

Classes getting even bigger in wake of budget cutbacks

by Susan Dejesus

Arts students will be seeing larger classes and fewer full-time professors next year as a result of major budget cuts. Faculty representatives say the only way they can make the cuts is by reducing the quality of teaching.

During the summer, York Vice President of Finance and Administration Bill Farr announced a 10 per cent across-the-board cut to the university's operating budget, to be spread over the next three years.

Bob Drummond, associate dean for the Faculty of Arts, expects most of the cuts will be borne by faculty.

"We don't believe that the Faculty of Arts can cut 10 per cent without reducing the quality of programs," said Drummond.

Arts departments have spent the last two months debating budget-slashing strategies. Deans will present their Faculty's austerity plans to the

university administration starting this month.

Most departments have few cost-cutting options. Departmental budgets are made up of full-time and part-time faculty salaries, salaries for clerical and support staff and operating costs.

According to Drummond, operating budgets are already too low to reduce and there is "no room to reduce support staff."

"Full-time staff can be reduced," said Drummond, "but only by attrition." This leaves most departments with two options: to replace retiring faculty with part-timers, or to increase maximum class sizes.

York's English Department—one of the few Arts departments to rely on small classes instead of large lectures and tutorials—has long been under pressure from the Faculty of Arts to cut costs by increasing their student to faculty ratio.

Last month the English department voted to increase the maximum sizes for most classes by 3 students. This allowed the department to eliminate five course directorships.

Anne Pilgrim, chair of the English department, said this will allow the department to cut salary costs while maintaining relatively small lecture sizes. However, this only accounts for the 1992-93 year—one-third of the budget reduction period—and the department may need to restructure its courses in subsequent years, she added.

"We have not so far altered our style of teaching, but we may have to alter our class formats in the next phase," Pilgrim said. "We are trying to keep in mind the academic costs involved."

James Brown, a part-time English professor and the sole part-time faculty representative on the university senate, said the English department is still under pressure from the Dean to move to a large lecture hall format.

"The English department is being pressured by the pedagogical practices of other departments," Brown said. "Sociology and other departments should be embarrassed to be using the [class] formats they are."

Many departments are cutting costs by replacing full-time with part-time professors. A retiring full-time professor, earning \$60,000 for teaching 3 courses, is typically replaced with part-time professors earning \$10,000 per course.

Brown said he is concerned his department is "kind of celebrating this."

"I see this as the future of teaching courses in Ontario. In some ways that's quite a bleak future," Brown said, noting that this drastically reduces opportunities for promotion to full-time positions.

Part-time faculty have become pawns in the budget-cutting game, Brown added.

"It's precisely the part-time faculty who have the least input [in the budget plans] and who will be the most affected."

The current CUEW (Canadian Union of Education Workers) contract for part-time professors says the union must be consulted during budget cuts. However, the Dean is not required to heed the advice of the union.

"The union is very interested in negotiating some teeth into that [agreement]," said Brown.

Glossy magazine angers student papers

by Fiona McCaw and Cindy Reeves

Canadian University Press

The distribution of a privately-owned magazine on campuses across Canada has student newspapers furious.

Looking Up, published by Montreal-based Glenmont Publications, has been on Ontario and Quebec campuses since last September. This year, it has expanded to campuses in Western and Atlantic Canada.

"The magazine is already depleting the advertising revenues of student papers," said John Montesano, president of Canadian University Press, a national student newspaper cooperative.

According to Campus Plus—a student-owned agency which sells national advertising for student papers—several companies have already withdrawn their advertising from student papers, preferring to advertise in *Looking Up*. These companies include General Motors, Carter Products, UpJohn and Casio. Last year, they provided student newspapers with over \$200,000 in advertising revenue.

"The bottom line to us is that glossy magazines that are not run by students take money out of the student community," said Montesano. "These magazines will fundamentally change the information flow on campus, from being controlled by students to being controlled by private corporations."

Nikki Gershain, internal vice president for the York Federation of Students, said the student federation will not be involved in distributing *Looking Up*.

"It is one thing for student papers to rival among themselves, yet it is quite another for them to rival with off-campus, non-student entrepreneurs for their survival," she added.

Looking Up publisher Monte Perlman said CUP's concerns are unfounded.

Perlman said *Looking Up* is no threat to the student press. Instead, he said it is "committed to working with campus publications and developing a national voice which will strengthen the community and give students a medium in which ideas and issues can be discussed."

To illustrate Glenmont's commitment to student welfare, Perlman cited the magazine's plans for awards and scholarships for students. He said Glenmont has proposed a summer internship program and a section in *Looking Up* with articles by student writers.

Krishna Rau, editor of the University of Toronto *Varsity*, said Glenmont's assertions of goodwill are "total bullshit."

"They are threatening student papers," said Rau. "They are pushing papers into an economic corner. It's bad for students' freedom of expression and bad for students in general."

