

Key to budget struggle lies in unified action

By DOUG TINDAL

The late, great budget crisis of 1974 (to be suffered in the academic year 1975-76), is winding down.

It's not that the danger is past. It's not that the potential accumulation of a \$5 million operating deficit presents any less of a threat to the future and stability of the university. It's not that the government of Ontario has offered assurances that the restrictive ceilings imposed upon next year's finances were all a silly mistake and will be rectified — the government has gone out of its way to make perfectly clear its contrary position, that the ceilings will not under any circumstances be exceeded.

The cause of all this lack of activity and protest is an apparent acceptance on the part of the administration, the Ontario Council on University Affairs, the Council of Ontario Universities, and the staff, student and faculty associations at York that the sub-inflationary increase in university support is an accomplished, ineradicable fact.

In the near-panic following the announcement on November 18 by James Auld, minister of colleges and universities, that the value of the BIU would increase by only 7.4

per cent for the 1975-76 academic year, a dozen theatres of operation swung into action to protest the move.

At the forefront of the fray was the emergency meeting convened by the presidents of Ontario's universities, combined with the chairmen of the various boards of governors. York president Ian Macdonald commented at the time that he was "encouraged" by the interest the board chairman had shown, and by the spirit of unified co-operation that characterized the meeting.

A sub-committee of the chairmen sought, and was soon granted, an audience with Premier William Davis, at which time it presented the case for greater university support. York board of governors chairman Robert McIntosh told Excalibur he "came away from the meeting feeling that the government was unprepared to change its position".

He's putting it somewhat mildly. According to a reliable source, Davis told the chairmen they were apparently labouring under the delusion that the government's funding policy would cause problems it had not anticipated and would regret. He assured them he had accomplished precisely what

he set out to do and bid them good day.

So much for the old college try. OCUA, created to supply a "strong independent buffer group standing between government and the universities", has received very clear instructions from the government which do not allow it to question the amount of support being given, but only the method by which the finances are to be distributed. Within these parameters, the "unified spirit" of a few weeks ago has begun to dissolve as universities scramble to gain the largest possible slice of the financial pie from OCUA's limited pool of supplementary grants.

The same process is taking place within York.

The administration has said as firmly as it is honestly able to that it does not expect faculty or staff to accept a six per cent increase, the most that a balanced budget would allow. The most prevalent rumour is that the administration is willing to settle as high as 15 to 16 per cent.

But YUFA chairman Harvey Simmons has said the faculty association will accept 23 per cent, "and not a penny less".

The graduate assistants' association are asking for a 25 per cent increase, on top of last year's 33

per cent raise, and are currently engaged in a fight to the death with YUFA over the right to represent part-time faculty around the bargaining table.

Meanwhile, YUSA is waiting with baited breath for its certification as a full union, and CUPE, having subsisted for the past two years on an increase of 6.5 per cent, is asking for an across the board increase of \$1.65.

Each group can make an irreproachable case for its actions when these are considered

individually. But looking at the university as a whole, one wonders how they can expect the fragmentation and competition among them to come to any good in the long run.

In the current Salary Bowl, the administration cannot help but win if the team composed of YUFA, YUSA, GAA, and CUPE insist on running their own separate plays.

And if the universities of Ontario behave the same way in their dealings with OCUA, Bill Davis will wind up with the trophy by default.

Food committee extends caterers' tender deadline

By JULIAN BELTRAME

York's food service committee has extended by one month the January 31 deadline for submitting models for food tenders for next year's potential caterers, even though the extension may entail a similar extension of Versafood's contract.

Mike Hennessy, acting chairman of the food committee, supported the extension on the grounds that it would give the committee more time to study the different models thoroughly.

Originally, Hennessy had sought an August 31 extension of the catering contract. Versafood's contract expires on April 30.

Norm Crandles of ancillary services said, "It was the desire of the administration to adopt a posture on tenders by the May 1 deadline. We are going to work with that deadline in mind."

The extension has yet to be approved by the university administration. Crandles said that if the extension is approved, it will become very difficult to meet the May 1 deadline for submission of tenders.

"I suppose that this year there will be four models for caterers to tender on, for which they could respond to one or all or none," he explained. "You have to give them (the caterers) four weeks after the options are proposed before you close all tenders. I can't see the university taking less than a month to consider the options, which leaves no time for implementation."

CYSF president Anne Scotton

criticized the extension. "No caterer is going to do exactly what we want," she said, "so it's rather pointless to hold things up to find out exactly what we want."

