

## York grad off to Cornell with Mellon scholarship

by JEFFREY ROSS  
**Y**ork University, which has recently been deluged with stories of essay buying, exam fraud and other academic wrongdoings, has, on a happier note, produced a scholarship winner.

Paul Downes, who recently graduated with his Honours BA in English, has been awarded the prestigious Mellon Scholarship and will attend Cornell University in New York beginning this fall. The scholarship is for four years, during which time Downes will work toward his PhD in English Literature.

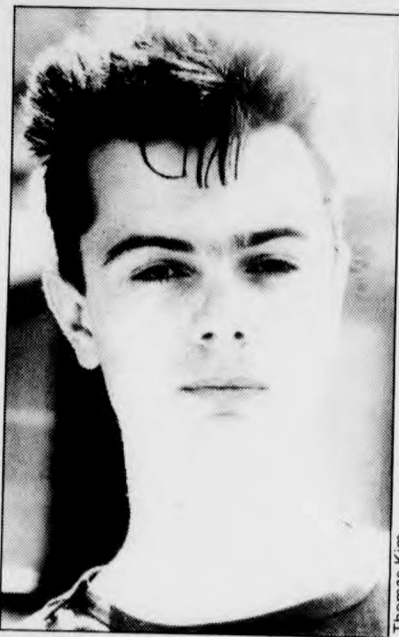
Downes' Honours Thesis examined the English novel at the turn of the century. It was this work and an outstanding undergraduate record that prompted Professor Virginia Rock of York's English department to nominate him for the Mellon award.

As part of the rigorous nomination process, Downes had to write a 2,000 word essay and attend an interview with the judges. Besides his outstanding scholar-

ship, Downes also displays a very active social conscience and is very involved in undergraduate student affairs. In fact, "student awareness" in general is a major concern for Downes. Even with the Mellon award, it was he who did the investigative work and initiated the nomination process — nobody within the York community told him about the scholarship.

This is also one of the main reasons he established and served as the first president of the English Students' Association at York. "We started a lunch time speaker series which introduced undergraduate students to various branches of literary theory, we had social events, movies, etcetera — we basically tried to find as many things as possible to bring the students together," said Downes.

Downes believes that undergraduate students should become more focused in their studies. "It helps when you have good teachers," he said, adding that York has an excellent English department. "There are plenty of ridiculous myths about an



Paul Downes: scholarship winner

older place (like U of T) being better, but in fact there is far more space to study and try out new ideas at a new place like York . . . I would recommend York's English department to anyone."

Downes should know a little bit about older places — it was only three and a half years ago that he and his family moved to Toronto from the land of Oxford and Cambridge. We wish him the best of luck.

"nothing short of an overwhelming disaster"

## Provincial budget cuts hit hard

by NANCY PHILLIPS  
**T**he provincial budget is "nothing short of an overwhelming disaster," according to York's vice-president of Institutional Affairs Sheldon Levy. "It will cost us upwards of \$2.2 million in payroll tax," said Levy, "and we have no clue of how we're going to find the money."

When added to the recent federal budget changes to unemployment insurance, York will be close to \$3 million short this year, said Levy.

He said that York's budget is set for this year and "there just don't seem to be any internal solutions because of the magnitude of the problem."

The provincial budget eliminated premiums for the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP). In their place, businesses and institutions must pay 1.95 per cent of their total payroll to the government.

This will cost Ontario universities about \$37.5 million this year, said Grant Clarke, Deputy to the Executive Director of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU). He said, "The current cost for OHIP is \$13 million."

The federal budget's one per cent reduction in transfer payments to provinces will also affect post-secondary institutions. Peter King, president of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT)

wrote in May's CAUT *Bulletin* that "over five years, the federal government will save approximately \$900 million in the area of post-secondary education alone."

Clark said that universities are already underfunded, as this year's government grants do not even cover inflation. The provincial government increased operating grants to universities by 7.5 per cent this year, however, 3.5 per cent of that was earmarked for recent increased enrolment. The real increase, said Clark, is 4.1 per cent, which is below the projected 5.8 per cent inflation rate.

Joan McNeil, researcher at the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) said Ontario universities need a 25 per cent increase in funding "to bring us to the level of 1977-78."

The University of Ottawa (U of O) is being hit hard by the provincial budget, said coordinator of media and community relations Doug McDonald. He said U of O "is the hardest hit in the whole province," as "half the people who work here live in Quebec and aren't covered by OHIP, and we still have to pay for them."

The COU is having a set of emergency meetings to attempt to deal with the problem. Levy said that meetings will also be set up with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

## Local residents and politicians fight Bramalea development

by ELAN KATTSIR  
**L**ocal residents and politicians are fighting a proposed 1,573-apartment development on the southern portion of York campus.

Local Metro councillor Maria Augimeri says the area, already the most dense in North York, simply can't accommodate any more residential growth with its present infrastructure.

York sold the 22-acre site to Bramalea Development last year for approximately \$33 million, and will receive an additional \$10 million if the site is rezoned as requested. A rezoning proposal, jointly submitted by York and Bramalea, was narrowly approved (by one vote) by the North York Planning Advisory Committee in March.

However, opponents of the proposed development, spearheaded by the University City Community

Association (UCCA), are concentrating their efforts on the May 31 North York Council meeting, when the rezoning application will be voted on. Hundreds of residents are expected to attend. Their efforts will include a letter writing campaign, distribution of leaflets, lobbying and legal representation.

UCCA member Lee d'Anjou says the most obvious concern is traffic. She says that a consultant's report projecting, at times, up to 87 per cent capacity for traffic is inaccurately low because it fails to recognize several factors, including the recent building of a nearby plaza. Other issues include already overtaxed services such as health care, libraries and police, water pressure and parkland.

Councillor Augimeri is concerned with "creating a sewer monster" by further straining the already over-

loaded sewer system. Some basements in the Wilson Ave. area are reportedly being flooded with raw sewage when the system backs up during heavy rains.

Augimeri says Bramalea's proposal for holding tanks — which has already been approved by the North York Works Department — can't compensate for the \$80 million that needs to be spent on pre-existing sewage problems.

UCCA Political Action Committee chair Norm Kelly says, "That plan will protect Bramalea's own project, but it won't help anyone else."

D'Anjou admits that the problems UCCA predicts for local residents won't hit York as hard. The campus is upstream from the development and little of its traffic is expected to travel northbound.

## but, grant eases pain

by JACOB KATSMAN  
**Y**ork University will receive \$6.1 million in new capital grants to help deal with increased student enrolment, announced Minister of Colleges and Universities Lyn McLeod.

The minister stated in an April 4 press release that "these allocations are a measure of our long-term commitment to improving post-secondary facilities across the province and making higher education more accessible."

\$5.74 million of the grant will come from a special four-year \$40 million program announced last

April to help universities deal with higher enrolments.

York's Faculty of Education is receiving \$2,860,000 to expand the pre-service teacher education program into more areas in southern Ontario; the new Calumet residence will receive \$1,500,000 for academic facilities; the Atkinson Outreach Program will get \$707,800 to expand its course offerings to 37 off-campus sites for 61 separate arts and science courses; and \$674,700 will go to the conversion of existing space into science laboratories and for renovations at Glendon.

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