Deficit financing: a mortgaged future or bright light at the end of the tunnel?

(cont'd from pg. 1)

Lundell feels that Kaplan's forecast of increasing enrolment is not correct. He also noted that early retirement of faculty would do little to decrease costs.

Dean Schwass, of Environmental Studies, suggested increased ties with industry as one means of generating income.

"Industrial research," he said, "could bring in several million dollars in two to three years. This would do more than enough to eliminate the needs for cuts after the initial period of investment."

This has been proposed for several years, he noted, but the university has had very little success in this regard.

Dean Overing, of the Faculty of Education, also expressed doubts about the plausibility of deficit financing.

"My instinct is that we shouldn't mortgage the future," he said. He noted, however, that in times of emergency, it might be the only solution.

What constitutes an emergency? "When a dollar of cuts is taking a dollar of income," he responded.

There are those, however, who shared Kaplan's optimism and saw, as he stated, "a light at the end of the tunnel".

Lee Lorch, Vice-President of YUFA, is one of these. "We must not shrink from the prospect of deficit financing if that's whats needed to provide the funds required," he said.

"This university, to become more accessible to all, regardless of financial or social position, desparately needs adequate funding now."

"If you let the cuts continue to worsen," he claimed, "there is the danger that there will be a massive turning away from this institution and an accelerated path downhill pursued."

Professor Lorch feels that the solution lies in increased government funding. "Unfortunately our Board of Governors," he said, "despite being a millionaires club, has not shown itself able to persuade the government to provide the necessary funding or to raise sufficient funds from other sources."

Peter Brickwood, student member of the Senate's Academic Policy and Planning Committee was also in favour of deficit financing and stated: "I think our best option at this point is to take deficit funding for at least part of the financial shortfall and pressure the administration to preserve the quality of education in this university by having the government increase the funding at least to the rate of inflation."

And, if deficit financing doesn't work, will the government bail us out? Apparently not.


Bryon Johnson

"...I am in Egypt, I am in Egypt, I am...."

Little aid for unions from fund raising

(cont'd from pg. 1)

No mention is made in the outline of using the money to resolve the issue that shook the campus to its foundations last fall—that of helping the support staff keep up with inflation.

Atkinson told Excalibur that revenues from the fund would benefit the staff "only very indirectly". There would be a risk involved in hiring new support staff with revenue from the campaign, because the jobs would only exist as long as the donations held out. When the York fund revenue for a project runs out staff members would be laid off—who it would be would depend on who had seniority.

The executive committee recommended to the Board that an 18-member "York Fund Council" be formed and consist of:

- Chairman of the Board (ex officio or non-voting)
- A President's appointee (ex-officio)
- Four members of the Board of Governors
- Four special appointments from the community.
- Two alumni
- Two faculty
- Two staff
- Two students (one of them graduate)