

A \$10,000 snowfall

By Paul Stuart

It cost York about \$10,000 to dig out from under the 15 centimetres of snow dumped onto the campus by Monday's blizzard, which shut the university down early.

As long lines of traffic crawled out to Keele Street, York Vice-President W.W. Small gave the order to close the university at 3:45 pm. While the *Toronto Sun* reported the TTC to be running just half-an-hour behind schedule, for some it was a different story, the journey home turning into a long, frustrating ordeal.

Bruce Gates, a first-year student in Founders College, gave up hope of taking his regular 4:00 pm Keele bus and ate supper on campus.

He returned to Complex One's Keele bus stop at 7:10, joining a student who had already been waiting an hour. The bus lumbered onto the campus shortly after 9:00. The driver told Gates he had left Lansdowne Station at 4:00.

The bus made it back to Lansdowne at 11:50 and Gates walked through the door of his home near the Lakeshore as 12:10 am, Tuesday morning. He was seven hours late. "How's that for service?" he asked on Tuesday afternoon.

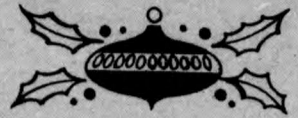
As commuters struggled to get home in time for Christmas, Cornelius Van Ginkel, York's Superintendent of Grounds, was overseeing the University's snow-removal operations. He estimates that York paid contractors about \$5,000 to plough the large parking lots.

Van Ginkel said Physical Plant's own clearing operation cost "close to the same figure."

The university uses its own equipment to clear the smaller parking lots and campus roads.

One saving in snow-removal expenses has accrued due to the smaller amounts of salt and sand Physical Plant spreads over icy roadways. Van Ginkel described the way salt splashes over curbs and is gradually absorbed into the ground, damaging the roots of grass and trees. So to protect our leafy friends, he has ordered that smaller quantities of salt be spread.

Excalibur
wishes you
happy
holidays.



So does
the Moon,
on pages 12-14

Excalibur

Volume 12, Number 13

York University Weekly Community Newspaper

Thursday, Dec. 8, 1977



Danny Eisen and Shelley Bruckner, two of the twelve hunger strikers, look over petitions they have collected.

Picket line greets Robart's debut as chancellor

By Agnes Kruchio

Marching in a procession of formally garbed academics, former premier John Robarts was met by demonstrators in mediaeval costumes on his way to become York University's new chancellor last week.

Bearing placards reading, "Chancellor Robarts, defend what you began, stop the cutbacks," and "Reduction in student aid equals university for the rich," about 50 professors, students and teaching assistants formed a silent cordon as the procession entered Moot Court at Osgoode Hall.

According to one demonstrator, the cut in government financing come just as the universities have begun to open up to new groups to whom it was closed before. "It's new groups such as immigrants whose parents could not go to university and women who are especially affected," said Leslie Sanders, chief steward of the graduate assistants' association.

"We're concerned for the quality of education at York," she said. Because professors have larger workloads, they may not have time to conduct research on which York's international reputation depends. There are fears that as many as 400 part-time professors may lose their jobs, she said.

Lee Lorch, head of a delegation sent from a special meeting held at that time by the faculty association, said the lack of proper financing is weakening universities. "Overloaded classrooms, inadequate facilities, excessive teaching loads for teachers short change students," he said. Professors do not have enough time to spend with students, hours of library are cut down, and student services such as the writing

workshop are among the first casualties.

He said the new chancellor, who was education minister when York University was formed, is "in a particularly advantageous position" to mount a defence for York.

The demonstrators' fears were echoed during the inauguration ceremony by Paul Hayden, president of the Council of York Student Federation as he welcomed the incoming chancellor. He said, "Chancellor Robarts, we welcome you to the York University community. We need all the help we can get."

In his address, York president H. Ian Macdonald said York has a larger proportion of women and children of immigrants than other universities. As many as 44 percent of York's undergraduates have part-time jobs, working 12 or more hours per week.

"I believe in the university," he said, "and I believe it is more relevant than ever."

In response to the demonstrators, former Premier Robarts said universities go through periods of euphoria and periods of distress. This, he said, is natural.

