

Excalibur

Vol. 13, No. 15

York University Community Newspaper

Thurs., 18 January 1979

York's library system one of poorest in province

By Hugh Westrup

York's library system ranks as one of the lowest among Ontario university libraries according to figures prepared by the Ontario Council of University Libraries.

The data, which was presented last month before York's Board of Governors by library director Anne Woodworth, shows York on or near the bottom of every one of eleven scales comparing university libraries in the province.

Based on a per student computation procedure, York ranks lowest in terms of new book purchases, number of library staff, number of librarians, binding expenditures, and collection size.

"I may be sitting over the demise of a library" said Woodworth in reference to the above statistics and the shrinking support the library has received over the past eight years.

Since 1970, the library's share of York's total budget has decreased by 33 per cent. Aggravating this deduction have been government cutbacks and the rapidly rising cost of printed material which is expected to jump by 30 per cent this year.

The results have been a reduction in staff size from 262 to 204, and a decline in the growth rate of the library's print collection by 35 per cent.

Meanwhile, in the same time period, York's student population has doubled with library circulation growing at the same rate.

What then will be the consequences of another possible budget cut on the order of last year's reduction of \$228,000 imposed by the provincial government?

"Anything over \$100,000 and I'm in big trouble," insists Woodworth.

"We won't be able to shave off bits and pieces from all areas as we did before," she predicts. "This time whole services, whole departments will have to be

eliminated, and by that I mean closing down Frost library at Glendon or the film library, for example."

Woodworth said she is encouraged by the responses she has recently received from the board and the administration.

"I hope that their moral support translates further," she said.

When contacted recently by

Excalibur editor Paul Stuart, President Macdonald acknowledged the library's problem.

He said everyone involved in constructing York's budgetary policy "is agreed that we have to put some support into the library."

He added that "the libraries can't go on being the dumping ground" for York's budget problems.

Student government gets an overhaul

By Brian Gillett and Greg Saville

After a nine month gestation, the CYSF sponsored college conferences, dealing with the restructuring of central student government at York, seems to have finally produced some conclusive results. At this past weekend's conference, the CCOY, (Constituent Councils of York) an unofficial body composed of student council heads, presented a model which could effectively alter the shape of student government.

The proposed electoral changes are: The selection of two representatives from each constituent member (a reduction of one); the selection of both will be determined by the students of a college within the constitution or bylaws of their council. The conference recommended that one rep be elected at large (though a particular college might simply appoint this rep) and sit only at CYSF, and that another seat be occupied by a councillor who will represent a given college council at CYSF. The CYSF president will continue to be elected at large, and two vice-presidents will now have to face the electorate. There will be a non-voting treasurer appointed by the council. The two Board of Governors reps and the chair-

person of the student senate caucus will become voting members of CYSF.

The proposals must be approved by full council memberships.

Crucial to CCOY's proposal was the change in student government funding. This turned out to be the piece that seems to have solved the puzzle of a history of student council disunity demonstrated recently by Calumet's withdrawal from CYSF.

(See COUNCIL pg. 3)

500 profs may be cut throughout Ontario universities

By Paul Stuart

Reaction to the announcement of another year of underfunding for Ontario colleges and universities began to develop last week, in an atmosphere of increasing pessimism surrounding the future of post secondary education.

David Inman, chairman of the Ontario Council of University Faculty Association, predicted January 7 that an approximate shortfall of \$32-million throughout the system will mean "...that as many as 500 faculty will have to be dismissed even if the cutbacks are evenly distributed throughout the university budget items."

This loss would be in addition to the approximate total of 250 professors lost annually through attrition.

Inman's statement noted that "an annual inflation rate of approximately 30 per cent," for books and periodicals, has meant that purchases have been "drastically" reduced.

One of the "catastrophic" choices Inman said that the universities now face include "abandoning certain graduate programs, meaning Ontario will not be able to produce the specialists that business and governments have repeatedly claimed Canada needs." Inman said there "will be an acceleration of research contracts to the United States and other nations as Canada abandons any effort to maintain credibility in Research and Development." He cited "constraint of research funds by federal agencies" as another problem.

The cutbacks situation has now



Kathy Knight and Pam Mingo act out a scene from their Cabaret production "Latent Tendencies" on tonight and tomorrow in the Mac Hall at 8:00 and 9:30.

York B-ballers are No. 1

By Bruce Gates

Basketball has hit a new high at York University.

For the first time in its history, the York Yeomen have been ranked by the Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union (CIAU) as the number one team in Canada.

In less than three years coach Bob Bain and the Yeomen have risen from a pretty good team that no one took too seriously to top spot in this week's latest ranking released by the CIAU as Excalibur went to press.

To date, York has an impressive 22-1 won/loss record, something that we are sure the CIAU found hard to ignore. But now it's up to the Yeomen to prove to the rest of the country that they're worthy of the ranking. If all goes according to Hoyle, they'll get that chance on March 10 in Calgary.

See story, and Excalibur's own Top Ten on page. 11.



Faculty questions new vice-presidency

By Laura Brown

The York University Faculty Association is questioning the administration's decision to establish the new position of Academic Vice President.

Although YUFA claims it has been working to ensure that the academic interests of the university are served effectively by the administration, they fail to see at this time the purpose this appointment would serve in dealing with York's problems.

Foremost in mind is the financial aspect of another appointment to the offices of the administration. The estimated quarter of a million dollar cost to devote to a vice president's office is feared to be sacrificed through further cutting of teaching jobs and salaries and academic programmes.

An advertisement for this position was placed in the business section of the *Globe and Mail* on December 19, 1978 without a prior announcement at the December 14 Senate meeting. The faculty are concerned that the administration's credibility in academic affairs cannot be secured if the academic community is not involved in this decision and all its procedures.

As we went to press, university president H. Ian Macdonald was not available for comment on YUFA's charges and concerns.

The YUFA Executive has called for an open information meeting to discuss the appointment of an Academic Vice President to be held next Thursday noon in Curtis Lecture Hall 'C'.