

York President addresses campus concerns

By DAVID DOLLARD

In an open forum last Thursday which dealt with campus space shortages and access to higher education, York President Harry Arthurs insisted that "our infrastructure must be defined" before the University can expect to grow and prosper.

The Senate Chamber was filled to capacity with mostly administrators and faculty members. After a brief introduction, Arthurs side-tracked to say that York University does not have a labour record to be proud of, and the administration is partly responsible for this.

The recent strike settlements with the Canadian Union of Educational Workers and the York University Faculty Association will give the University two years of labour peace, and time to work for better labour relations, he said.

Despite the two year respite which is intended to reduce the risk of further labour crises, Arthurs cautioned that this will not be the end of labour unrest at York, but he promised to work on it. He explained York's labour problems as being the result of the fact that no other Ontario university is so badly underfunded or as short of space as York is, and that other Canadian universi-

ties have not dealt with job re-evaluation and women's issues in collective bargaining, as York already has. These new labour matters will soon have to be dealt with by other universities, Arthurs noted.

On the topic of "Space Planning at York," Arthurs explained that the "horrendous problems of campus development," have left York 1.2 million square feet short of space, in comparison to other Ontario universities. Through the activities of the York University Development Corporation (YUDC), and various campus constituent groups, Arthurs said that construction of a new Fine Arts building, a combined office/classroom building, and a student centre were all intended to alleviate York's cramped conditions. These projects should be completed within two to three years in the order listed.

Aside from increased undergraduate and graduate housing, Arthurs envisions a "phase two" which would also include increased science and athletic facilities, "both of which are presently grossly inadequate." However he stressed that an improved physical plan would not come from a sacrifice in the academic budget.

The question of increased library and child-care facilities was raised, to which Arthurs responded that

these areas "certainly require expansion," but with the shortage of available offices and classrooms, they are not in that great a need of immediate expansion. York's parking facilities are also targeted for enhancement.

Further physical development at York hinges on the continued influx of funding. Arthurs said that the YUDC does not intend on selling more university lands, as was done last August. Rather, there are studies underway to investigate the leasing of York land. Presently Computer

Methods has been leased land in the north-east corner of the campus, and construction is to start soon, Arthurs added.

The final half-hour of the forum was devoted to "Access to Higher Education." Arthurs referred to York's chronic funding malaise, whereby York has steadily increased the number of enrolled students, but has not been compensated for this by the provincial government. Because of underfunding, York has been forced to slow its expansion of stu-

dent enrollment. Arthurs explained that if York remains the same size, while applications increase, the minimum entry grades must rise.

Arthurs finished by saying that three processes will be very useful in defining "our infrastructure." (The Senate Academic Priority and Planning Committee, an education study

in the metro Toronto region by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, and the York University Advisory Council).

Grant creates new childcare

By ELIZABETH SILVA

With the help of a \$22,000 grant received by the Canadian Union of Educational Workers (CUEW) from the Administration in their contract settlement, a new childcare facility will be established in the new Student Centre. This facility is intended to address the special needs of students and CUEW members. Many of these people do not need a full-time childcare system, and this establishment will serve their variable schedules by providing them with part-time and evening childcare.

Lee Wiggins, President of the

Graduate Students' Association and a CUEW member, helped to form a committee that is dedicated to the development of this facility.

At their last meeting, held on November 2, committee member Lynne Marks said that they have been granted \$22,000 over a two-year span to help with their research costs and initial development. \$12,000 of that sum will be used in the first year to hire a researcher, while the remaining \$10,000 will be used in the second year for start-up costs. The committee's request for an extra 1,000 square feet of space for the childcare facility has not yet

been approved. Marks did say that the Administration will help find space. At the moment the Committee has been promised 1,000 square feet, but that amount of space will not get them very far.

In order to get the project underway effectively, the Committee has decided to hire a researcher. The researcher must possess both research and survey experience and some knowledge of the Ontario/Toronto Daycare system. The Committee would also prefer someone who is familiar with York. A more complete job description will appear in *Excalibur* in the near future.