"We will not see anything like the mid-fifties or sixties," he said. "The fact is, Ontario is not doing too well," he said. "So I might as well say, get used to it" he added. When later asked by a reporter whether the universities have to accept the zero-growth policy of the government, he replied "Everyone has to accept the conditions which the society is in." He said he did not yet know whether he would make representations to the government on York's behalf. "I'll have to work out details with the university administration," he said.

In defense of Sharansky

Hunger strike in 2nd week

By Maxine Kopel

Sleeping bags, pillows, information leaflets, and gallons of water decorate the Bear Pit today. It is Day 8 of a hunger strike against Russian transgressions of the Helsinki agreement, and in support of Russian prisoner Anatoly Sharansky.

The 12 hunger strikers, some of whom have not returned home since the strike began, are determined to remain on the strike until the Trudeau government takes a public stand in support of their demands.

According to striker Danny

Eisen, "if the government does not take a stand and remains silent, it is supporting and condoning the issue. We will be reminded of this in the next election."

A telegram to federal opposition parties reads, in part, "The Canadian government has stood by silently too long. Grain deals continue, technology is exported, and Soviet hockey teams are still invited, thereby giving tacit approval to the injustices perpetrated by the Kremlin."

"Sharansky, famous for his struggle for human rights in the

Soviet Union, has been thrown into prison somewhere in the U.S.S.R. for being an "enemy of the state." Possible punishment: DEATH"

Telegrams have been sent to Joe Clark, Ed Broadbent, Minister of External Affairs Donald Jamieson, and Prime Minister Trudeau. An excerpt of one of the daily Trudeau telegrams states, "we urge you to take the initiative regarding Anatoly Sharansky and other Soviet Jews who are asking for the right to emigrate. Please take a stand today against the U.S.S.R.'s blatant disregard of the Helsinki Agreement. Please stand up and be counted for human rights."

Eisen claims that members of Trudeau's party will be questioning him privately about the Sharansky plight and the Helsinki Agreement.

The strikers are weak, hungry and some are experiencing bouts of pain. One striker fainted and has subsequently terminated striking. However, spirits are high as all are confident Trudeau will respond.

Reporters and camera lights have become common sights within the Pit as international newspapers have picked up the story through news wire services.

Phone calls to Russian refuseniks (those refused emigration rights) were made across the globe Wednesday to Russia to give them encouragement in dealing with their plight.

Faculty, admin. settle

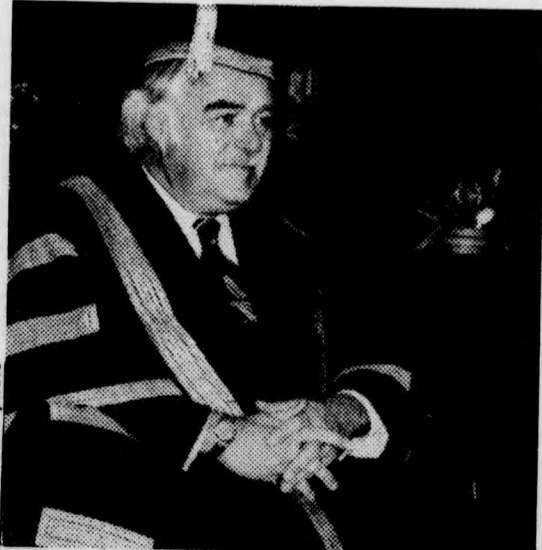
Over 95 percent of professors who voted earlier this week approved a salary package offered by the university amounting to 9.6 per cent in increments.

Following lengthy negotiations which began last summer, professors will receive 6.5 per cent increases to allow for the increased cost of living. Professors earning less than \$32,730 which includes the majority of teachers at York, will receive an additional \$425 to the cost of living allowance. Professors earning more than that, but less than \$38,837, will receive a smaller, yet undetermined sum.

Also, some professors may receive a merit payment based on the professor's research, creative and scholarly contributions and determined by individual units, which may be faculties or departments or a section of the library. This "merit" pay comes from a pool of \$250,000 set aside for this purpose by the contract.

Negotiations will begin in February for the new two-year contract which is to begin in May of next year. At that time all clauses in the union's contract, not only salaries, will be negotiated.

Byron Johnson photo



New chancellor Robarts faces one of the anti-cutbacks picketers.

