

The campus overheats: summer news wrapup

Health clinics eliminated

York University put an end to free on-campus health care in a surprise May announcement.

Beth Hopkins, vice president of student affairs at York, said the university closed the York and Glendon clinics for "both financial and legal" reasons.

The two clinics cost the university approximately \$200,000 a year and ran the risk of malpractice suits, Hopkins explained.

For York students, a private medical office has opened in the York Lanes mall. Glendon students will have to visit the Sunnybrook Medical Centre, about one kilometre north of the campus.

Two of the university's three full-time nurses, Nina Gallagher and Marnie Graham, were fired at the end of April. In an April 3 letter to Excalibur, the nurses said the university was eliminating an essential service.

"In this transition, the students will be the losers," they wrote. "It seems that York University is losing its humanity in its quest for a profit. It is a sad day for us all!"



Reckless parking fee increases

Enormous increases in parking fees have left students and staff reeling.

Bill Farr, vice president of finance and administration, announced the increases in May. They range from 18 to 109 percent. Unreserved passes — most popular with commuter students — rose from \$105 to \$160, a hike of over 50 percent.

Among the hardest hit are residence students. Parking passes for campus tenants went up a staggering 109 percent.

A year ago Farr announced a similar set of increases and promised students they would not be repeated.

Nikki Gershbnain, internal vice president for the York Federation of Students, said she met with Farr in August and he apologized but refused to change the parking rate structure.

"Students are being forced to take on a disproportionate share of the burden," said Gershbnain, citing a 34 percent gap between increases for reserved passes and the unreserved ones used most often by undergraduates.

Student Centre angers unions

When the Student Centre Corporation hired a private, non-union contractor to clean the building, York's cleaners union got angry.

A harsh message was sent in a May 27 press release by Ilpo Lehto, president of the York branch of CUPE (Canadian Union of Public Employees).

Lehto asked, "Is this an attempt by the university to use the Student Centre to break our union?"

CUPE has the cleaning contract for the entire university. However, the centre is considered an independent, student-run corporation.

cluded the mammoth construction program currently underway, as well as the leasing of campus land to private developers.

The president often came under fire for his more controversial decisions. These included his leading role in the Council of Ontario Universities' proposal for a 40 percent tuition increase, his acceptance of a \$1 million scholarship grant from Japanese fascist Ryoichi Sasakawa, and his plan to eliminate York's college system.

He is currently defending his Green Paper, released this year, which calls for three new faculties and a third campus.

Arthurs said he plans to maintain an active role during the coming year. "I still have 15 percent of my term left and I plan to use every minute of it," he said.

The York senate will elect a committee during September to select a new president.

Atkinson kills cafe

The Ainger, a popular student-run eatery located in Atkinson College, was closed by the college administration in May.

Acting Atkinson Dean Tom Meininger turned the outlet over to Petal Food Services, arguing that cafe management should not be a student responsibility.

"Any attempt to keep the Ainger student-run would have a negative effect," Meininger claimed at a May 21 meeting.

Lena Kaitsis, manager of Petal Food Services, said she plans to cut the Ainger's hours of operation, although she intends to keep the original menu and freeze the prices for one year.

"We will not be open in the evening. We can't afford to stay open for those who just want to hang out and drink coffee," she said.

The Ainger previously belonged to Calumet college, but was turned over to Atkinson when the new Calumet buildings were due to be completed.

Kaitsis said she is uncertain of the Ainger's future.

"I wanted to do a reno job but this may only be a short-term venture," she said. "There are rumours that someone may be taking over the catering on campus."

Rob Castle, manager of the centre, said he hired non-union cleaners to save money.

"When push came to shove, there was a significant dollar figure difference, we're talking \$100,000 a year," Castle said. "We had to be very concerned about how delicate the financial arrangements are."

CUPE has filed a grievance with the university, according to Lehto.

Prez calls for third campus

York should have a third campus in the outer suburbs, according to York University President Harry Arthurs.