Crandles disagreed, saying that a caterer's rejection of the university's options would probably entail its rejection of the entire offer.

He also warned that, since the university's financial year ends in May, the administration would probably insist on a May 1 resolution.

At press time, the university had made no decision on the one month extension.

In other business, the food services committee passed a motion to allow the cigarette vendor at York to increase the price of a package of cigarettes from the present 65 cents to 70 cents.

The increase was brought about by an increased tax on cigarettes.

York crime has holiday break

Crime took a brief vacation over the holiday break, resulting in an unusually quiet season at York.

George Dunn, director of security, reported that he was "pleased with the absence of intruders", considering that the two-week holiday was longer than the breaks in previous years.

"The only thing we had was a few thefts," said Dunn. "One lot of hubcaps, a radio, a small desk calculator, and two vices (for paper) from an office."

Housman

"Shoulder the sky my lad, and drink your ale".

(Last Poems)

Shakespeare

"For a quart of ale is a dish for a king".

(The Winter's Tale)

Borrow

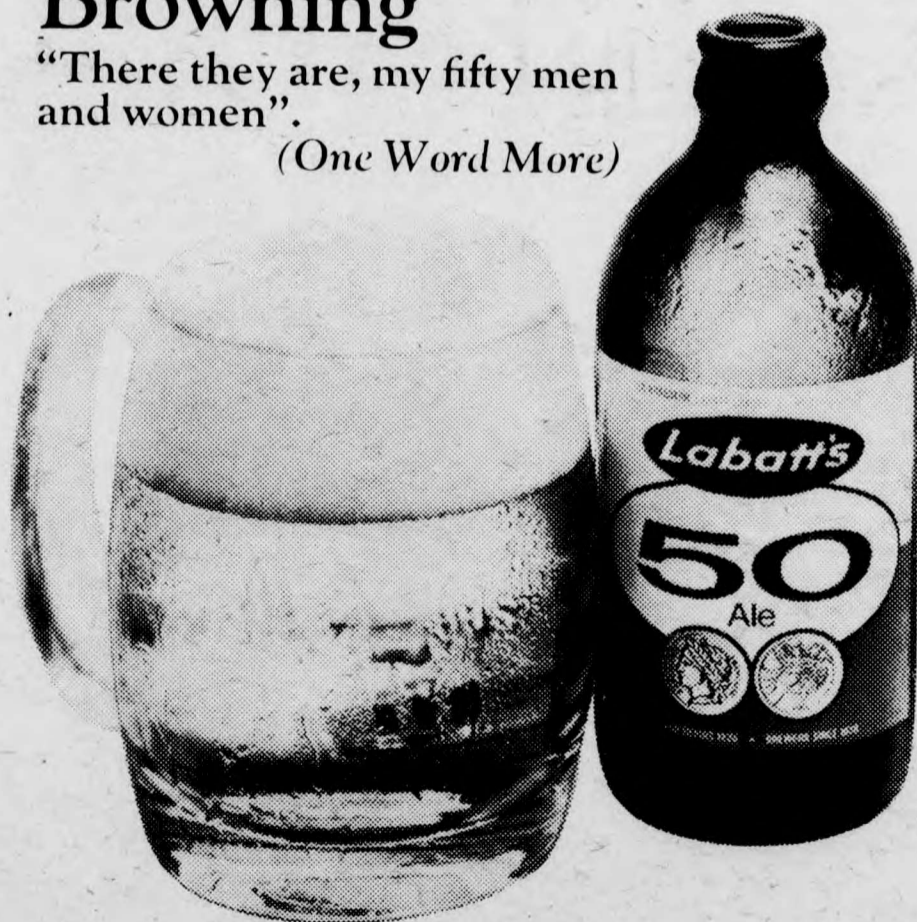
"Good ale, the true and proper drink..."

(Lavengro)

Browning

"There they are, my fifty men and women".

(One Word More)



poetic justice

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THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION IS NOW RECEIVING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 1975-76 ACADEMIC SESSION. STUDENTS CURRENTLY REGISTERED IN UNDERGRADUATE FACULTIES ON BOTH THE STEELES CAMPUS AND GLENDON COLLEGE CAMPUS ARE INVITED TO APPLY. SINCE THE NUMBER OF SPACES AVAILABLE IS LIMITED, CANDIDATES ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY BY FEBRUARY 7. APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE YORK INQUIRY SERVICE AND AT THE OFFICE OF STUDENT PROGRAMMES IN ALL FACULTIES.

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