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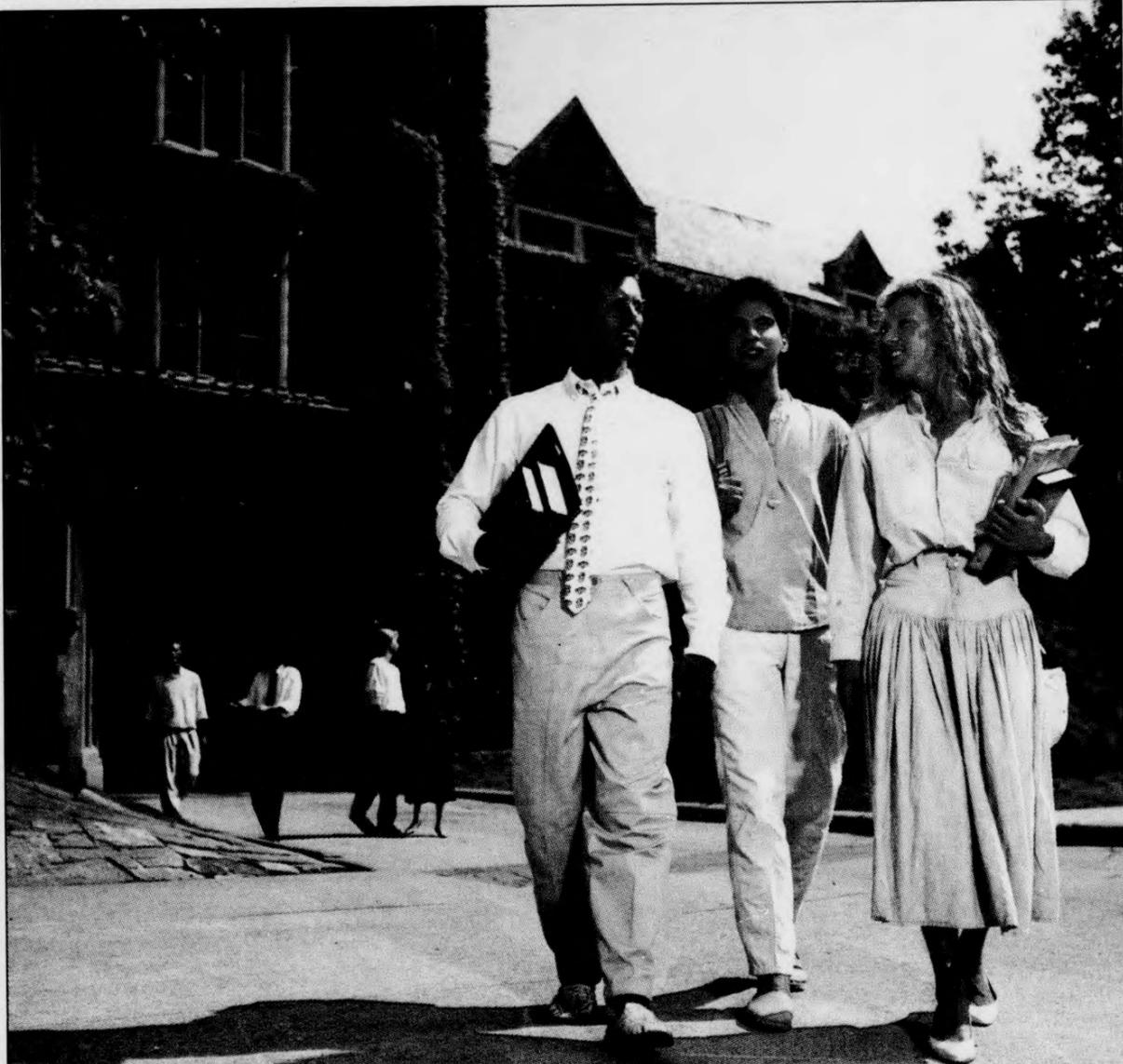
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