

# editorial

## Hungry kids

There will be a lot more money when the baby's grown up.

That's what dad used to tell mom when the bank account dipped dangerously low and it's the same sad story Bette Stephenson is feeding to hungry universities.

The Minister of Education and her colleague Ben Wilson have recently been blaming the baby boom babies for the current strain on the family budget. The problem of underfunding they say will disappear when the baby is thrown out with the bathwater into the growing pool of the unemployed.

The only childish thing in this tale is Bette's belief that we'll buy it.

Disturbing to Bette's theory should be the growing demand for university education. Young people are turning to school as an alternative to unemployment lines. Business people are being sent back by their bosses and a university degree is looking more attractive than a high school diploma in our competitive world.

Ontario's full-time undergraduate population rose to 159,000 from 151,000 last year while the number of part-time undergrads ballooned to 86,000 from 80,000: Bette may be able to get rid of the baby boom students, but what is she going to do with their parents?

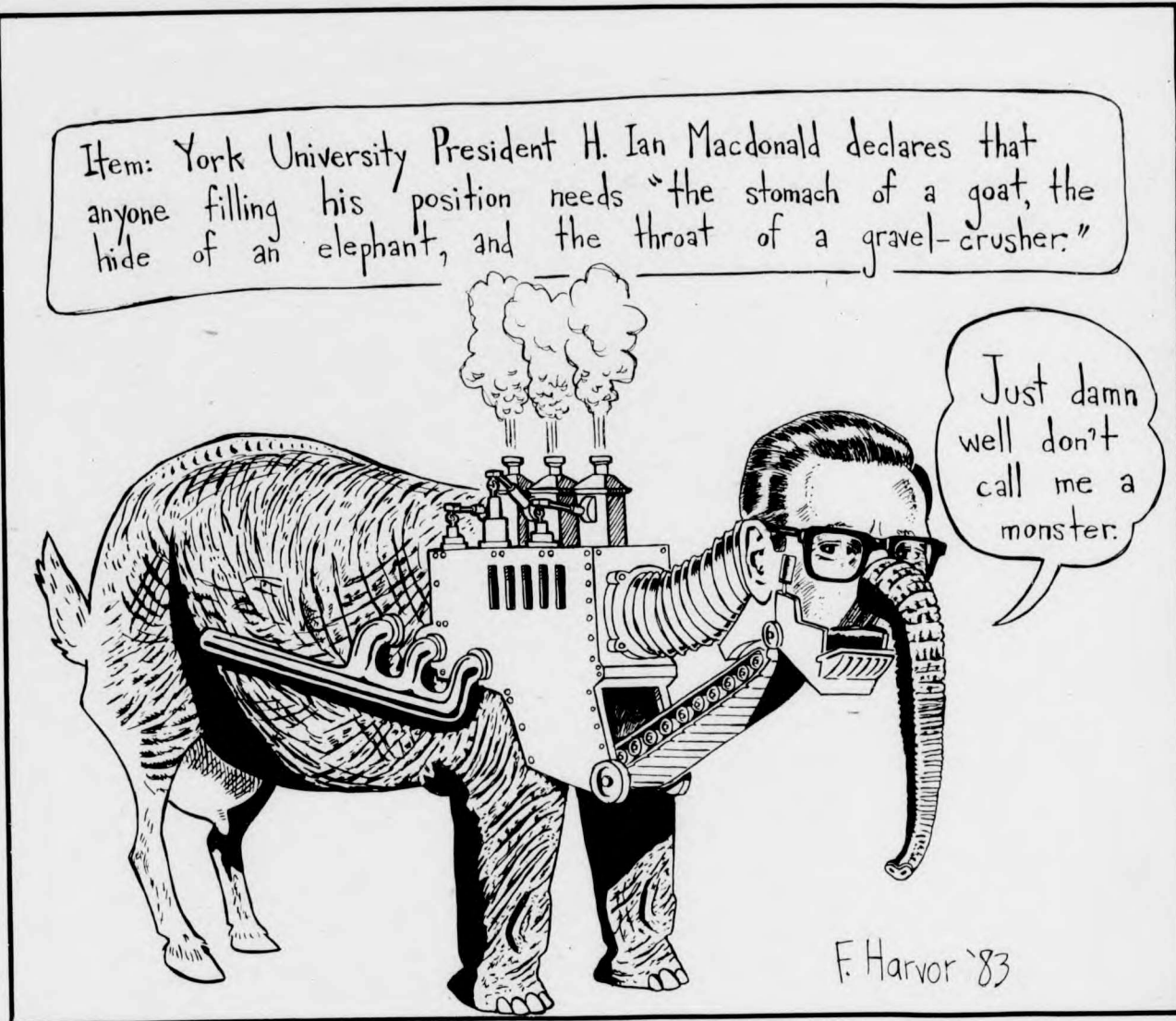
And what happens to Bette's carefully laid plans as our fickle economy gives birth to this new group of students who may not be able to survive on her meager provisions?

