



GENTLEMEN, START YOUR PEDALS: Participants at the Miele Club amateur race, held on York campus last weekend, begin their arduous journey around York and environs.

\$1-million fund proposal defeated

By SUSAN SPERLING

The City Council of Metropolitan Toronto last month defeated a proposal that would have allocated \$1 million a year to Metro university students.

Despite the support of several prominent Council members, including Toronto Mayor Art Eggleton, the proposal was voted down 29-9 at a May 27 Council meeting.

The proposal to establish a Metro Universities Fund was first referred to Metro Chairman Dennis Flynn in August, 1985 by the presidents of York, the University of Toronto, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, the Ontario College of Art, and the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. At that point consideration of the Fund proposal was deferred until after the election of the new Metro Council in November of last year.

On March 25, George Connell, president of U of T and chief initiator of the project, made a presentation before the Metropolitan Executive Committee, outlining the proposal, which was based in part on the findings of the 1984 Bovey Commission (which was appointed by the previous provincial government to examine post-secondary education in the province). Connell stated that the Commission "was struck by evidence—particularly outside Metropolitan Toronto—of a wide measure of public and community support for the work of the universities." The City of London, Ontario, which was offered as an example to the Council, gives \$80,000 annually to "City Scholarships" at the University of Western Ontario.

Connell, speaking for all five institutions, asked that \$1 million be given in Metro's name for scholarships and bursaries.

On May 12, Connell wrote to all members of Metro Council, asking that a decision be made regarding the establishment of the Metro Universities Fund, because, he wrote, "I believe strongly that Metropolitan Toronto is better served by its institutions of higher learning than any jurisdiction in North America." Connell went on to cite the benefits of having post-secondary institutions in Metro, including greater social and cultural services, increased accessibility to education and job creation. (York University is the largest single employer in North

York, providing the city with over 5,000 jobs.)

On May 26, Gerard Blink, president of the Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF), wrote a letter on behalf of York students to the 10 North York representatives of Metro Council, asking for their support of the Fund at the upcoming Council meeting. However, little support materialized from the North York councillors.

North York Controller Robert Yuill was one of the most vocal opponents of the proposal. Yuill said that university funding is a provincial responsibility, and that the municipal government has no budget for it. Besides, Yuill said, "I worked my way through college (and) my son and daughter worked their ways through York University; it can be done. Anybody who wants to can earn more than enough to go to university without getting handouts from the government," Yuill added.

Blink said that this was a common sentiment among Council members. Blink remarked that Metro Councillors believe "students should be living at home, working all summer and taking at least one part-time job to support themselves."

"University's an expensive little habit, and Council's attitude is be-

hind the times," Blink continued. "They don't understand about family conflicts preventing some students from living at home."

Mayor Eggleton was one of the few proponents of the fund. Other supporters included Mayor Bruce Sinclair of Etobicoke, Mayor Alan Tonks of York, and Metro Council members June Rowlands, Ron Cantor and Joanne Campbell, who proposed the motion.

Even though Council defeated the motion, there is still a feeling of hope prevailing. Blink said that student councils are still lobbying, and he thinks the proposal will go through in the future.

Ron Collett, from the Department of Private Funding at U of T, told *Excalibur* that a motion was passed 20-19 in favour of Metro instituting an honours list of students (which may or may not involve bursaries).

Tim Harris, director of York's External Relations department, said that he will pursue the matter of the honour list, and find out if there is money involved. But while he feels that the honour list is a good idea, he added, "We were stunned by the results of the proposal. We'll have to use different methods of approach in the future."

Break-ins continue

By ZENA McBRIDE

York University recently fell victim to yet another campus break-in, the 56th this year.

The break-in occurred between 7:00 p.m. on Friday, June 13, and the morning of Saturday, June 14, when thieves broke into the Farquharson Life Sciences building, stealing an estimated \$4,800 in cash and goods, and causing over \$500 damage.

The culprits, according to Eric Pond, an investigator with York Security and Safety Services, allegedly entered the locked building through a door near the greenhouses, first smashing a fist-size hole in the wire-reinforced glass, and then unlocking the door from the inside. They followed an L-shaped course, beginning at the supplies office in room 128.

Apparently finding nothing of

value there ("Luckily," said Pond, "as there are some dangerous chemicals stored there"), they proceeded to room 136, where JJ's Typing Service (formerly located in Central Square) had just set up office that same Friday. An IBM typewriter valued at \$1,045 was lifted, along with \$500 in cash. In addition, the cash register and a filing cabinet were damaged.

