



**Winter wonderland.** York University's backyard became a playground young and old alike over the holidays. Tobogganers and cross-country skiers were out in full force enjoying the snow. Photographer Mario Scattoloni captured these children on their way up/down.

## Group to publish 'libelous' report

By GRAHAM THOMPSON

A York group is preparing to publish a report which President H. Ian Macdonald says may be libelous against some senior York administrators.

The report was commissioned by Macdonald in May to make recommendations on how the university should "better handle" incidents of racial harassment. The report also deals with the alleged harassment last year of graduate sociology student Janice Joseph by undergraduate psychology student Grant Austin.

The group, the Committee Against Racism and Discrimination at York (CARDY) will meet today to discuss how they're going to finance the publishing of the report and its distribution, according to spokesperson Ike Hendrickson.

In a letter to CARDY dated November 28, Macdonald stated "York University will not approve or participate in the circulation of the report" because certain references "possibly defamed" Vice-President (Employee and

Student Relations) William Farr, Assistant Vice-President (Student Relations) John Becker, Manager of Housing and Food Services Norman Crandles, and Director of the Office of Safety and Security George Dunn.

CARDY has access to the report because two of its members sat on the Special Review Committee appointed by Macdonald to author the report.

CARDY has expressed dissatisfaction with the way Macdonald has handled the alleged harassment incident and the recommendations made by the committee.

Hendrickson said York's image is being damaged by the refusal of the university to expel Grant Austin. "Macdonald is responsible for allowing the issue to go this far," said Hendrickson adding "he (Macdonald) should stop hiding behind legalistic barriers" and "set an example for York" to show that York does not tolerate racism.

Macdonald has stated that the University's lawyers have determined that the evidence

against Grant Austin is not strong enough to hold up in court if Austin were expelled and he appealed the action.

The incident has been picked up by the Toronto media and has generated concern from some metro groups such as the Urban Alliance on Race Relations (UARR).

In a recent letter to Macdonald UARR President Carol Tator states "informed sources indicate that manifestations of racial bias are indeed prevalent on campus." She went on to say that UARR found it "puzzling why known experts in the field, who are members of your (Macdonald's) faculty such as Frances Henry (Anthropology), Wilson Head, Carol Yawney (Sociology) and others, were not asked to be part of the committee."

"It is essential the university should develop a permanent mechanism to deal with racial problems and incidents of this nature on the campus—one which should be empowered to define and enforce sanctions against racist activities," concluded Tator in the letter.

## Education revamp meets negative response

By LILY CONTENTO

Education Minister Dr. Bette Stephenson's recent proposal to restructure Ontario's University system has encountered negative response from York's student body, and caution from President H. Ian Macdonald.

"I hope that the Commission (the three-man committee set up by Stephenson) will make some suggestions on how to structure universities," said Macdonald. "The three

commissioners have deep involvement with universities—I hope they will represent the universities' needs."

The Commission has been set up to "radically change" the university system, according to Stephenson.

Ontario experienced an expansion of the university system during the 1960s. The system worked well at the time, but in recent years funding has not kept pace with the increasing numbers of students. Four years ago, the Fisher Commission was appointed to look into the matter.

The Fisher Commission proposed an increase of funds or the elimination of some universities. However, neither proposal was carried out and the problem has been forwarded to the recent Commission, which includes Ronald Watts, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University and Dr. Fraser Mustard, President of the Canadian Institute of Advanced Research.

According to Stephenson's proposals some of the areas being considered for change include the universities' need to concentrate on major subject areas without diverging in many fields, early retirement for faculty members, a revision of university entrance standards, and the possibility of closing down some of the law and dentistry faculties as well as some of the teacher colleges.

A December 16 *Toronto Star* article quotes Stephenson as saying "Each university cannot aspire to universality (of programs). Some like Trent, for example, are simply too small."

Warren Gerrard, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Education, said "priorities are

changing" and that the provincial government is focusing on other sectors such as health, aging programs, and job creation "which are taking a great deal of money."

"Money should be distributed equally to the various economic sectors," said Carla Cesta, a first-year York student, adding "education should receive the necessary amount of money to foster efficient studies."

On Stephenson's proposal to encourage specialization in Ontario's universities, fourth-year psychology student Sandro Cirone said "I agree with Dr. Stephenson's view that specialization will benefit students in general, but I disagree with her proposal to raise university entrance standards—in this case, education would be restricted to a privileged few."

"Stephenson's proposal to limit the variety of subjects offered by universities would lead toward a college system, thus defeating the purpose of university studies," said Pierluigi Ceddia, another York student, adding "the measures proposed by Stephenson are drastic and not necessarily positive for the student body."

"The Commission will find that the notion of specialization is very hard to carry out because disciplines often interact, especially here at York," commented Macdonald, adding "however, some specialization is necessary."

The Commission's results are expected to be ready by this summer.

York University Faculty Association (YUFA) will hold an emergency meeting tomorrow to discuss Stephenson's objectives. The meeting will be held in the Senate Chamber room between 10 and 11 a.m.

## Other Campuses

### Brandon President fired from position

The president of Brandon University in Brandon Manitoba was fired last month by the university's Board of Governors.

Harold J. Perkins, 52, was fired after earlier attempts by the Board "encouraging" his resignation. According to a December 4 *Sunday Star* article, Perkins learned of the Board's action via a letter delivered to his office. The letter read in part: "Take notice that the Board of Governors of Brandon University hereby terminates your contract . . . for reasons *inter alia*, your conduct is compatible with your duties as president . . ."

In a phone interview with *Excalibur* from his home, Perkins said "the Board did not state any reasons for my dismissal. They just sent me a letter and changed the locks on my office doors."

*The Star* quoted Perkins as saying,

"This whole affair is difficult and devastating but I am encouraged by the support I've been getting from the University community. I believe that I have discharged my duties as president competently and with a fair degree of distinction. The University is a much stronger place than it was when I came."

A petition calling for a judicial inquiry has already collected "several" signatures. Many are calling for a full disclosure of the reasons for the firing. The Board has offered Perkins a full tenured professorship in the chemistry department as a form of compensation.

However, if the University is required to pay him all the benefits of his existing contract they might face a \$500,000 price tag to get rid of Perkins. It was last year Perkins signed his second five-year contract with the University.

—ANDREW ZARNETT

### The truth about the Terror Trio

A trio of Waterloo brothers have been identified as the men who have been terrorizing women at Sir Wilfred Laurier University for the past eight months.

During the past year, there have been incidents in which it is alleged the brothers hid in washrooms on campus. Recently, Wade Sach, 18, was charged with trespassing. According to Laurier security, there was some difficulty in identifying the culprits. "We could never get a positive description because the three brothers looked so much alike," said John Baal, Laurier security chief.

Baal said he is confident that Laurier is a safe campus for women and that it is "far better than most campuses."

—*The Cord Weekly*, Sir Wilfred Laurier University

### Coach resigns

Andy McInnis, assistant track and field coach at the University of Western Ontario, resigned late last year following an investigation by faculty concerning allegations of drug use.

McInnis coached at Western for seven years and has been a national hurdles coach for six years.

While McInnis has admitted giving Vitamin B-12 shots to Western athletes, he said the media has picked up on the story and the incident has gone from "vitamin injections to narcotics."

University officials say they have no plans to carry the case any further.

—*The Gazette*, The University of Western Ontario

