

# Money for the till?

**Mark Monfette**

Is York's financial position about to improve?

Maybe so. Due to changes in the method of government funding, undergraduate students may be worth more to the university than they have in the past. Depending on how he is pigeon-holed ("weighted"), an undergrad may now be worth one and a half or even twice his value in provincial grants. The first head count for full-time students begins today, Nov. 1, and at least one dean is optimistic about the effects it may have.

"I think there's been a change of mood," said Harold Kaplan, Dean of Arts, when reached by phone. "Every year we've been standing by the railroad track and we've been knocked over by the train. Now the mood is much more healthy."

Kaplan noted that York is at the bottom of Ontario universities in the funds it received for students and that we have "not been getting our fair share in comparison with the others."

"We must be more aggressive in arguing our claims," he said. "We should be banging on the door."

"It's time for the deans to think of maximizing income and not of how to split up budget cuts."

Sheldon Levy, a program cost analyst and a shaker and mover in the administration, also has "room for optimism."

"The count will certainly be better than it was," he said.

Levy pointed out that the effects of the new formula will only begin to be apparent in the 1980-81 fiscal year (May 1-April 30). "But we must all work together."

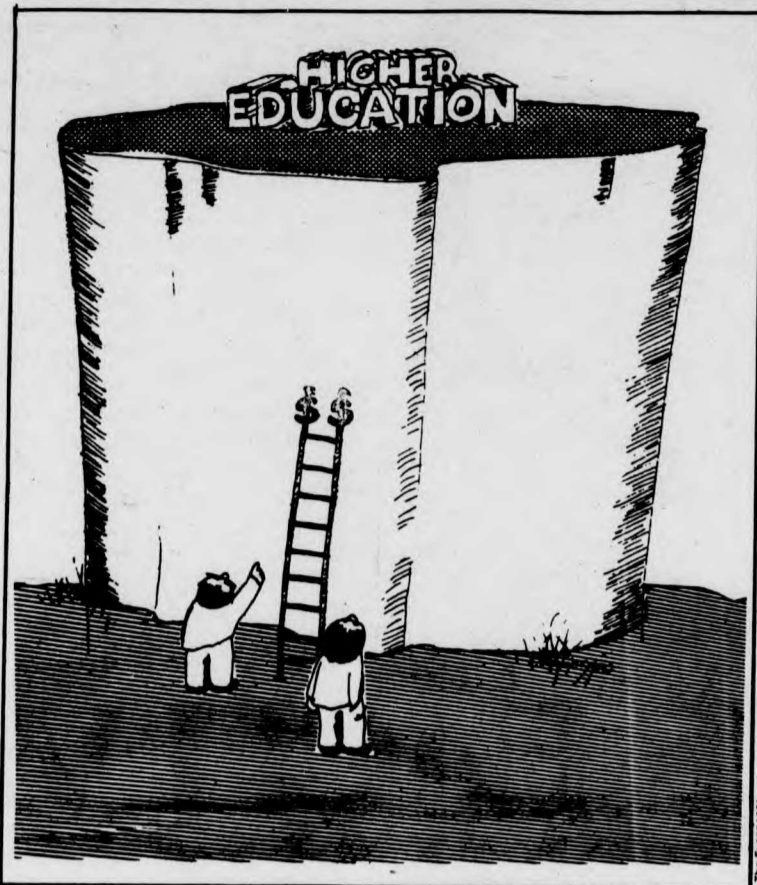
"The faculty must take off their faculty hats, the staff their staff hats and the administration their administration hats and put on York University hats or, when necessary, Ontario university hats, if we hope to achieve any changes."

When asked about the new funding formula, Dean Lundell, of Science, said that he found it "hard to be optimistic when government funding has not changed and inflation is much higher."

He suggested that the faculty could increase revenue by giving credit to the activity courses in Physical Education and by increasing the amount of contract research done by the faculty.

"In better times, we didn't want to do this," he said, referring to the contract work. "Now we might have to."

In the revised method of funding, departments are weighted in relation to costs incurred in instruction. An



honours English student, for example, would be worth one and one half basic income units (BIU), while the same student in the ordinary programme would only be worth one. Honours students in programmes such as computer science, geography or psychology would be worth two BIU's.

During the previous three years York has received a fixed amount (a BIU of 1.284) for each student. The university and the government negotiated this agreement in 1975-76 and renegotiated it again for the last fiscal year.

Asked if it was wise to

renegotiate the fixed agreement, David Atkinson, Finance and Development Officer, explained that at the time, the university thought it was.

"We did some studies," said Atkinson, "and they indicated that if we went on the program-by-program basis, the BIU might have dropped to 1.244."

Whether the BIU will rise or fall in 1980-81 is a matter for conjecture. It depends partially on the success of the deans in properly identifying those students who are eligible for more than one BIU and on the success of the university in attracting more students.

## Food co-op formed

**Michael Monastyrskij**

In a bid to reduce food costs, members of the York community are organizing a food co-op on campus.

Doug Holland, an Osgoode student, tried to organize a York co-op two years ago. However, at the last moment, he was told there was no space available to house the venture. This year Griff Cunningham, Master of Bethune College, has agreed to provide a room for the co-op store.

Holland and Cunningham both live in downtown Toronto and are members of Karma Co-op. They are willing to act as resource persons if leadership for the co-op can be found at York.

At present, the major concern is a membership drive. Sixty people are needed in order to

start but 100 members are necessary to make the organization viable.

Capital for the inventory will be provided by fifteen dollar loans from the members, in addition to the five-dollar membership fee.

Holland said that the emphasis will be on natural foods because "with them, we will have competitive prices. The more processing involved, the more centralized the distributor." Most of the first supplies will be obtained from the Ontario Federation of Food Co-ops and Clubs. As the co-op grows the members will decide whether to add processed goods.

If you would like more information on the York co-op, call Joyce Thompson at 667-6456.

## Faculty talks continue

**Doug Allen**

There's no end in sight to contract negotiations between the York University Faculty Association (YUFA) and the university administration. The talks, which have been going on intermittently since the last contract expired on April 30, are centered on two main issues: money, and the tenure and promotion system.

YUFA chairperson Al Stauffer says negotiations are a long way from being settled.

At the present time the Senate advises President Macdonald on matters of tenure and promotion. Stauffer says "the procedure should be more

clearly defined. The scheme "doesn't give people any clear rights...people can lose their jobs if it's done unfairly."

YUFA feels that departmental committees could best judge a person's ability.

Along monetary lines, the union feels that in light of York's history of low wages, nothing but an offer above the provincial average for faculty members will be accepted.

Handling the negotiations for the Administration is Vice-President of student and employee relations Bill Farr, who defended the administration's wage offer. Farr says the "faculty did a shade better (than the provincial average) last year and

the year before that." This year's offer, he claims, will keep the faculty in the same position as last year.

Farr dismissed the union's tenure and promotion scheme. "The union would prefer the union as the principal voice," said Farr. It's not a question of faculty power, it's a question of whether it's the faculty union or the academic body that has the principal voice." Farr claims that the matter comes down to whether the faculty wants to wear their academic hats or their union hats. "If you told anyone outside the university about this, their eyes would glaze over in three minutes."

# yin COURT



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