From JJ's, the thieves went to room 124, the home of Innovation York, where they seized a brand new Tandy 1000 computer and printer, which had been installed just three weeks prior to the incident. They escaped unseen with their booty, probably through an exit adjacent to Innovation York, according to Pond.

Various factors indicate that the break-in was a professional job. The

14-year-old math whiz youngest graduate ever in university's history

By LORNE MANLY

Last Friday, June 20, thousands of people crammed into the Tennis Centre at York to witness the Spring Convocation. As robed and tassled graduates lined up to receive diplomas, one figure in particular stood out from the crowd—14 year old Jason Levy.

Levy, who received his specialized honours degree in math, is the youngest graduate in York's 25 years; he may even be the youngest university grad in Canada's history.

Levy, the eldest of seven children (three brothers and three sisters), entered York University at the age of 10, jumping directly from grade four at the Associated Hebrew Day School to a much larger and more impersonal environment. "At first, I was really shy," Levy recalled. "I was pretty scared (as) it's a very big place. Before coming to York I was in grade four where I just had the one classroom and would just sit there the whole time. Here (at York) you've got to run from one place to the next—and you have 10 minutes to do it with no time for lunch," he said.

But it only took Levy till the end of the first week of school to become used to the routine of the University, and he had no problem getting along with his classmates in his four years at York. "Everybody was really nice to me," Levy said. "It was really great. At first, when they just see me, they get surprised. But after a while they treat me like a regular student." However, Levy's age did prevent him from partaking in certain university student activities, such as visiting a pub after class. "That is something I can't do," Levy said laughing.

Levy is glad he came to York as "it's a very people-oriented school which is very nice for me because at some other places it's very competitive, and as a 10 year old I don't think I could have managed that."

One problem that arose from Levy's rapid ascension up the academic ladder was that his English skills lagged far behind his math ability. Whereas Levy was prepared for university math through his advanced studying and help from York professor Morton Abramson (who was leading a special math group for gifted students at Associated), he had only the equivalent of a grade five English capability. As a result, according to Levy, "I was accepted as a special student because I couldn't write essays." Accommodations were made so that Levy did not have to take a social science course first year and he received special tutoring in English to bridge the gap. He has now reached a university level of English.

burglars gained access to each room in the same relatively tidy manner used in the initial entry. According to Mel House of JJ's Typing Service, "an amateur wouldn't do it that way." While the equipment in JJ's was visible from outside the office, the opposite was true for Innovation York. The computer couldn't be seen from the door," secretary Carolyn Hood said, "so whoever stole it had to have known it was there." Pond agreed: "They knew exactly what they were after, namely electronic equipment, and that is what they took."

The robbery was very neatly con-

ducted; any damage done to the premises was negligible when compared with the value of the items stolen. Furthermore, due to the nature of the stolen equipment (heavy, bulky machinery), some form of motorized escape would have to be pre-arranged. Pond did not rule out the possible existence of a theft ring working around the campus as there have been a number of such thefts around campus of late.

While no arrests have been made in connection with the incident, there are several suspects and Pond remains hopeful that the culprits will soon be apprehended.

Levy's interests include more than just mathematics. He has taken courses in French, Hebrew, physics, chemistry, and philosophy in his four years at York and finds philosophy especially interesting. David Hume, the 18th century British thinker, is the philosopher that has the greatest appeal for Levy. "He's a very deep thinker," Levy said. "The way he went through his theories—step by step, fully explaining how he got from one to the next, not leaving out any details—is very interesting."

Levy counts skiing, swimming, photography, and magic among his hobbies. He also enjoys summer camp where he finds himself in a situation no one has probably ever faced: Levy is further ahead in school than his counsellors. "As a matter of fact," Levy said, "most of the counsellors I had last year at camp are first year students here. It's really neat that a couple are in Vanier College with me, so I see them occasionally."

Stories about the 14 year old "whiz kid" have appeared in the *Globe & Mail*, the *Toronto Star*, and *Maclean's* while his achievement has even been noted on NBC's *Today* show. However, Levy appears to be taking all the publicity in stride and is, in fact, surprised about his sudden popularity.

"I realize that it (the publicity) is not very important," Levy remarked. "It doesn't mean anything. I was surprised I was getting that much attention. At first nobody knew about me and then, all of a sudden, everybody's calling up," he added.

The most common question Levy has been asked the past month is what does a 14 year old university graduate do next? In Levy's case it means obtaining his master's degree in mathematics at the University of Toronto. After that he may complete his PhD in math but is "not really sure." After all, he is only 14.



GARY BLAKELEY