

Increasing applications plague universities

By MARK HUNTER

"Very volatile" is how York University President Harry Arthurs described the current and future enrolment situation of Ontario universities.

In recent years, Ontario post-secondary institutions have experienced an annual application increase of 4% to 5%, per university. This year, the provincial average of application increase is closer to 7%.

At York this year, the Faculties of Arts, Fine Arts, Science and Glendon College had a combined increase in applications received of 6.2%, while Atkinson College experienced a greater than 13% rise in admission requests. Because of the increase in applications, enrolment in Ontario universities has jumped an average of 5%.

But according to Sheldon Levy, Associate Vice-President (Management and Information Planning), York only increased its 1987 enrolment by 150 students, which is less than 1% of the total number of full and part-time students currently enrolled. York President Harry Arthurs explained that, "Our capacity to take in more students is virtually nil, and if we did take in anymore, our credibility would be minus nil."

The problem of 'over-application' is not unique to York. Mr. Levy explained that the same situation is being experienced by most schools throughout North America, but no

one really understands the reasons behind the increase. "We have done studies to try and find reasons for the sudden increase, but no one can seem to put their finger on it."

To make matters worse, 1988 will mark the final year of the phasing out of grade 13 in Ontario's high schools. This means that come June 1988, there will be two graduating classes at every Ontario high-school consisting of both grades 12 and 13 students. This is expected to bring a flood of at least 25% more applications over the next two years. When questioned about the severity of the expected rush, Mr. Levy said that "there have been lots of studies, but we'll just have to wait and see exactly what the impact will be."

With a greater number of applicants to choose from, York is able to be selective and choose more desirable students, Levy noted. The high school grade point average cut-off for admission to York now stands at 70%, whereas five years ago the cut-off was 60%. That is a 2% increase, every year, for the last five years.

According to Levy, York's admission standards are now above University of Toronto's Erindale and Scarborough campuses. He also added that as graduating high-school students' first choice, York has experienced the largest increase of all Ontario universities of "somewhere in the neighbourhood of 90%."

Strikers voice grievances

As the strike by the York University Staff Association (YUSA) lingers on into its third week, some major issues remain unresolved. Issues in the strike include: upgrading of existing equipment, job evaluation based on Ontario's pay equity legislation, job training and an increase in salaries.

While negotiations proceed, York staff continue to walk the picket line with great bitterness towards an administration which they feel has ignored its needs for too long. As Celia Harte noted at the beginning of the strike, "We are tired of being treated as second-class citizens." In the following article, Excal's Pierre Imlay profiles personal grievances held by some YUSA members about working conditions at York and the administration's offer.

Victoria Caparelo has been working at York for three years in the Atkinson College Accounts Office and this is her second time out on the picket lines. The present negotiations have filled her with an increasing amount of frustration as the strike drags on. "Equality of pay and good working conditions are more important than pay," she said. She is upset that her position pays less than those at York Accounts when both

Caparelo is also concerned with the conditions that she and her co-workers have to work under. "The ventilation is really bad in our office. People are continually off sick because of that." According to Caparelo, the university could do a lot more to improve these condi-

tions. Furthermore, the university has given her practically no time to learn how to use new office equipment and she had to learn in a hands-on manner. Now as a trainer, she struggles to teach people on the new equipment while attending her work.

Lori, who did not want to be identified, stresses that she is very worn out by 5:00. She receives practically no training on the new equipment, which includes the new Vax System, and is expected to learn on the job. "They give us a book and say learn it," she says. For her this is difficult, because she is not very technically inclined and knows very little about computers.

Andrew Ranachan, who has been at York for the past 15 years and is in charge of admissions at Osgoode Hall, feels strongly for the grade three workers. These are among the lowest-paid workers and are mostly female support staff that he works with. He believes they should be getting paid more for the amount of work they do. Their workload has increased steadily due largely to the annual increase in student enrolment. "Those who have the power

get and those who don't have the power don't get," he explained.

Another problem is wage increases. According to Ranachan, the new offer is totally inadequate. He argues that the administration's offer of 6% in the first year and 5¼% in the second represents a drop from the offer made in the last settlement. Furthermore, the offer falls short of the two-year 15% offer made to the York University Faculty Association. According to Ranachan, YUSA workers should be treated likewise.

