

York protests OUAA decision due to "disregard for procedure"

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league rule on this point is clear—student participation in the OUAA is open to full-time registered male students.

When Meininger learned of this ruling he decided to protest it for what he calls "apparent disregard for procedure and proper hearing." Meininger feels that York has the right to state its case and is asking for an official hearing on the matter.

Dr. Jim Stevens, a member of the three-man judiciary committee, said, "We may have varied in procedure but as far as I can see we haven't." Stevens refused further comment until the letter of protest from York had come into his hands.

At the University of Guelph the president of the OUAA Dave Copp said that the judiciary committee that ruled Schweitzer ineligible only

enforces the established rules and has no power to change the league's rules. But Copp did say that if York would like to have the rule changed that they can do so by making a notice of motion to the OUAA legislative committee and the motion would be discussed at the committee's annual meeting in the summer. The rule can be changed if enough members (universities) are in favor.

Copp added, however, that if the provincial government passes legislation in November that prohibits discrimination because of sex the ruling would have to be changed. "If the government brings down an amendment, we would have no choice (but to let her play), we do not operate against the law," Copp said.

But Copp also said that the fact that Schweitzer plays is of little consequence to the

OUAA, but will have a far greater effect on the Ontario Women's Inter-University Athletic Association (OWIAA). He points out that in the past five years several male field hockey players have been turned down for female teams. If Schweitzer is allowed to play will the criteria be established or will there be a double standard?

So far this season the water polo team has played a total of five games and has a record of 1-3-1, and so far this season two official protests have been filed over games in which Schweitzer has played. The protests were filed by the University of Western Ontario and McMaster University. Western seems to be the more upset of the two universities because they have a very similar situation simmering. Erica Dutz is another female water polo player who is good enough to make the team but in her

case, she was kept off the team because of the attitudes of the coaches and administration at Western. She is all alone in her struggle while Schweitzer has the support of the entire university. "I feel fortunate to have the support of the university," Schweitzer said, "and I appreciate all the work that's going into it."

"I don't worry about it too much because I have to concentrate on my training as an athlete," she added. "I'm not getting involved in it at that level (administrative)."

At present the eligibility ruling has been made but the final outcome is still very much in doubt. There are still many letters to be received, appeals to be answered and legislation to be passed by the government. This story seems far from over, in fact it is only getting started.

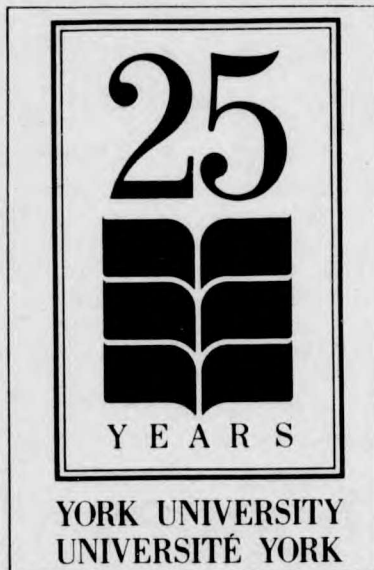
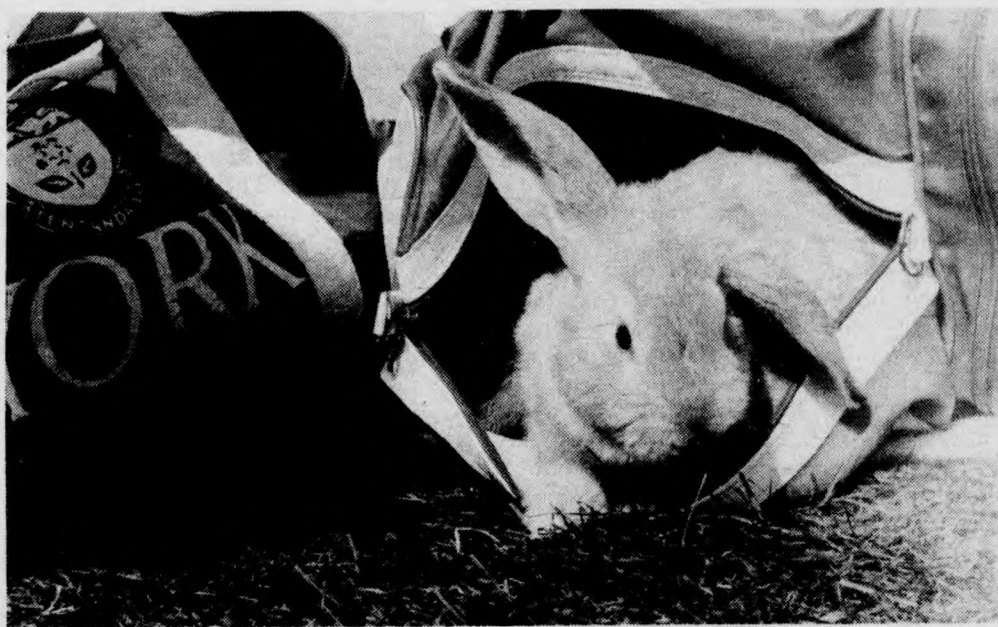
York's 25th anniversary homecoming weekend attracted a variety of people. Photos by Roberta Di Maio.

