

ACTION.

by Sam Shepard

December 2 through
December 23
Wednesday to Monday
Nightly at 9 p.m. \$3.00

The Theatre Second Floor
86 Parliament Street (at King)
364-4025

Inflation hits York libraries

(cont'd from pg. 1)

Hardest hit by this gross inflation is the Steacie science library. Brian Wilks, head librarian at Steacie, estimates that science journals cost about three times as much as other journals.

"Because science journals are so expensive, price increases from between twenty and thirty percent have hit us like a tidal wave," he said.

Wilks says his ideal budgetary scheme is to allot 85 per cent to periodicals and the remainder to books. In reality, he has spent 93 per cent of this year's budget on periodicals with the rest going to reserve books and special requests by faculty.

"In the broad basic sciences, our book purchases are non-existent. This, of course, seriously affects our first year students."

After \$195,000 went to subscription renewals last year, \$5,000 was left over for the purchase of science books, though this was exacerbated somewhat by additional revenue from book fines.

York's libraries are currently considering several alternative strategies in tackling the problem. One possibility is the formation of a national lending library for periodicals, similar to the one established in Great Britain. This would be a back up collection at the federal level to house journals that local universities cannot afford.

A second proposal is regional collections. Explains Woodworth, "one university would specialize in law, for example, and another would specialize in science. There would be total free exchange between schools. But this could be a pricey thing for us to absorb in terms of photocopying costs. There's also the danger that a university would be committed to buying things in areas where it has no academic need."

Collection development policies are also being worked out to determine how York's book collection should grow within the academic goals of the university.

Woodworth also cited a move on the part of the math department involving the exchange of subscription lists with the University of Waterloo's math department to

avoid unnecessary overlap in purchases.

Martin Muldoon, chairman of York's math department says this plan is still in the conceptual phase. Above all, Muldoon favours increased financial support of the library and is skeptical of the options discussed so far.

Larger cooperative systems would entail massive inter-library loan programs which Muldoon questions the effectiveness of, pointing with dismay to the current inter-library exchange which he believes hasn't worked well. "It usually takes a week to get things which were promised at the moment. This delays our work."

Muldoon also said that if universities begin cancelling subscriptions in favour of centralized lending, this would reduce the numbers of subscribers, pushing rates even higher and causing some journals to fold.

"This situation is a very serious one as far as math research is concerned," said Muldoon. "The library is our only tool and in order to maintain a good program of research we need to keep up subscriptions to 200 to 250 journals."

Faculty members have recently been consulted by the library about proposed deletions in the subscription list, and those members contacted by Excalibur said their departments could accommodate cuts made so far without adverse effects on research or education.

History department chairman, Paul Stevens, said faculty will have to become more involved in the libraries affairs. "We can't leave it to the bureaucracy."

Sabia speaks at York

Three million women marching on Ottawa to demand a Royal Commission? Laura Sabia, speaking at the York Women's Centre last Thursday, explained how Prime Minister Lester Pearson was persuaded to form the Commission on the Status of Women by a headline in the *Globe and Mail*.

The headline quoted Sabia as saying that angry women would convene on Parliament Hill unless the government took them seriously.

The women and men crowding the Women's Centre joined Sabia in discussing the progress of the women's movement since its early days. Sabia, former president of the National Action Committee, decried women's lack of power in what she considers to be three crucial areas: politics, economics, and religion. She urged women to use their powers in pursuing their ambitions and to work to restructure the nuclear family.

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Anyone wishing to avoid disgusting displays of drunken depravity are advised to skirt the 18th floor common room at 2 Assiniboine, Grad 4 on Friday night.

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