

York community questions Arthurs on BOG report

By JEFF SHINDER and SUJATA BERRY

York President Harry Arthurs, at Glendon and main campus open forums recently, cited budgeting concerns and the construction of facilities as major priorities for the University in the near future.

In the address, where Arthurs presented his Board of Governors report to the York community, high priority was given to the issue of provincial funding of the University system, with special attention for York's financial needs.

According to Arthurs, the past funding formula discriminated heavily against York. He added that in response to criticism, the provincial government allotted \$50-million to compensate the universities injured by the formula. York originally hoped to receive \$18-million of the funds. However, protest from other large universities curtailed York's allotment to nine-and-a-half million.

Arthurs indicated that the provincial grant is six to eight million dollars short of requirements needed to cover past deficiencies at York. In addition, he maintained that York will not be satisfied until her needs are addressed.

The issue of the sale of lands by the York University Development Corporation (YUDC) was explored during the forum. The President asserted that the YUDC prefers the option of long term leasing for York land, as opposed to any outright sale of the property. However, he added that the construction of condominiums is difficult on land that has been leased.

In the President's opinion, YUDC will not sell the real estate unless the University receives a lucrative offer. "If it becomes clear we are getting a

substantial amount, full consultations will take place," Arthurs said. Arthurs also said the preferred destination of any money raised from the housing proposal call was "office and classroom space."

According to President Arthurs, the University requires an additional 1.2 million square feet of office and classroom space. Including the construction of roads and sewers, the facilities will cost an estimated \$140-\$150-million. He indicated that funds generated from the sale of York property could be used to entice provincial government cooperation in funding the new buildings. The province would provide two dollars for every York dollar raised.

When queried about the effect of Grade 12 and 13's simultaneously entering the university system in 1988, President Arthurs replied that it may place a strain on the University. Contrary to sociological estimates, the student population is not decreasing as more people are finding the university option attractive. Arthurs said that registration for the upcoming school year is already up by seven percent.

The President indicated that the provincial government has until recently chosen to ignore the issue of Grade 12 and 13's simultaneously entering the university in 1988. According to Arthurs, only in the last two to three months has a joint study been "hysterically underway."

Arthurs said predictions of student enrolment increases range from 10 to 40 percent over the next two to three years. He emphasized that within present budgetary constraints, the University will be hard pressed to deal with the influx of students. The President noted that a final resource in dealing with the

problem could be a more aggressive mode of delivering higher education. That is, York may examine the prospects for increased off campus teaching to sidestep the dilemma of limited facilities.

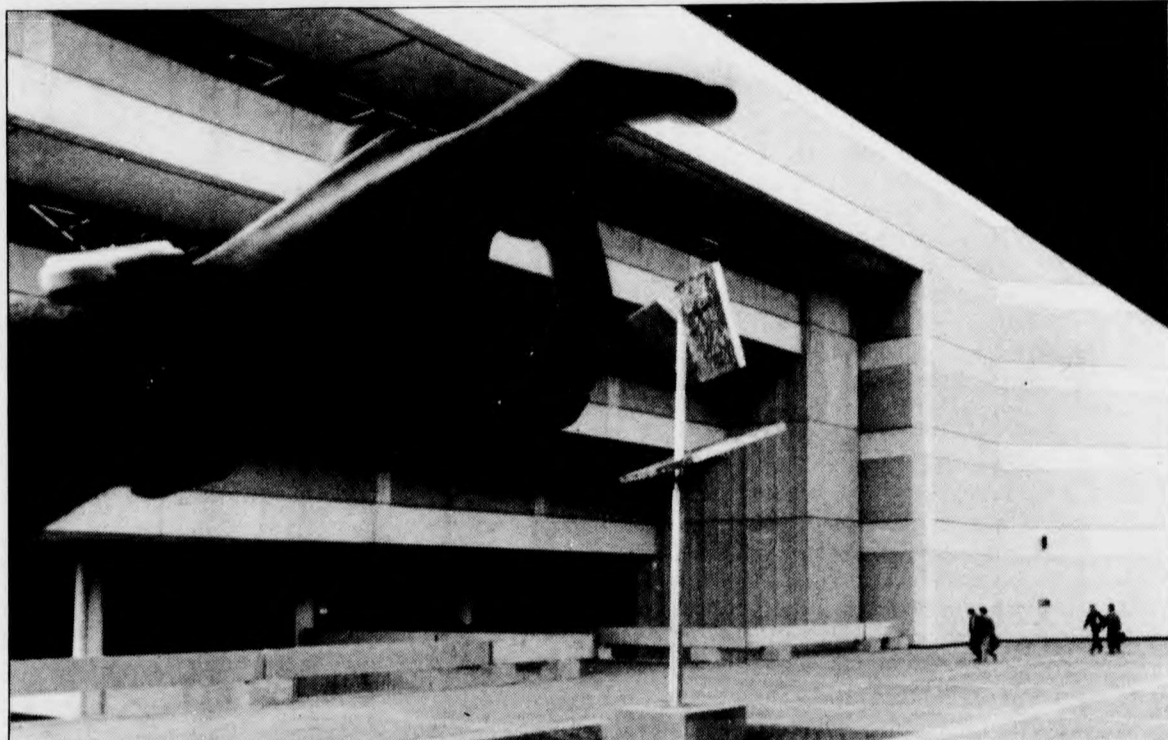
Questions concerning the future of Glendon's bilingualism program were also addressed to the President. Arthurs cited a provincial government commitment to support bilin-

gual programs with additional funds. However, he cautioned that the cabinet has yet to make a decision on this issue. Arthurs maintained "that we can't build stability if there is no permanence in the funding."

At present the bilingual program at Glendon receives provincial grants to cover initial costs. Bilingual programs do not receive additional funding after the start up

period is terminated. As such, maintaining new programs requires the diversion of funds from other sources.

There were about 40 people in the Glendon audience while the main campus' Senate Chamber was packed to capacity. Questions Arthurs deftly fielded were on topics ranging from the collective bargaining process to selective accessibility.



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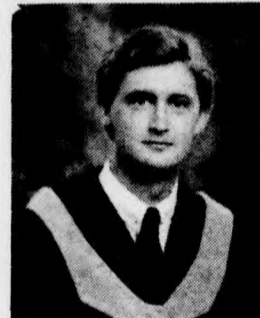
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