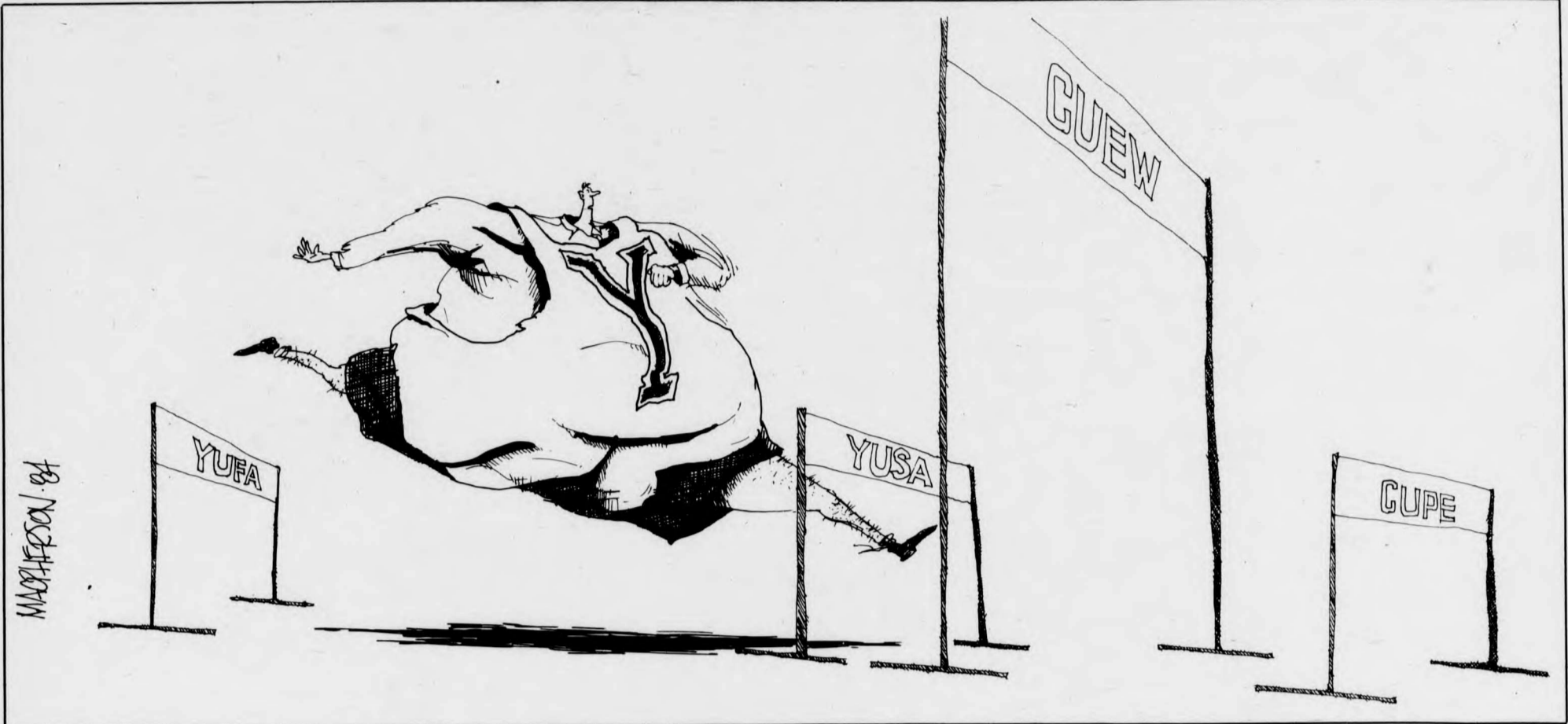


editorial



Administration makes the best of a bad situation

CUEW's executive is attempting to make scapegoats of the Board of Governors and the University's negotiating team.

For its teaching assistants, CUEW is seeking a 30 percent raise of \$1,500 from their present salary of \$5,250. For its part-time faculty, CUEW wants more full-time appointments and increased "academic participation."

In their media campaign, CUEW is blaming York administrators for problems originating in Queen's Park.

In an advertisement placed by CUEW in *Excalibur* on September 6, they said that the "BOARD OF GOVERNORS, in particular is willing and itching to put the entire academic term into JEOPARDY." Union leaders also accused York's negotiating team with being part of an "IMPERIAL administration." Surely this is a label that would shame wicked ad-

ministrators across the land into more benevolent behavior.

