

# Black Creek Food Co-op has a new lease on life

The Black Creek Food Co-op was given a new lease on life after a back scenes political fight that saw threats and counter threats hurled by both sides.

The Co-op, which was set up in Bethune College, Room 112, was threatened with closure after a letter from the office of Vice-President Bill Farr advised the Master of Bethune that Black Creek's space was to be re-assigned for academic use.

In July, in an effort to force the Administration's hand, Black Creek launched a letter-writing campaign that brought a veiled threat regarding funding of an environmental studies program studying co-ops. This funding comes from off-campus sources and it was pointed out that the university could not expect to receive funding having demonstrated its disfavour of co-ops.

There were also letters of support from all the College

councils as well as letters from individuals.

Bill Small re-opened the issue when he demanded back rent of \$311.00 per month plus interest although, according to Doug Holland, President of the co-op, there had been a verbal agreement that the first year of rent would be waived. In a meeting held Monday between Holland and Small, the Co-op was told that back rent was still owing but that the University would not close the store.

Most of these problems arise from divergent fundamental positions regarding the Co-op. Black Creek views itself as a part of Student Services and believes that it, like student pubs, should pay only 2% of sales as rent. The University on the other hand, views the Co-op as a business like any other and wants rent on a per metre square basis.

The Co-op has managed to



Rose Crawford

reach the point of being 50% self-sufficient. Management believes it must sell approximately \$15,000 per month; currently it is generating \$5,000 per month. But, the co-op has never had a month in which its monthly gross has fallen and can see its

potential as serving almost 20% of the student population by next spring

Last year Black Creek stocked only "health food". This was the product that the original members wanted, but as

membership increased this policy was abandoned and now a full line of goods is handled including, meats, cheese and laundry detergent.

Doug Jones, manager of the co-op, believes his prices are much lower than other sources of food on campus. However, Black Creek has been hampered by the lack of usual business practices including advertising, organization and a good location. Jones feels these can be overcome particularly with this year's longer hours. The group is also hoping that it will be allowed to accept script in the future.

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## THE FEDERAL LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WANTS TO TRIPLE YOUR TUITION

### THE PC PARTY UNDERSTANDS STUDENTS CAN'T AFFORD SUCH AN INCREASE

Last fall, Finance Minister Allan MacEachen announced a \$1.5 billion cut in federal transfer payments to the provinces under the Established Programs Financing (E.P.F.) plan.

The targets of the announced cut were to be hospitals, health care and post secondary education.

National Health and Welfare Minister, Monique Bégin, reacted by declaring that no cuts would come in areas under her supervision.

As a result post secondary education will bear the brunt of any cutback scheme.

It is estimated that the University of Toronto could lose as much as \$100 million from its annual operating budget under the Liberal plan. The University of Manitoba could lose \$40 million, Dalhousie \$20 million.

#### **What will these cuts mean?**

- \* *Smaller universities and community colleges may be forced to close.*
- \* *The quality of post secondary education could be seriously threatened.*
- \* *University and college sponsored research and development could all but disappear.*
- \* *Sky-rocketing tuition fees would make a mockery of the right to education for lower and middle income Canadians.*

At a time when Canada is an importer of skilled labour and high technology, the government is ignoring our own national potential.

At a time when the Canadian economy is in desperate need of new economic leadership the Liberals seem too determined to make it increasingly difficult for young people to get a decent education and good skills training.

**THERE IS ONLY ONE CONCLUSION.  
THE LIBERAL PARTY JUST DOESN'T CARE  
ABOUT YOUR FUTURE.**

**WE DO**