Lori feels the same way and worries a lot about the continual rise in the cost of living. "Who knows what will happen next year. I just don't feel right in taking a step backward."

Many of the strikers are being hit hard financially by the strike and are looking forward to going back to work. Many have families to support and payments to meet. For people like Brigitta Schmidt of the Administrative Studies Library, making ends meet can be very difficult. "Every year we have to go through these games. One gets a little hungry when there is no money for groceries."

Exploring capital punishment

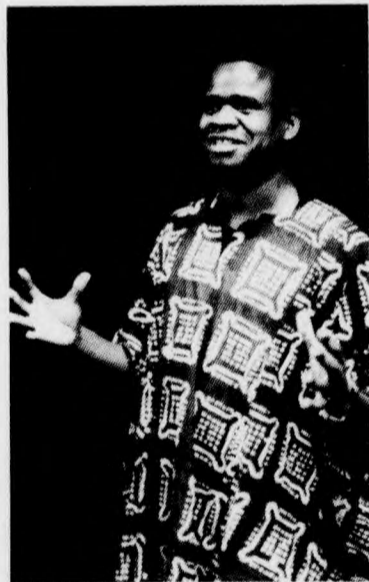
By AMY MENON

A conference exploring the issue of capital punishment was held this past weekend at Osgoode Hall Law School. The main focus of the conference entitled "Political Halley's Comet" was the death penalty in "global comparative perspective." Sponsored by the Nelson Mandela Law Society, it was marked by the presentation of papers concerning capital punishment in Chile, South Africa, Nigeria, and Grenada.

As Ontario Criminal Lawyer Association chairman Earl Levy remarked, despite the abolition of the death penalty in 1976, the issue remains widely debated in Canada.

Calling the death penalty barbaric, Osgoode professor Michael Mandel said that the death penalty is a "symbolic act of authority and is a mere mechanism of politicians." Harry Glasbeek, another Osgoode professor, addressed the fact that globally, people condemned under the death penalty are the politically dissident, the poor and those who are discriminated against.

Also closely scrutinized were Nazi war criminals and Apartheid criminals. Jossi Schwartz, a lawyer, presented a paper on Nazi war criminals



SEARCH FOR JUSTICE: Osgoode Hall Law and Society Co-Ordinator Munyonzwe Hamalengwe presents his paper on Apartheid criminals last weekend.

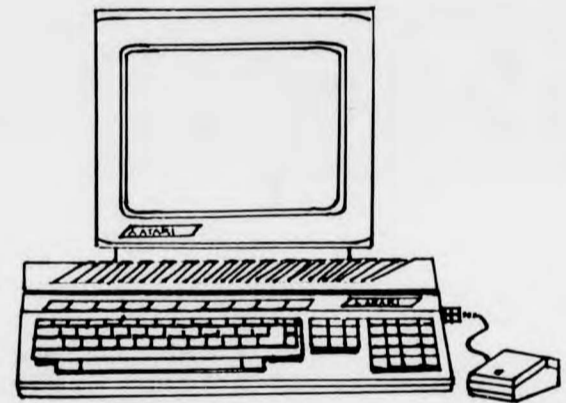
advocating the death penalty in cases of criminals who are guilty of "gross crimes against humanity." Schwartz used Josef Mengele, Klaus Barbi

and Rudolph Hess as examples. Law society coordinator Munyonzwe Hamalengwe, on his paper about Apartheid criminals, pointed out that people who are guilty of "crimes against humanity" actually live and work in our midst. It is becoming increasingly popular for overthrown despotic leaders to emigrate to North America, he said. "It is not inconceivable that Botha will land at Pearson International Airport," Hamalengwe said.

Hamalengwe added that Bill C71 should be used to prosecute Apartheid criminals in Canada. The legislation is designed to provide Canadian courts with the power to prosecute war criminals and people guilty of crimes against humanity regardless of whether the crimes were committed abroad.

Though the turnout was small, organizer Hamalengwe felt that the conference was a success and attributed that to the "excellent participation of all involved." He commented that the general trend of all the speakers was that "the death penalty needs to be resisted but the problem remains as to how to deal with war criminals and those guilty of gross crimes against humanity."

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