And if we don't build one soon, somebody might beat us to it, Arthurs told a York Senate working group in June.

"There is enormous local demand. We haven't grown as fast as the increase in demand."

Arthurs' remarks were part of an ongoing York Senate debate on the president's latest Green Paper, which calls for new faculties of Medicine, Information Science and Design and Communications, as well as a third campus.

Arthurs' Green Paper says the third campus should be built in York or Durham regions during the next twenty years, although it does not provide any detailed proposal.

President quits

York University President Harry Arthurs announced he would make this his final year.

In a May interview, Arthurs said he plans to return to Osgoode Hall law school in June of 1992 to resume teaching.

During his six-year tenure, Arthurs had to deal with a dismal lack of government funds and a half-built university. His initiatives in-

Nikki Gershbnain, internal vice president for the federation says the increase will likely be brought to students with a referendum in October or November.

Taleski could not give any figures for a 1992 increase. "We have to let the program stabilize itself before we can determine anything," he said. "An increase might not even be necessary."

The Blue Cross plan — which all full-time students pay along with tuition — was introduced last September after a successful 1989 referendum. The plan covers 100 percent of the cost of prescription drugs, oral contraceptives and several other benefits.

This year the plan's premium will be included automatically with tuition. According to Taylor, less than 50 percent of eligible students bothered to add the fee to their tuition last year.

Students covered by outside plans will first have to pay the Blue Cross fee and then apply for a refund. Refund applications are available from the federation's office.

Province trashes York fee

The provincial government rejected an extra fee the York administration wanted to charge students.

The levy fee, which would total \$5 per full-time course, was to be charged automatically with tuition starting September 1992.

But representatives from the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities told Excalibur the fee was unacceptable.

"I think the government is very aggressive about not having back-door tuition increases," said Dianne Crocker, an officer for the ministry.

The ministry sets tuition fees for all Ontario universities. However, administrations and student groups are allowed to charge ancillary fees on top of tuition.

Normally, ancillary fees are used to pay for specific programs and projects — such as York's student centre and recreational facilities. But the new fee would have directly entered the university's capital budget.

Big birds on Ross roof

A brood of Peregrine falcons are living on the roof of the Ross building.

The falcons, considered an endangered species, were released from captivity onto the roof of the Ross by the Ministry of Natural Resources, which considers the building very similar to a falcon's natural environment.

"It's real high up, and it's a lot like a natural nesting area," said Dan Quik, a ministry employee. "There are plenty of updrafts and thermals. This makes it easy for the birds to fly off the 'cliff' and catch their prey."

The birds, the largest in North America, will eat "almost anything," Quik said, including the pigeons which plague the building.

The birds are likely to stay on the roof of the building for several months, until they have learned to fly with enough confidence to migrate south.

Health care costs more

Full time students are paying higher fees for health insurance this year, and may face a referendum for larger increases in 1992, the York Federation of Students says.

This year's fee will increase 15 percent from last year, resulting in a charge of around \$60, said David Taylor, the federation's health care plan administrator.

This is in line with general increases in health care costs, said the federation's insurance broker, Brad Taleski.

"Drugs, health care and hospital costs have gone up by 22 percent across Canada," Taleski explained, adding that York's 15 percent increase will be below that level.

There is a strong possibility of even greater increases next year, said Taylor.

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Breast repressed

University of Guelph student gets arrested trying to catch a breeze

9

Feminism is alive and well and living at York

Six York women discuss why they became feminists and the frustrations and rewards they encounter.

14

Meet this year's crop of student politicians

Excal finds out what they have to say about sex, politics and their worst nightmares.

12

Newspaper clinic

Excal offers information on pest control, drinking control and self-control in a new health column.

23

Chowing down at York

With five bucks in hand, Ian Kelso tries to find a decent meal on campus.

25

Books for cheap

Where to get the best second-hand books for your buck.

35

disorient yourself