Directly below: Provost Tom Meininger hands out first prize in the tug of war competition. The lucky winners won a year's free tuition to Windsor. Below: The Yeowomen field hockey team's mascot "Huey" catches some rays.



Left: Founding father honored. York's first president, Murray Ross, was on hand at the 25th anniversary hall of fame banquet. He was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame.

Below: The 48th Highlanders provide a different kind of half-time entertainment than university students are accustomed to.



Hall of Fame banquet epitomized 25 years of York ideals

It has finally dawned on me just how fortunate I am to be attending this institution. Gradually I had been building to this self-realization until finally last weekend, sudden enlightenment came. The place and occasion of my peak experience occurred in the Vanier Dining Hall during the Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner. York's 25th anniversary and Homecoming Weekend served only to heighten my personal drama.

The gathering was held in order to honor and induct six founders of York University athletics into the Athletic Hall of Fame. The dinner drew modest surroundings and an intimate crowd into a very special event. The entire evening personified the very nature of class and epitomized a quarter century of York ideals and attitudes.

If any one word could crystallize my observations it would have to be 'humility.' Despite plenty of opportunities for ego-boosting, the participants and recipients displayed nothing other than a sincere graciousness. Everyone whose turn it was to speak only offered credit and gratitude to their peers. Certainly we've all seen this before on countless television awards shows where the stars thank individuals ranging from their parents to hairdressers. Only occasionally does an aura of sincerity emerge from the plastic layers of superficiality. However, at York, the genuineness of the evening was infallible, and as typical of Canada's third largest university, a significant night went almost unnoticed.

What struck even more poignantly than the modesty of the gathering was the unique opportunity that York allows



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its members. As an undergraduate student I am still able to meet and converse with the founders of our university. Whereas at the University of Toronto (for example) an incoming student cannot identify with that school's beginning, at York due to its relative youth, I am by no means out of touch with the early days of my school's history. As a result, York presents the chance for great input and absorption into the institution's developing tradition.

Because the university is still in the process of writing its own early history, each one of us is able to make a legitimate statement as to the direction we wish to see York take. Often we have seen tradition act as a quicksand for new ideas, but that should not be a factor at York for a long time to come. In fact, considering the available opportunities, it is ridiculous that apathy should appear at York as anything more than small pockets of resistance.

However, York's youth is often a contradiction in terms when compared with its record. While York athletics is among the younger programs of its kind in Canada, the

department displays a leadership far more experienced than its 25 years would indicate. Despite the youthful countenances of Stuart Robbins and Frank Cosentino, their words and actions represent a collection of years of wisdom. And then we only need to flip the contradiction on its end to characterize Murray Ross, York's founder and first president. He may appear as an elderly gentleman, but he still manifests the exuberance of a rookie Yeomen defensive back. Those are just a few of the many individuals present at the dinner who contribute an aura of class to not only athletics but to the university as a whole.

Murray Ross implanted in York the philosophy of the "whole man" educational system and this idea lies at the foundation of the entire university. The concept of liberal arts, freedom of thought along with the integration of athletics is the image that York aspires to. However, today's new modern age is burying "whole man" humanism under a pile of technology clap-trap. yet, it was with renewed vigor that I left last weekend's Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner. The atmosphere of the evening left me reassured that the ideals I truly cherish are still alive and well at York.

It is no coincidence that the arena of sport played host to such dignified proceedings. When athletics are delivered in honest form they are an excellent witness to the best of humanity. York athletics certainly has its own share of difficulties, but with such a group of leaders for us to emulate I am confident that athletics at York will continue to forge ahead as a symbol of the university's integrity.