



PHOTO: RICHARD UNDERHILL

The world was waiting for the Sun rise: Jazz guru and musical giant Sun Ra was in town at Larry's Hideaway last week. X-cal has the complete lowdown on the momentous event. See page 8.

No irregularities

Bette Stephenson's claim that York takes unqualified students is unfounded, according to Administration officials

By DAVID SPIRO

In response to a query from the Ministry of Education, York University has conducted a thorough computer search which has revealed no irregularities in the credentials of York University's freshman class.

Last week Minister of Education Dr. Bette Stephenson, said for a fact that "York has accepted some students who have not completed the complement of credits required for a secondary school diploma."

Sheldon Levy, York's Associate Vice-President in charge of Management Information and Planning, says that every single one of the 8,888 grade 13 students who had received offers of admission had in fact accumulated the required credits needed in order to graduate from grade 13.

The results of the computer check satisfied Levy who remarked that "the last time we did it we had a number of errors—I was surprised that there were no errors (this time)." He added that a similar computer search was scheduled to be done in October and speculated that this latest exercise would probably

make the next computer search easier.

"We wouldn't want to go around intentionally admitting unqualified students," says Levy, but he confirms that "all universities can accept non grade 13 students." Citing the large number of mature students, visa students and others from outside Ontario, and those who have entered York through community colleges, Levy emphasizes that "there are other criteria besides grade 13" involved in admission decisions.

President H. Ian Macdonald believes that "a mistake could have been made" and understands the Ministry's concerns. The government, in his view, "wants to be assured that the universities are admitting bona fide students." The Ministry has already been informed that, in Levy's words "we have found no irregularities which would lead us to rescind any offers of acceptance."

When Stephenson was contacted, a secretary said she was not available. An aide to the minister, Warren Gerrard, repeatedly refused to offer comment on the computer search conducted by the University.

Concerts canned

By GARY SYMONS

The first, and possibly the last, of a series of free pop concerts was cancelled while still in progress in Central Square Courtyard last Thursday.

The concert, held in order to promote Radio York and local rock bands, was cancelled at approximately 2:30 p.m., leaving two considerably irate bands left to play. This first abortive attempt to bring local bands to York featured A Ritual, Diatribe, The Hoodoos and The Rheostatics.

Jack Moore, the manager of the Conference Centre and who originally OK'd the concerts, said he regretted having to stop the event. But "the great diversity of complaints and of people complaining made it impossible for the concert to continue," he said. The CYSF got complaints, Mr. Becker (of Student Services) got complaints, and so did food services.

Greg Ryder, chief organizer of the concert for Radio York, said he felt no bitterness over the event, conceding that there was an unexpected noise problem. He was, however, not happy to have the concert canceled only halfway through.

"We put a lot of our own time and money into this," Ryder said. "A lot of the bandmembers had to take time off work to come out here."

Ryder did agree with Moore's claim that there was a problem of noise, and didn't blame Moore

for stopping the concert. Although a member of The Hoodoos, Tim Roland, was heard to say that "at least bad sound is better than no sound."

Despite problems with sound and outraged professors, all involved felt the concert series should be continued, albeit at a more suitable time and place. Radio York staff believe the concerts are a vital part of their campaign to gain popularity and support.

Kevin Kelley, Radio York program director, said the stations' ultimate goal was to become accessible to the community and promote local talent through the airwaves. He said the barrier facing them is a lack of funds and an image problem left from the previous management.

That, according to Dave Bidini, another station worker and member of The Rheostatics, is why the concerts are so important. "If we're ever going to gain the popularity we need," he said, "we'll need more support from the top and more student involvement. This (the concert series) is a good way to reach a lot of people."

While the future of the concert series remains in doubt, the organizers still have hope. Moore agrees that the concerts do perform a useful function and expressed regret that there are no proper facilities for such an event, such as a Student Union Building. He added that he is willing to consider a noon-hour concert in some other location.

University funding at all-time low: Liberal leader Peterson

By CAROL BRUNT

Funding for higher education, particularly as it pertains to York, has become a contentious issue between the province's Liberals and Education Minister Bette Stephenson, according to Ontario Liberal Leader David Peterson.

Peterson was the keynote speaker on post-secondary funding at the first meeting of the York Student Liberals yesterday in the Senate Chamber.

He said funding has been at less than the rate of inflation for the past 10 years and "there is tremendous competition for finite dollars. Those involved in higher education are vulnerable." He said the Liberals disagree with funding procedures at present and believe the principle of universal access "has been eroded in a number of ways."

About one in five youths between the ages of 15-24 are unemployed today and Peterson sees this rate remaining. "We're finding approximately half of our young people entering the market with no marketable skills. They have nothing to fight the economic wars and this is being compounded year by year. Ours (Liberal) is a basic, deep commitment to mobilize the skills of young people to help them fight in the market place."

The session continued with a question and answer period during which the issues of Stephenson's recent charge—that York was admitting unqualified students—medicare, abortion, and Ontario tourism were raised.

According to Peterson, Stephen-

son's charge "shows how far the relationship has deteriorated that she'd make a charge like this," referring presumably to the relationship between the province and the universities. "I believe it's silliness of the worst type."

Regarding funding, Peterson said that "we have the lowest per capita funding rate. By any comparison, we are not only the worst in Canada, but in North America."

"No one takes her (Stephenson) seriously any more. There's a very nice side to her but she's accident prone, spending the majority of her time removing her foot from her mouth," he said.

Peterson said the Liberals are committed to university funding and admittedly would fund universities at least the rate of inflation. "The single most important commodity we have is an educated population."



The Minister of Education Bette Stephenson accused York of admitting unqualified students last week.