

## NEWS DIGEST

### CYSF defines "political"

By SUZANNE LYONS

In response to heightened criticism over political club funding, the Council of York Students Federation (CYSF) has drafted a new funding proposal specifically outlining the criteria all clubs must fulfill in order to receive financial support from Council.

The present policy at CYSF denies block funding to any club with political affiliations or interests. The recent conflict between the campus Progressive Conservatives, Liberals and New Democrats and CYSF centred on Council's ambiguous definition of "political." "They (representatives of the three associations) were perfectly correct in saying that the definition was ambiguous," admitted Drew McCreadie, President of CYSF. "We took their letter of complaint into consideration and have redefined 'political' in our proposal."

However, CYSF is maintaining its original position under the new funding policy, by still denying political clubs financial support.

The second point of the new four-part definition characterizes political clubs as those which "seek, as a part of their mandate, the appointment, election, or installment of a specific person or group of persons (e.g. a political party) to government."

"We have always been willing to fund political clubs on a per project basis," McCreadie said, "but we don't want to be funding a particular political delegate." While McCreadie agreed that other clubs such as YSMAA are also "political" in a sense, he said that they will continue to receive funding because they are not directly affiliated with the Canadian government or a political party.

### Math may get PhD program

By RANDAL F. SCHNOOR

The Mathematics department of York University is on the verge of establishing a PhD programme for the 1988-89 school year. The proposal has been approved by the York University Senate and is now awaiting final endorsement from the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies.

"I am quite confident this programme will become a reality," says York Math Professor Martin Muldoon, the PhD programme proposal coordinator. According to Muldoon, "York has a specialty in certain areas of mathematics that neighbouring schools in Ontario are not strong in, especially U of T."

Muldoon stated that York is requesting a small program with only three areas of mathematics. He expects to gain approval for the programme as early as the end of March.

The programme is designed for three students a year up to 1993 and will increase its enrolment after that time. Students are expected to have a B+ average or better, but Muldoon emphasizes that grades may not be decisive. "We are looking for well-rounded students who are particularly interested in doing original Thesis research in mathematics."

In addition, three letters of recommendation will be necessary. The whole PhD programme takes four or five years to complete. The mathematics department is expecting significant interest in the programme.

Muldoon noted that many people are surprised that York doesn't already have a math PhD programme. Among the over 30 departments at York, the vast majority of them presently offer PhD programmes. With more than 50 faculty

members involved in the math graduate programme, the department felt it was time to create a doctoral programme.

Even if this proposal is officially accepted by the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies, according to Muldoon, it will be about five years before it will receive any provincial financial support. He added that "universities in Ontario are underfunded, York especially." Because the programme will be viable with few new faculty members, York University is willing to finance the initial costs.

### COU protests operating grant

By ELAN KATTSIR

The Council of Ontario Universities (COU) protested against the provincial government's plans to increase university operating grants by 6.7% next year at a pre-budget hearing two weeks ago.

Based on a report recently conducted by COU, universities require at least a 10.1% increase in operating grants in order to prevent the further deterioration of post secondary education. In response to last week's appearance by COU representatives, the Legislative Standing Committee on Financial and Economic Affairs agreed that universities need more money to better fund pure research, capital expenditures, and operating expenses.

Dr. William Sayers, Director of Communications for COU, said that Ontario universities require a 10.1% grant increase in order to enable the province to maintain its place in increasingly competitive international markets. As an added budgetary strain, he cited the 10-25% increase in university applications expected next year as a result of the phasing out of the five-year high school system.

York President and COU Chairman Harry Arthurs admitted the Committee has no real power, but since it is charged by the Treasurer to conduct these types of hearings, it can influence him in drafting his budget. The budget is expected to be announced within a month.

### Robarts Chair gets new Prof

By JONATHAN PAUL

York's Robart Centre continues its tradition as a world leader in Canadian studies research with the appointment of renowned literary theorist Linda Hutcheon.

Hutcheon was recently appointed to the Robart's chair which is an annual visiting research professorship sponsored by York's Canadian Studies department. Along with the title Hutcheon also will receive a \$500 grant plus the aid of a research assistant.

According to John Lennox, Director of Canadian Studies the position will permit Hutcheon to do her own research on a subject relevant to Canada. The results of this research will then be presented at a Robart's lecture to be given by Hutcheon at the end of her term.

Hutcheon will be available for consultation with Faculty and Graduate students, but Lennox explains that teaching will play a very small part in Hutcheon's responsibilities. Lennox also says that York and The Robarts Centre are recognized both nationally and internationally as representative of Canadian studies attracting a very large number of students from countries such as Australia, Japan, Africa, and China. He adds that the Robarts Centre is very much a high profile centre for many researchers and professors who hold Canadian Studies in high regard for its uniqueness.

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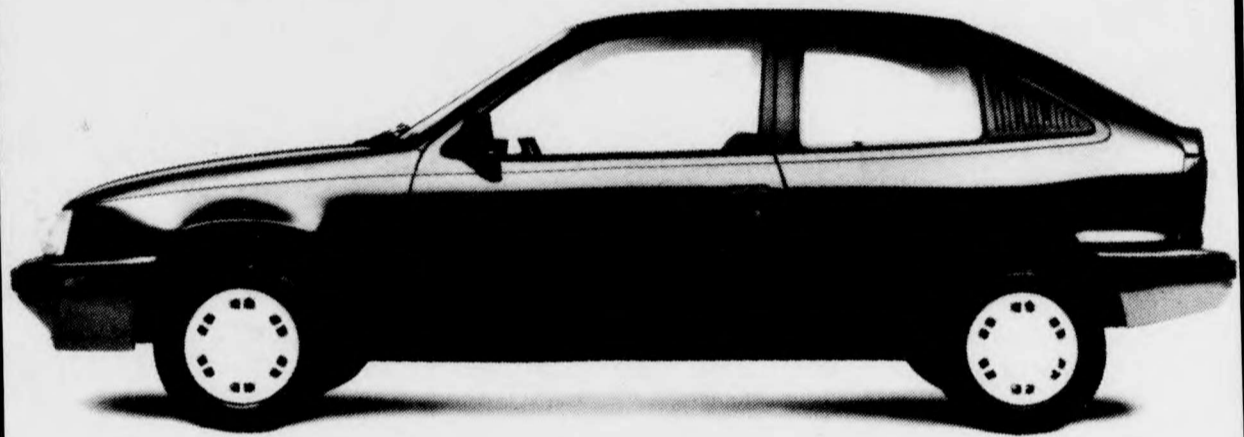
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