

## Student rep calls for "immediate action"

Dear Editors:

Since my term of office as the student representative on the Board of Directors for the York University Development Corporation (YUDC) is quickly coming to a close I thought it important to write to you and air some pressing concerns. The YUDC is currently making decisions about important facets of student life, yet, on only one occasion has the Student Caucus of the Advisory Council met this year. Despite my continuing effort to urge the Chairman to hold important informational meetings he has not done so.

My greatest concern at this time is that since meetings have lapsed the interest and continuity in the Caucus and development activities on this campus have all but disappeared. Currently, there are no students who have expressed an interest in filling vacant positions on the Advisory Council and the Board of Directors. It is extremely important that all facets of the University student population have input in development issues, such as building priorities land use, rent or sale.

The forum for discussion of development issues is through the Student Caucus of the Advisory Council which is currently chaired by Mourad Mardikian. I urge you to contact him, and press him to call meetings, think tanks and fair elections for vacant positions. Responsible leadership can only be ensured when the student constituencies at York exercise their right to a voice in the decision making process.

Thank you for your time and concern. If you have any questions regarding terms of office or responsibilities please don't hesitate to contact me at the following address: Zona Dorschner, 20 King George Square, Belleville, Ontario K8P 2A5. Phone: 613-966-1730.

Finally, I must once again urge you to take *immediate* action since the YUDC Advisory Council will continue to meet over the summer. Mourad Mardikian can be contacted through the Student Centre Corporation Offices located in Central Square. Thank you once again for your time and concern.

Yours truly,  
Zona Dorschner

## Downes not alone in academic success

Dear Editors:

I was delighted to see the coverage you gave, both in an editorial and in an article, to Paul Downes and his winning of the prestigious Mellon Fellowship. However, since both pieces left an impression that Paul's accomplishment was unique in York history, I want to reassure your readers that Paul follows in a long line of distinguished students who have graduated from York over the years.

Although your reporter suggested that Paul discovered the Mellon Fellowship competition on his own, students should be aware that I personally identified nine outstanding Faculty of Arts students whose names were put into the competition for the Mellon Fellowship this year. Although Paul Downes was the only winner on the list of nominations, he was in very impressive company among the York nominees, any one of whom would have been a worthy recipient of this award.

My office puts a very high priority on promoting our best students for the most prestigious postgraduate scholarships. Over

the years York students have won many of these awards, such as the Mellon, the Commonwealth Scholarship, and the Frank Knox Scholarship to Harvard. In fact, our best students are competitive with the best students at any other university for these awards, as our track record in these competitions amply demonstrates. Your readers may not be aware that there is now a Prestigious Awards Centre in the Office of Financial Aid which has a complete listing of available scholarships on a database and will provide assistance to students in identifying appropriate competitions.

I join you in celebrating the accomplishments of Paul Downes, and I hope that other students will be encouraged by his success to realize that they too should consider themselves capable of winning a competitive scholarship like the Mellon. I am happy to provide advice about graduate applications to any student who contacts me.

Sincerely yours,  
Deborah Hobson,  
Associate Dean of Arts

## Excal's examination of *Existere* excellent

Dear Editors:

I read *Excalibur* and was impressed by the coverage you gave to literary "news" on campus. I was glad to see the work of the President's Prize winners printed. Although *Existere* has for the last two years printed the work of the prize winners, the 500 copies of *Existere* don't give the same exposure to the winners as do the thousands of copies of *Excalibur*.

We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 250 words. They must be typed, triple spaced, and accompanied by the writer's name and phone number. We may edit for length. Libellous material will be rejected. Deliver letters to 111 Central Square during business hours.

I thought the review of the fourth issue of *Existere* was well written (something not to be taken for granted even in professional journalism), and careful in its assessments. Since I designed the issue to be seen as a reversible magazine with two distinct halves, I noted with delight the arrangement of the review — two reviews in one!

The past year has been marked by a regrettable absence of York literary events printed in *Excalibur*. As you know I was disturbed by *Excalibur*'s almost indifference to student readings and publications on campus. The last *Excalibur*, however, has given me hope that this has changed. Thank you for your effort and support.

Sincerely,  
Kate Collins  
1988-89 Editor, *Existere*

## Does York have a football team?



by DANNIS KOROMILAS

**W**ill York University have a football team for the 1989-90 season? Yes, the Yeomen have been rescued from the administration's plans to drop the football program by the determined and overwhelming support of the Alumni Association.

