

York Housing aids disabled woman without home

By LEEELLEN CARROLL

With the help of York University, Toronto Mayor Art Eggleton is one step away from fulfilling his promise to Kim Beeston, a 22-year-old thalidomide victim.

Beeston, born without legs, has been living in Vanier Residence since July 11, when she first arrived here from Vancouver.

Beeston said she was forced to search for alternative housing as the summer came to a close. Unable to find housing to suit her special needs, Beeston staged a 24-hour 'camp-out' in August at Nathan Phillips Square to solicit help from the city.

Eggleton contacted York and consequently the University granted Beeston and her boyfriend, David Savage, permission to stay in Vanier Residence.

Because undergraduate residences during the summer months are rented only on a temporary basis under the management of York's Conference Centre, Savage and Beeston were then moved to the guest suite in Bethune Residence on September 18, where they would no longer occupy space reserved for students. Although the young couple was required to move to Bethune, Beeston says Vanier offers the best facilities to those in wheelchairs.

York Provost Tom Meininger said the university received calls from Metro Special Services, which asked for the assistance of the University on behalf of the mayor. "They are here because, in my judgement, the university was asked to provide help to an individual with a handicap facing difficulty in finding acceptable housing, and we are helping in the short term. The city, of course, has found them housing for November 1," said Meininger.

"We thought we were guaranteed an apartment at the Charles Hastings Cooperative on Elm Street," said Beeston. "What I didn't know was that I had to go through meeting after meeting after meeting. We're still not sure," she continued.

That means Beeston and Savage may need to live on York's campus for a period longer than had been anticipated. Metro Social Services is not providing financial help and Beeston is "not really sure" if York is providing any funds. Neither Beeston nor Savage are employed.

Beeston and Savage said they feel that the university has truly helped them out. "Perhaps they're trying too hard. But we won't knock them. A car would be no fun to live in," Beeston said.

"We participated in orientation week (in Vanier)," said Beeston, "and we have a lot of friends there. We still go back and forth to visit."

YUFA executive attacks Commission as "faulty"

By ELLIOTT SHIFF

The York University Faculty Association (YUFA) Executive made its presentation to the Bovey Commissions on Friday, September 21, choosing not to directly address what they termed the "faulty premises" on which the Commission has based its discussion paper.

Charging that the principle aim of the Bovey Commission is cutting costs, the Executive decided not to answer the Commission's question's as currently framed, so as not to "legitimize the government's restraint policy," said YUFA representative Bob Drummond. The YUFA presentation also voiced its fears over the more centralized government control, which they feel is imminent, due to the nature of the Commission.

Citing the appointment of a three-person commission last December to develop an operational plan for restructuring the University system, YUFA pointed out "the Minister of Colleges and Universities decided to by-pass not only her own departmental bureaucracy, but also the Ontario Council of University Affairs," thereby eliminating the normal channels



York University commuter students are finding the crowded rush-hour TTC service from Wilson Station an experience not designed for claustrophobics

Bovey challenges York's brief

By GRAHAM THOMPSON

Edmund Bovey, Chairman of The Commission on the Future Development of the Universities of Ontario, was diplomatic but blunt during York's presentation to the Commission last Friday.

"You've all done a very poor job selling your story to those who make the financial decisions (about universities), said Bovey to York's Acting President Bill Found during the discussion period of the three hour briefing.

"It's been the same old story for ten years. I'm looking for a better way to sell your decisions to others. Think in terms of realistic ways to help convince those who make the decisions," said Bovey.

Last Monday Found said Bovey was not being confrontational, but only "trying to be realistic; looking for a better way to improve," the university system in Ontario.

The hearing began at 3pm when Found presented the York delegation's introductory remarks. Found was accompanied by the Deans of the various Faculties at York, the University's Vice Presidents, key members from the Board of Governors and other highly placed university dignitaries.

In his introductory remarks Found outlined the university's objections to some statements in the Bovey Commission's discussion paper *Issues and Alternatives*, released in June, and

explained the changes York wished to see in Ontario's education system.

Found was concerned with statements made in Bovey's discussion paper that said the amount of a university's budget which is derived from research contracts and grants "somehow indicated that institution's 'seriousness about research'."

"This is mistaken—a rather simplistic interpretation geared to the view that only research in the sciences, engineering, and medicine is important within a university," said Found.

Found also took the Commission to task for implying that the quality of a university can be judged by its percentage of Ontario scholars (students entering university with an average high school grade of 80 percent and better).

"This statistic is more reflective of the kind of programmes—particularly professional programmes—available in a university than of the university's commitment to quality," said Found.

York is "giving consideration to reducing (existing) enrolments if the quality of education could be enhanced further," said Found.

"The fact is that general accessibility to university, at least on a regional basis, is no longer available in the greater Toronto area," continued Found.

After Found's introductory remarks Bovey asked him "what process of planning brought you to this point where you are in serious diffi-

culty? Was there not a point where you could have capped it?"

Found replied that the university "had to do everything in our power to accommodate students."

Commissioner Fraser Mustard asked why the university didn't do what hospitals in Ontario have done when, at a certain point of overcrowding, "they simply say no more patients." That "sounds like a cop-out," said Found.

Professor James Gillies, Faculty of Administrative Studies, proposed a novel scheme to help increase funding for the university system in Ontario.

Gillies said a surtax should be levied on past users of the university system who have increased their income because of their education.

"Those who benefit the most from the university system should put back into the system," said Gillies. "If they don't make it, they don't pay it back. I think that is the only way we're going to solve it," continued Gillies.

At this point Anthony Hampson of the Board of Governors said "we do have to get the user to pay more, at the back end or the front end." Asked about the possibility of doubling fees by Bovey Hampson said he would not want that to happen overnight, but that it would be "workable if you had loans to protect against," discouraging "good people from coming," to York.



Edmund Bovey (l) and Fraser Mustard listen during the day-long Commission hearings in the Senate Chambers last Friday.