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Budget cuts threaten staff and students

by Tom Schneider and Doug Saunders

We're in for a year of cutting," York President Harry Arthurs warned the University Senate last Thursday.

In an impassioned address, Arthurs told the Senate that the university will have to reduce spending by millions of dollars.

Already facing \$5.6 million in academic and administrative budget cuts, York will receive Ontario's lowest-ever funding increase next year, Arthurs said.

Two weeks ago Richard Allen, Ontario's minister of colleges and universities, told university presidents that next year's increase in government funding transfers won't be more than two to three per cent. That is far less than last year's 7.6 per cent increase and well below the rate of inflation.

Joe Kistal-Kovacs, a spokesperson for the Canadian Union of Education Workers (CUEW) — which represents part-time faculty and teaching assistants at York — said Arthurs called York's union leaders together last week "to read the riot act."

Kistal-Kovacs said Arthurs warned of potential layoffs and reduced wage increases.

Bill Farr, vice-president of finance and administration, acknowledged that next year's cut to departmental

budgets will be more severe than anticipated.

"What we thought would be a three per cent cut will have to be at least five," Farr said in a September 18 interview.

In the past, York has dealt with funding shortfalls by increasing the student population, Farr told the Senate.

This has resulted in overcrowded classrooms, an extremely high proportion of part-time professors and a shortage of office space and facilities, he added.

"We're overheated to the point that we can hardly contain our activity anymore."

According to Arthurs, it is no longer possible to increase the student population. Instead, the York administration will have to drastically reduce expenditures.

This year, York will see "very, very few academic appointments" with "a tiny number of exceptions," Arthurs said, as well as "very few administrative expansions."

Kistal-Kovacs said the budget cuts will have a direct impact on students.

The English department has already eliminated 19 staff positions, he said, in a move that will end the department's tradition of small classes.

"They're going to pack classes," he added.

But according to Arthurs, academic programs will suffer smaller



The green guy has a field day

Jonathan Burke hugs his favorite tree after saving its life. His campus eco-club Envision York convinced a campus property developer to change plans for a housing co-op and save a hundred-year-old row of trees. For more on Burke's highly successful exploits, turn to page 5.

cuts than the university's administration.

"So far as we can, budget cuts will be deflected from academic programs. However, at some point academic programs will have to fall subject to cuts."

Asha Bhat, communications di-

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Bouncer gets pummelled at pub

by Cindy Reeves

A fight outside the Student Centre Restaurant-Club last Thursday resulted in a bouncer being taken to hospital.

Montaser Abdo was rushed by ambulance to York/Finch hospital after attempting to stop an argument between two men in the line-up to the club.

According to Abdo, a man wanted to gain entrance into the club without standing in the long line-up, but Abdo would not let him in. A second man started arguing with the first.

In an attempt to keep the argument from turning into a fight, Abdo says he stood in between the two men. But the men turned on him and, joined by three others, knocked him down and started kicking him in the chest.

Abdo suffered a minor concussion, a sprained wrist and

bruises on his chest, face and legs.

The assailants left before security arrived.

Abdo has filed a report with metro police and plans to press charges if the individuals involved are identified.

Rob Castle, general manager of the Student Centre, says the incident has resulted in a few changes in the operation of the Student Centre Restaurant Club.

A policy requiring all patrons of the club to have York identification or be accompanied by someone with York I.D. will be effective immediately and patrons will line up in the colonnade instead of outside the club doors.

According to Abdo, checking for York I.D. will make it much easier for the bouncers to do their job.

"York students should be given priority in using the centre.

If only York students and their guests use the pub, line-ups will be shorter and easier [to manage]," he said.

Castle also said three new professional bouncers have been hired and the overall performance of each of the old bouncers will be reviewed. He added that the Student Centre is now considering either hiring York Security officers or Metro Police officers to monitor the lines.

"We owe it to our clients to protect them... We want to make sure to put into place a system that makes people feel comfortable and safe," Castle says.

Anyone who can identify persons involved in the fight which occurred at 10 pm on Thursday September 26 are asked to contact Rob Castle in the Student Centre Corporation office.

Security charged with assault

by Sheena Jarvis

A York University student has filed assault charges against two York Security officers over an incident that took place last June.

Bradford Calder, an Atkinson College student, alleges that two Security officers assaulted him after his night school class let out at 9:45 on June 4.

Calder was photocopying outside the microcomputer lab at Stacie library when he was approached by Security.

"The guard asked me for a Student ID and I didn't show him because I didn't think it was for any reason other than because he didn't like the way I looked," Calder said.

"Even if he had a legitimate reason for asking for the card, there wasn't any need for them to attack me."

Jim Drennan, spokesperson for York Security, was in charge of the

investigation and said it was "our contention that [the charges] were unfounded."

York Security has filed charges against Calder over the same incident. Calder is charged with assault with a weapon. Security alleges Calder attacked one of the officers with a pen.

He is also charged with verbal threatening for allegedly telling one of the officers, "I'll rip your fucking face off."

Calder denies both charges.

Drennan said that until the case comes to trial, the York Security office "really can't comment."

According to Calder, there were several officers watching the incident as well as a librarian and a woman he thought was a student. He has asked that anyone who witnessed the incident come forward as witnesses at the trial. Trial is set for December 10 of this year.

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