In response to men's athletic coordinator Dave Chambers' *Review of the Football Program*, which outlined the football's budget and team's problems, York's football alumni held a meeting May 9 to aid the team.

"We're not interested in a football program that just gets by," said Dr. Jamie Laws, an alumni member. Presently, the Yeomen are just getting by.

York's football budget is about \$38,000, roughly \$20,000 lower than the league average. It is the second lowest budget in Ontario next to McMaster's and has not increased in two years. Needless to say, the general team maintenance and its ability to recruit competitively must be suffering.

The financial distress not only hinders the football team but the university as a whole. If York is serious about its commitment to be among the best universities in the land, it must match them in every field of study and, simply, every field.

Sports are an integral part of a university and football is one of the largest spectator sports. It is obvious that by blitzing the football program, or any program important to the university experience, the university's reputation diminishes.

Imagine Homecoming weekend at the third largest university in Canada with no football game. The idea is preposterous. Football has consistently been a strong deterrent to student apathy, especially in the fall semester.

At last year's Blue Bowl against UofT, 4,000 York students showed up to support their team. Events like this will encourage students to come together as a group and have something in common to identify with.

Vice-president (external) of the CYSF Peter Merrick said that the student government has

pledged its full support for the football team, and if it had to, it would organize events where the proceeds would go towards football. At the moment, however, CYSF is also feeling the pinch and cannot commit itself financially. But, according to Chambers, the team still needs \$20,000 to operate successfully.

This is where the football alumni step in. They want to make clear that their purpose is not just a monetary one, said Laws. It is, or should be, the duty of the university to provide a stable, well-funded athletic program, according to Laws.

At their meeting, attended by 80 members who were all former football players and coaches, they discussed the avenues available to raise the money and, more importantly, other methods of supporting the team.

The alumni also want to help the coach with any problems he may encounter, said Laws. They have pledged their moral support to the players and have also discussed the possibility of a stadium on campus. (The football team currently plays its "home games" at Esther Shiner stadium.)

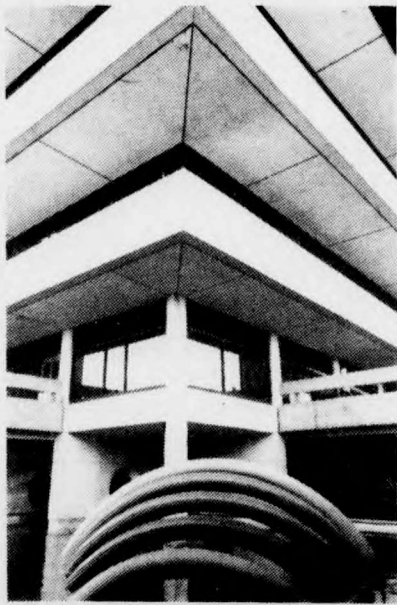
Laws emphasized that "it is the duty of the university to recruit students and its obligation is to offer a well-rounded program of sports, arts and the ability to participate in student government."

Although he could not go into detail about the actual plans to raise money, the alumni have been accepting contributions from businesses, large groups and other alumni. The possibility of selling season's tickets to alumni and college councils is also being looked into. "The preliminary results are encouraging," said Laws.

Coach Nobby Wirkowski was unavailable for comment, but the team is gearing up for another season. After scrimmaging for the right and opportunity just to play for York, the players might have some of the fight still in them. We know they will play their hardest and that the season holds no promises for them.

Best of luck to the Yeomen football team for the 1989-90 season.

## Time is running out



by JEFF KIPPEL

**I**t's an out and out sham," complained an outraged York student about the libraries closing during the three-day holiday weekends over the summer.

For many students, the closures mean no studying in the libraries, no access to library resource material and most of all, no cramming for term papers due after the holiday.

Ellen Hoffmann, Director of Libraries, said that money was the key issue behind the closure. "We can't afford the additional compensation." The library administration is, therefore, placing its finances before the welfare of the students.

But, it is more than just finances. When asked why they can't keep the library open for at least one of the three days, Hoffman said, "Our policy is to maintain what we have done in the past." It's tradition! It has always been that way, so why change their policy now, right? Well, maybe this so-called tradition needs to be broken. Or, at least, changed.

It all comes down to one question: How will York's summer students study? Plan ahead. Check books out before the great doors of the library close. Don't procrastinate and leave things until the last minute. But, whatever you choose to do, you won't be doing it at York's libraries.