

Reading room rearranged into a wrighteous wreck wroom

"A vengeance of vandalism," horrified guy with tie proclaims • News, page 3

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INSIDE

- Sexual assault suspect nabbed at campus college party • see page 3
- York film graduate *Outlaws* in hot demand • see page 12
- Hockey Yeomen are chillin' again, more weekend wins • see page 16

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The TROUBLE with MEN

Feminists cast a wary eye at those white-ribbon guys

by Soraya Mariam Peerbaye

It is a move that will shock and offend many men — men who were hoping to be met with support.

The Ryerson women's centre announced last week that it will boycott one of Canada's leading organizations of men against violence against women — the White Ribbon Campaign.

The campaign, which was founded after the December 1989 murder of 14 female students in Montréal, asks men to wear a ribbon in December to show their solidarity with women.

But Libby Zeleke, the coordinator of the women's centre, claims that many men are wearing the ribbon without ever having listened to feminists or thought about feminist politics. In consequence, she told the *Ryerson Eyeopener*, "we'll probably do everything we can to keep them out."

Continued on page 11

York to cut enrollment by 1,000 to ease overcrowding

Underfunding blamed for cuts

by Michael Greene

Fewer high school students are going to enter York as underfunding and over enrollment continues to plague the university.

Because of overcrowding and the consequent pressure placed on staff and students, York has decided to cut first year enrollment by over 1,000 next year.

Sheldon Levy, vice president of institutional affairs said that as a part of York's enrollment strategy, fewer acceptance letters will be sent to prospective students so there will be no growth in the student population.

The Winter/Summer program, already suspended, is not expected to be back for at least five years.

Levy said the biggest cut will be for first year admissions in the Arts faculty, down from 4,500 to 3,500. There will also be enrollment cuts in the Fine Arts, Glendon, Science, Administrative Studies, Education and Atkinson faculties.

Even with these changes, classes would still be overcrowded for the next four or five years as first year students move through the system.

Apart from the difficulties faced by students at York, some of those aspiring to attend university would have entrance doors shut in their faces.

"It's obvious that York has over-enrolled. But cutting enrollment by 1,000 is horrifying," said Nikki

Gershbnain, president of the York Federation of Students.

Undergraduate students are the most vulnerable group on York's campus to changes resulting from growing enrollment and underfunding.

The university's staff, professors and teaching assistants are all affected by the pressures of larger classes and associated problems, but they get union representation and bargaining power.

Full-time staff are represented by the York University Faculty Association, which is negotiating with York's administration to address the problems facing full-time professors.

According to association president Brian Abner, there is not much complaint from his members on class sizes.

"Professors are concerned [about larger classes], but not enough to make a bold move," at the negotiating table, Abner said.

Political Science professor Bruce Smardon teaches a third year seminar course and said he is happy teaching a class which is enrolled past normal limits.

"My class had 75 students, this number dropped to 67, which is 17 above the norm, but I was compensated financially for the extra work."

Abner said the union proposed a joint faculty and administration committee in 1989 as a way to solve

problems such as over-enrollment.

However, this committee is not yet established, he said.

Part-time professors and TAs are represented by Canadian Union of Educational Workers. Part of their current bargaining proposals with administration include lower limits on tutorial sizes, and limits on labs and college courses for the first time.

Michèle Chai, external vice president of the federation said students need a stronger voice on campus to have a real say in solving York's problems.

"Students have to become more active politically, they have to unite as a strong vocal unit," she said.

According to a survey done by the Ontario Federation of Students, universities' share of provincial government spending declined from 6 per cent to 4 per cent between 1978 and 1992. Over the past year alone, this share suffered a loss of \$108 million.

Levy and Gershbnain both say such underfunding is directly responsible for next year's cut.

"Funding is the basic problem. There is no will by the federal or provincial government to fund education," Gershbnain said.

In some cases, York's administration responds to underfunding in a good way, but in others its priorities are wrong, she said.



• graphic by Claudia Davila

Students say text racist towards aboriginals

by Sheldon Ford

A York student said he dropped a course because a "racist" textbook offended him.

Herbert Charles, a Chippewa Indian and part-time Atkinson student said he enrolled in a Canadian Studies course this year and was shocked to find that the only textbook used in the course "is sexist, racist and erroneous."

Canada: A Political and Social History, is used in one other York course and was written by Edgar McInnis, a former York professor.

Charles and other students in the class felt McInnis wrote offensive passages about aboriginal peoples and

their culture in his book.

"The textbook demeans native Indians and their issues, it was upsetting having to read the course material," said Charles.

The textbook refers to aboriginal culture as "primitive" and "obsolete." "The Indian was not only useless but an active menace whose speedy extermination would be an unqualified boon," McInnis wrote.

Charles pointed out that the native people helped European settlers with their agricultural skills and the statement is not justifiable.

Professor Michiel Horn, Director of History at Glendon wrote the last

continued on page 4