'Sullivan had been concerned that the dance would harm the college's athletic reputation.

Describing a January 28th meeting of Bethune's Master's Advisory Committee, Master Griff Cunningham said, "I think it was his (O'Sullivan's) contention that Bethune has a natural constituency, and that was a jock constituency. O'Sullivan was told that he had to bargain in good faith and that he wasn't making policy for the college." Cunningham stressed that the meeting ended amicably, and that the public forum was only called to "clear the air."

O'Sullivan had also said that the dance would be the scene of anti-gay violence, and that he did not have sufficient staff to control any incidents. "I honestly believed and felt that letting them have the function would put them in danger, and our license in jeopardy."

After the meeting, O'Sullivan said "I don't feel any different than I did before. I told them I would not have enough people from my own staff. I had decided if council passed the dance, I would have to find an alternate source of staff"

At Monday's forum, some college members referred to the security issue as a "red herring". Cunningham pointed out that in his first year as Master, plate glass windows had been broken during concerts and that the administration had not even threatened to revoke Bethune's license. "If I'm here during that dance--I'd certainly be here--and if an identifiable group caused problems they'd be the ones who would be in deep shit-not us."

Another participant at the meeting argued, "If everyone here came in good faith there'd be no problems. I think the imaginary enemy that's going to disrupt the dance is right here in this room."

However, not everyone agreed with these assessments. One student drew applause when he argued that "a small Holocaust" such as the one that occurred at a gay dance at another university could repeat itself at Bethune. Someone else argued, "It's like a Nazi demonstration; it's a very controversial issue and you're going to attract trouble. I feel sorry for David (O'Sullivan) if he thinks there's going to be trouble. He's going to bear the responsibility."

Reaction to the meeting was generally positive. Cunningham and O'Sullivan agreed that it had gone well. "I had expected a more boisterous meeting," said Cunningham.

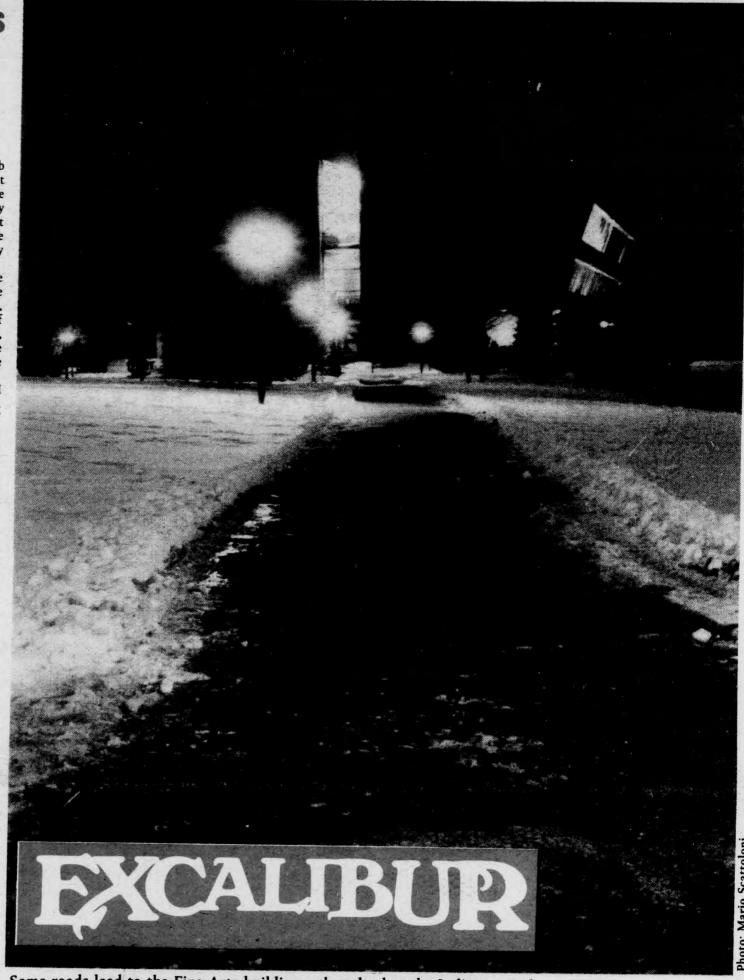
Stewart Reed, Vice-Chairperson of Bethune College Council and a member of the Gay Alliance, commented "I think it went really well. I could feel the tension in the room, but there were a lot of positive aspects." Asked if his membership in GAY would represent a conflict of interest in Thursday's vote, he replied, "I'll be voting. I think on this issue I'll be acting as representative of the Bethune community, not the Gay Alliance."

Student council budget delayed

JOHN P. SCHMIED

Last night's CYSF meeting finally saw the tabling of the budget proposal for the '82-'83 academic year, but because quorum was not reached by council, it could not be considered for passage.

Past delays in the tabling of the budget were due to the fact that previous proposals had been repeatedly sent back to Business Manager Tony Finn for clarification and reorganization. Failure to reach quorum has also hampered council business throughout the fall of '82. So much so that speaker Tye Burt announced on January 4 of this year that he would begin enforcing Article XVIII, paragraph 2 of CYSF's constitution which stipulates that any members missing four meetings during the academic year could be automatically dropped from council. It was felt that by enforcing this rule, council members would feel pressured to attend meetings, or else it would lower the number needed for quorum by lowering the number of members in council.



Some roads lead to the Fine Arts building, others lead to the Italian capital.