Until the ministry is able to get a numerical handle on this as yet undetermined quantity (of new students) everyone would be better off if Stephenson built a wide degree of financial latitude into the system to protect us against future uncertainties.

## Power shifting

For years student leaders have justifiably complained that the "system" of student government at York has been responsible for the failure of the Council of the York Student Federation to meet its full potential.

These leaders have not had the opportunity to significantly change this circumstance since the first days of York's existence. Things are now different.



Sometime before the new year the University will appoint a Provost. The person to fill this new administrative position is sure to be an academic with a Masters' experience, and will be charged with a complete re-organization of student government.

This presents the student leaders of today with the opportunity to affect the future of campus politics on the most fundamental level.

This will also be a great challenge. One of the most often heard complaints centres around the lack of

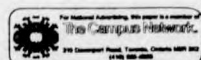
communication between the central student government and its constituent colleges. We all recognize that a problem exists. The solution cannot be a unilateral university decision.

Each of us must call on our various presidents and representatives to reach a position that reflects a consensus of student needs, and protects student rights. Let not the once-a-decade opportunity to implement constructive change go wasted.

## excalibur

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## letters

### Reiterating

Editor:

I am writing in connection re. your article entitled "President Quizzed" in the Sept. 29, 1983 edition of *Excalibur*. The article was fairly reflective of what occurred at the meeting between President Macdonald and the York community on Sept. 22, however, I would like to correct the inaccuracies reported concerning the comments I made at that meeting. Rather than simply speaking for teaching assistants in CUEW I was expressing the concerns and interests of part-time faculty as well. Teaching assistants are full-time graduate students who with few exceptions work as teaching assistants with full and part time faculty members in various courses. They number around five hundred individuals and perform approximately ten percent of the teaching at York.

My comments, however, had more to do with part time faculty in our union. They number over seven hundred individuals, and perform over thirty percent of the teaching at York. These are the people who, I argued, form a reserve pool of teachers and academics unable, for a number of reasons to become full time faculty members. It was they, then, that are part of this "ghetto" or part time workers. I also expressed concern that part time faculty are systematically discriminated against in the hiring of full time faculty at York. The numbers underline the problem, as in the last five years only one of our members has been hired for the over sixty full time positions created at York. President Macdonald's comments are telling, for in the University's desire to hire "new blood", over

seven hundred people are relegated to part time work and languish in the position of being considered "old blood." No statement could be further from the truth, as part time faculty have performed valuable teaching functions, and despite their insecure position as workers, have with regularity published important works over the years. They have made many valuable contributions to the intellectual life and development of Ontario, Canada, and the world. They are, however, refused recognition of their work and contributions throughout most of this university.

Indeed, as was reported, President Macdonald has no solutions for these problems. We in CUEW have solutions, and we are more than willing to discuss in a serious manner with the appropriate bodies some solution to this overall problem of part time work.

—Charles Doyon  
Chairperson, CUEW Local 3

### Radio sounds

Editor:

Re. "York Radio Improving."

First, let it be known that this is not an attack on Radio York but merely a response to the outcry of one Robert Coulas.

I think it marvelous that Radio York "ventured its voice (though I must say a bit indiscernible at times) into Central Square" on Thurs. 22nd. But to go so far as to say that the York Community "simply lacks musical taste and appreciation," and that we've all got "wax in (our) ear drums" is a bit much, old chap. For after all, the bands are of the people, they play for the people, and are judged

by the people; thus giving us the right to applaud or throw tomatoes (although with caf. prices, we wouldn't be tossing out tomatoes; but this is another matter).

In any case, where the line is to be drawn between "progressive" and digressive music is for the majority to say. Now, whether it was actually the York Community who boycotted the event, or some officed interloper(s) is a determinant in their democratic exercise.

—D. Hooper

### Foreign students have it hard

Editor:

In response to last week's article "No Irregularities" (re. Bette Stephenson's claim that York admits unqualified students), I would like to raise the question "should there be a quota on mature, foreign, and college students admitted to York?" Many people feel that students who are accepted without grade 13 status are "having it easy." In fact, this is often not the case. Especially foreign and mature students encounter difficulties re. integration into the University environment and academic structure.

Though I myself am a grade 13 graduate, I sympathize with those students who are so-called "unqualified," but wish to pursue a university education. Whether Bette Stephenson is statistically right or wrong is not of great importance. Any student who can meet the challenge of York is worth being accepted despite his or her previous academic standing.

—Diane Roy