



PHOTO: MARIO SCATTOLONI

A Canadian record of 31 couples puckered up for the first annual York Kiss Off at the York-Waterloo football game last Saturday. Story on page 4.

Profs ally

By JAY LEIDER

Some Ontario professors have formed a contentious alliance with students and other staff members to do battle with the government's university funding policy, according to an ad placed in the *Toronto Star* on September 21.

The ad, which was funded by the alliance because they believe the funding policy is inadequate, stated "Do Ontario Universities Have A Future? Do Your Children Have A Future In Them?"

According to Janice Newson, a sociology professor and chairman of York University Faculty Association (YUFA), the ad was placed in fear of changes to university funding that Dr. Bette Stephenson is expected to announce tomorrow. The 50,000-strong alliance is urging students and parents to help in lobbying for more government funding for universities.

The alliance, consisting of 13 of Ontario's 15 universities, was created this month by the 1,000-member YUFA. It was established following York's announcement that it has had to turn away 1,400 qualified grade 13 applicants due to lack of funding.

Assistant Deputy Minister of University and Student Affairs Ben Wilson commented that "Ontario universities have reached their peak enrollment levels which will last for a few more years and then demographically they will drop."

But Newson said, "this only holds if you recruit university students from the baby boom generation straight from grade 13. However, new kinds of populations are coming into the universities—adult students, students who dropped out and now feel a university education is essential, ethnic communities, and first generation university attenders."

"Instead of the declining enrollment which the government predicted and based their funding policies on, we have in fact had pressure for increased enrollment," she said.

Newson said that, stronger than ever before, Ontario's professors and students have adopted former Premier John Roberts' ideology that Ontario should provide opportunities for people to become educated at the university level for all people who are qualified.

Charges dropped Increase in text costs burdens students

CYSF stops legal action against former business manager

By JOHN WRIGHT

The Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF) voted to drop all legal action against Tony Finn at its general meeting last week.

Finn had been employed as Business Manager under the administration of Maurizio Bevilacqua, last year's CYSF president. The charges originally arose out of Finn's mishandling of the CYSF's financial records, and were an attempt to recoup damages allegedly incurred by the CYSF in reconstructing records and Finn's salary for a one month period.

The series of events that led to council's original decision to press charges began in the first days of president Chris Summerhayes' term last May. When Finn did not report to work as expected, an inspection of cheque records was made. This report revealed that Finn had written a cheque to himself for more than \$1,000, with the written explanation "wages and retirement settlement."

Although the cheque appeared to be signed by both Bevilacqua and Finn, as required by the CYSF constitution, no record of council reaching this "settlement" exists. Efforts to stop payment were unsuccessful.

It was subsequently discovered that the university, then responsible for CYSF payroll, had yet to forward Finn's 4% vacation allowance. This payment was halted.

The attention of council then turned to preparations for the annual audit of financial records. Examination of the records by Finance Director Darren Chapman indicated that there was some work required to make the records suitable for financial auditing. This was confirmed by the council's auditors, Touche-Ross.

At the beginning of June, Finn was approached by Summerhayes and an agreement was reached whereby Finn would act as "consultant to council" and would "train a new bookkeeper." Although not clearly specified in the wording of the contract, Summerhayes said he believed that Finn would also prepare year-end financial statements.

In exchange for these services Finn was to receive \$1,796 (an amount equal to one month's pay) in three installments. The first for \$600 was made immediately. The second, also for \$600, was to be paid upon completion of the financial statements, and the final amount was due on the release of the auditors' final report.

According to Summerhayes, Finn reported to the CYSF offices for about two weeks, and then claimed his second payment, telling Summerhayes the records were complete.

After the auditors examined these reports they concluded, according to Summerhayes, that there was still "an extensive amount of work required before they could begin to audit the records." They indicated that Finn had failed to produce a general ledger that could be reconciled with documentation, a set of trial balances, or a set of complete profit and loss statements for the CYSF business. The firm quoted a price of at least \$4,000 to complete these reports.

According to Summerhayes, Finn at this point said that he had done as much as he felt was necessary. The CYSF hasn't heard from him since.

The CYSF executive was forced to contract with Touche-Ross, and the reconstruction of Bevilacqua's council's financial transactions began. The process took four weeks with Touche-Ross representatives spending two weeks in July in the CYSF offices. When the final reports had been completed the invoiced amount was near \$5,500. This amount did not include the audit itself.