In its Tenth Annual Report, the Ontario Council on University Affairs (OCUA) reported that "during the period in which Council's funding advice has not been accepted (1978-79 to 1982-83) the universities' share of total government expenditures declined by about 15%, while university enrollment increased by about 10%." If funding was kept at the 1977 level alone the universities would have received an extra \$195 million, says OCUA.

Are these funding cutbacks and the resultant financial squeeze within the University the fault of anyone at York? Hardly.

At York former president H. Ian Macdonald wrote to the Bovey Commission saying that the "University is receiving funding for only 80% of the units we are servicing, contrasted with a system av-

erage of more than 91%. If York were funded only at the level of the system average, our grants for exactly the same student body would total some \$19,000,000 per annum more than we are now receiving."

The Board of Governors and the rest of the University administrators have to work within these financial constraints set by the provincial government. To suggest that the Board and the University's negotiating team enjoy putting the financial squeeze on CUEW members is a blatant attempt to arouse the hostility of students, staff, and faculty towards the administration—in addition to being a potentially libelous claim.

Everyone sympathizes with the plight of teaching assistants. But everyone at York is operating under the same financial strain.

The poor job prospects for part-time faculty is also pitiful.

In York's presentation to the Bovey Commission two weeks ago, Bill Farr, Vice President (Finance and Employee Relations), said that York had an "excess of faculty capacity all through the 1970s," because they overhired in the early part of that decade. "We've been very cautious with our tenure jobs ever since," said Farr.

Add to this the unpredictable nature of enrollment changes and the University's cautious attitude towards hiring full-time tenured faculty is understandable. The last thing the University needs is surplus tenured faculty wasting scarce resources in the event of large enrollment shrinkage.

CUEW members have a lot to complain about but placing all the blame on the shoulders of the Board and the negotiating team, while politically expedient for CUEW is unjust.

excalibur

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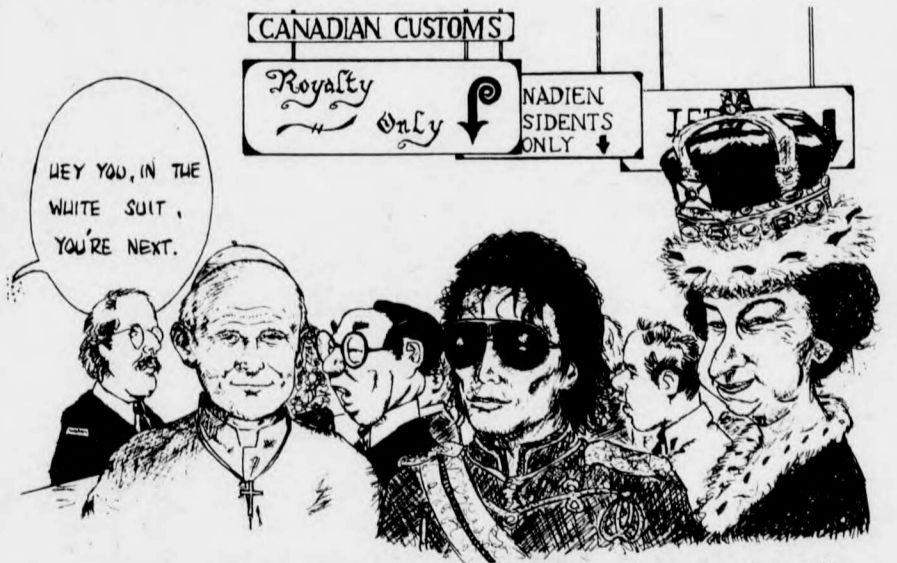
Editor:

I'm writing because I'd like to make known an incredibly stupid move on the part of York University. Right now the roof of Winters Residence is being repaired. However that roof has been leaking since March of this year. The university was duly notified of this at that time. Instead of having the roof repaired during the summer, when very few people were here, the university waited until the first week of school to have the roof repaired. Now, the 250-odd residents have to put up with noise in the early morning, dust from torn up insulation or tiles getting all over rooms, an annoying stench, and tar leaking through the ceiling. Some people have been forced out of their rooms while the ceiling is torn up to put in pipes.

Resident students in all the other residences pay the same as us, but they don't have to put up with a roof repair. I suggest the university repay the residents of Winters some of the residence fee, for having to live with York's retarded planning.

—Neil Gunner

Excalibur editorial elections today, 1:00 p.m. All staff be there!



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