

McMAHON PREDICTS NEXT HALIFAX DISASTER

"Halifax stands in imminent danger of catastrophe." This was the conclusion drawn by Prof. Donald C. Mahon, an Associate Professor of Geology (geophysics) at the Goodwin Institute of Technology, Cleveland, Ohio, at a talk before the Geology Club last week.

The topic of his speech was "The Effects of High-Yield Nuclear Underground Testing on the Geological structure of Our Planet." He stated that up until the time of the Russian test of 57 megatons some eighteen months ago, there had been little evidence of widespread simultaneous movement and realignment of subsurface rock structure.

"However," continued Dr. McMahon, "this particular Russian blast was set off inadvertently on the end of what is known as an 'igneous chain layer formation' which, when subjected to an extreme shock on its end-tracings, transmits them in a long-range reaction to the other end of the chain, where the formation reacts in a manner similar to a whip-snapping." He explained that this might be compared to setting up a row of marbles in a line, with each marble touching the other, when the marble on one end is struck, the marble on the other end shoots away, while the rest remain stationary. "Unfortunately, such layers cannot be found with present methods available before such a blast occurs, and we should not attach any blame to the Russians."

Dr. McMahon explained that the path of the geological disturbance has been traced by the U.S. Seismographic Tracking Station at

Green Bay, Wisconsin. It travelled in a fairly straight line across the Canadian Great Shield, submerged under the Gulf of St. Lawrence just above Riviere Du Loup in Quebec, crossed the Pettingia diacs in New Brunswick, and finally petered out on the Nova Scotia peninsula in the Halifax region.

"Because Halifax already has a very unsettled geological structure, the Institute immediately sent a research team down to examine the area at first hand. In co-operation with the Federal Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, we carried out extensive tests over the past two months, and have found gross enlargement on a number of known faults in the Bedford Basin area. Slippage is evident and a very minor shock in the future could throw the entire formation out of balance." He explained that the basin area consisted of two large rock strata, cantilevered upwards and leaning

on each other. Each blow settles these layers downward, and they are now almost horizontal. There is only a very soft shale supporting this mass, and when the overhang collapses, a huge fissure will develop, running roughly from a point north of Bedford, along the western edge of the basin, cutting out below Kempt Road, and traversing the Halifax peninsula somewhere between Robie and Connaught Streets. "Needless to say it would be catastrophic," said Dr. McMahon. "It is difficult to gage exactly when the slip will come, but a similar Russian blast could do untold damage. Likely it will create a new island out of the downtown area, with the Northwest Arm now extending past Arieville right into the Basin."

Dr. McMahon concluded his talk with a description of the Goodwin Institute, and an invitation for graduating geologists to do their doctoral work there.

Results of the opinion poll held on election day are as follows:

1. Do you prefer:

The OLD SYSTEM of 2 hour formal exams during time set aside for that purpose? 627

B. The NEW SYSTEM of leaving it up to the instructor to plan as he sees fit? 171

2. If Christmas Exams are to be given, do you favour having them given:

A. During class period? 96

B. During a definite exam period? 670

3. Do you prefer the NEW SYSTEM to the OLD SYSTEM for:

A. First and second year students? 207

B. All students? 329

4. Would you favour the NEW SYSTEM if it were well organized and properly administered?

A. Yes 424

B. No 340

Outgoing Student Council president Al Robertson's immediate reaction was that "it is not very enlightening but will prove useful in dealing with the administration."

Incoming president George Cooper said that it certainly will be presented to the faculty but felt it unfortunate that the poll was not more specific in qualifying its questions.

NICKEL IN WORLD MARKETS...JOBS FOR CANADIANS



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MARITIME —

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ations on their co-operative system.

The national executive was urged to investigate a suitable name change for NFCUS. Steward Goodings pointed out that the term was not legally correct in that some members, such as Ryerson in Toronto, were technical schools, and many more non-universities were expected to join in the near future. Goodings also pointed out that NFCUS was the only student union in the world with the word "Federation" in it.

The University of New Brunswick received permission to make a study into the bilingualism question with the intention of putting greater emphasis on French as a spoken language than a written one.

Nominated for next year's regional president were Bill Johnson, Memorial Council President whose own bewildered NFCUS Committee needs guidance, and UNB NFCUS Chairman Ian McQueen, who offered to try and gain consent from his council to host next year's regional conference but proposed nothing. Who will be the Moses to lead the Atlantic region out of the wasteland will be decided in the fall at the national Congress in Edmonton. Until then nominations remain open.

BUSINESSMEN —

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The board said the matter of discounts are left entirely up to the individual merchants.

Better Business Bureaus across the country have the same policy regarding discounts, the Ottawa bureau said.

National NFCUS president Stewart Goodings said 16 Canadian universities operating the NFCUS discount service and this is the first time he has heard of a complaint.

There are at present about 24 businesses giving student discounts in Ottawa, and a poll by the Carleton, student paper at Carleton University, indicates only one will be dropping the service.

Maurice Crosby

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