By GARY SYMONS

With the high student unemployment rate, rising tuition fees, and massive educational cutbacks, it's not surprising that the added of rapid increases in textbook prices over the last few years, is met with some bitterness and anger by students.

It's also not surprising that the chosen target of that anger is the most accessible at York; namely, the Bookstore.

Many believe the Bookstore charges more than necessary — that they take advantage of their virtual monopoly of the local market. The Bookstore, however, is run under university supervision and its operations are scrutinized by the Bookstore's Advisory Committee (BAC), which is made up of faculty, staff and students.

Also, the Bookstore operates under a long-term break even policy, meaning that profits in one year are offset by losses in another, the overall effect being that over a long period the ideal would be to earn and lose no money.

The real reason for the high price of books is much more complicated. One factor is, of course, inflation. But the weakness of the Canadian dollar in relation to the American is also a major cause. Almost all textbooks sold in Canada are published by American companies and are paid for in expensive American dollars. The result is the rapid increase in prices we've seen in the last few years.

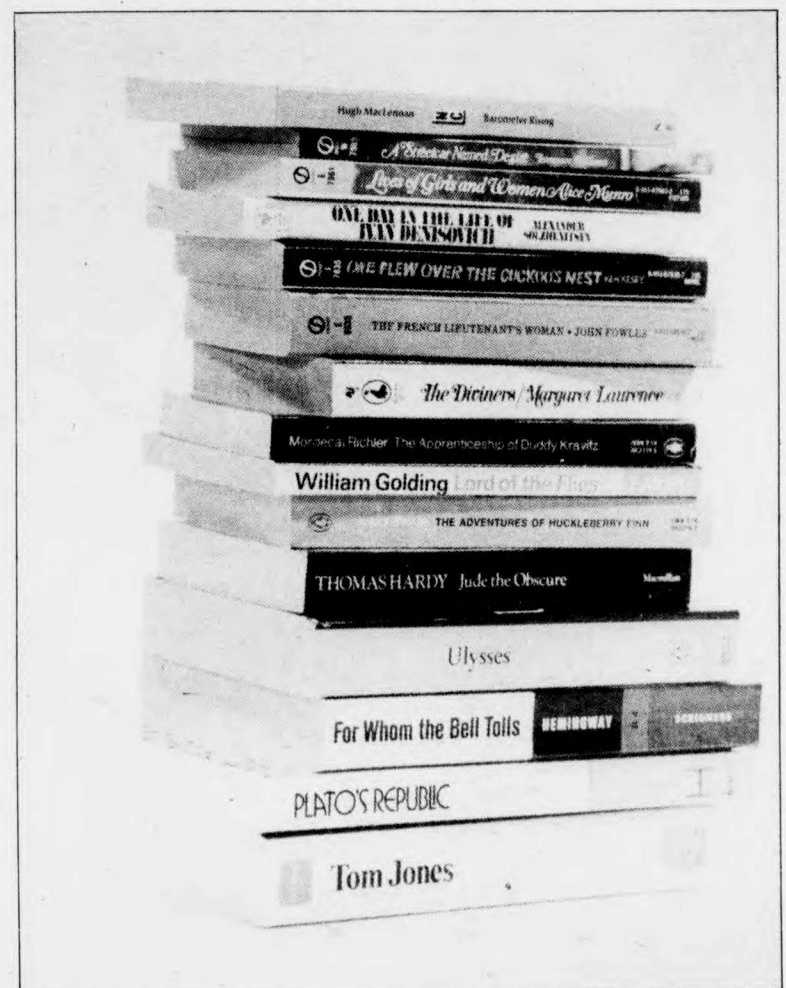
According to figures provided by Rafael Barreto-Rivera, Director of the York Bookstore, wholesale prices have risen 30-40% in the last year, depending upon the publisher. Some publishers, such as Prentice-Hall, are more responsible than others in setting price increases, he said; but then with publishers holding monopolies on the books

they publish, there is not much incentive to keep prices down.

Of the four biggest publishing houses, Prentice-Hall's price increases were the least palatable at 30%. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, and McGraw-Hill were equally unpleasant at 35%, and Academic Press, the worst of the group, with a

38-40% increase.

Will there be a change in the near future? It's difficult to say for certain, but if the Canadian dollar strengthens substantially and the inflation rate drops, then there will undoubtedly be a downward swing in prices, according to Barreto-Rivera.



Wholesale book prices have increased 30-40% in the last year, making it difficult for students who already face high tuition fees and financial aid cutbacks.