Montesano said non-profit student papers are at a disadvantage when competing with profit-oriented magazines such as *Looking Up*.

"Non-profit papers have to worry about stability and have a high turnover rate of staff," he said. "Profit papers can hire and fire whoever they want."

Student organizations at Calgary, Concordia, Carleton, Dalhousie and St. Mary's have refused to distribute

Looking Up. Other universities have agreements banning off-campus publications from campus grounds.

The Student Centre Corporation (SCC) and Sport York have not followed suit.

According to Rob Castle, General Manager of the Student Centre, the SCC executive and staff decided to distribute the magazine based on its content.

"We felt [the magazine] might be of interest to students," he said.

Castle admitted the decision was made without consulting any of York's student publications.

"I must admit there wasn't a great deal of time devoted to the issue," he said.

Gershain does not believe the SCC had students' best interests at heart when they made the decision.

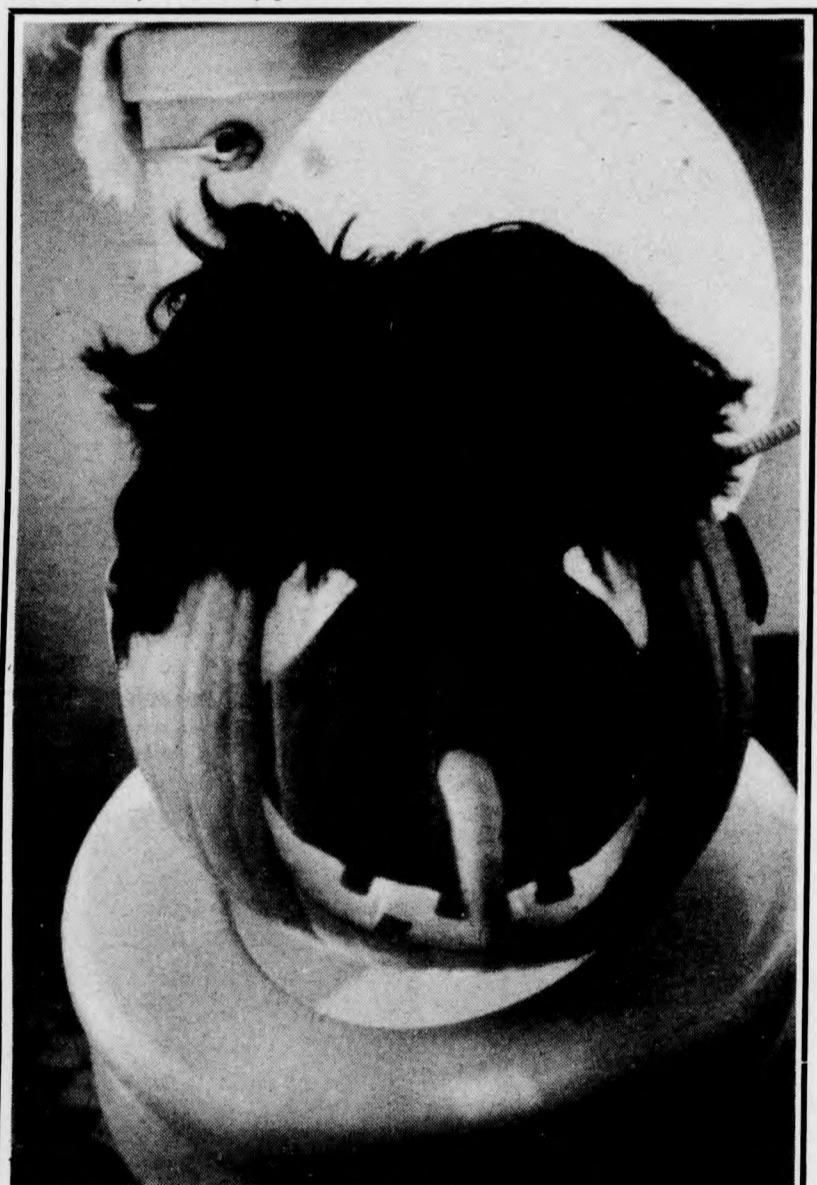
"By distributing *Looking Up*, the Student Centre is compromising the well-being of campus papers... We have an obligation to think about our local community before we go to these outside publishers," she said.

Meryl Menzies, business manager of *Excalibur*, said if she had been consulted she would have told the SCC that the magazine would hurt *Excalibur's* revenue.

"How would [the SCC] like it if I set up a food stand in their restaurant without consulting them?" she asked.

Matthew Lawrence, an editor of the *Uniter* at the University of Winnipeg, said *Looking Up* is part of a larger trend.

"There is a whole wave of non-student enterprises moving onto the campus," said Lawrence. "We seem to be moving to privatize universities in every sense of the word."



There's this old Downsview tradition whenever Halloween falls on a Thursday night. Residence students are requested to avoid operating heavy equipment or inhaling. Use of the Underground may cause drowsiness.

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