

# The House of Commons will reconvene at York

By GARRY MARR

The House of Commons will reconvene this Friday at York University.

Over 100 York students, representing the Conservative, Liberal, and New Democratic parties, will participate in York's first ever model parliament at Founders Dining Hall this weekend. The ceremonies will begin with the reading of the Throne Speech Friday night and will conclude Sunday with a confidence vote on free trade.

Progressive Conservative Stephen Ried, a third-year political science major, will act as House Speaker. He began to organize the event last July with help from Liberal Steve Thiele, a second-year Osgoode student, and New Democrat David Hanley, an Economics graduate.

"The idea had been flinging around for the past two years," said Reid. "The problem was trying to get it together."

Reid figures his party has solved some of its problems by appointing David Gilinsky, former CYSF Vice-President of Finance, as party whip. The Conservatives will be holding a

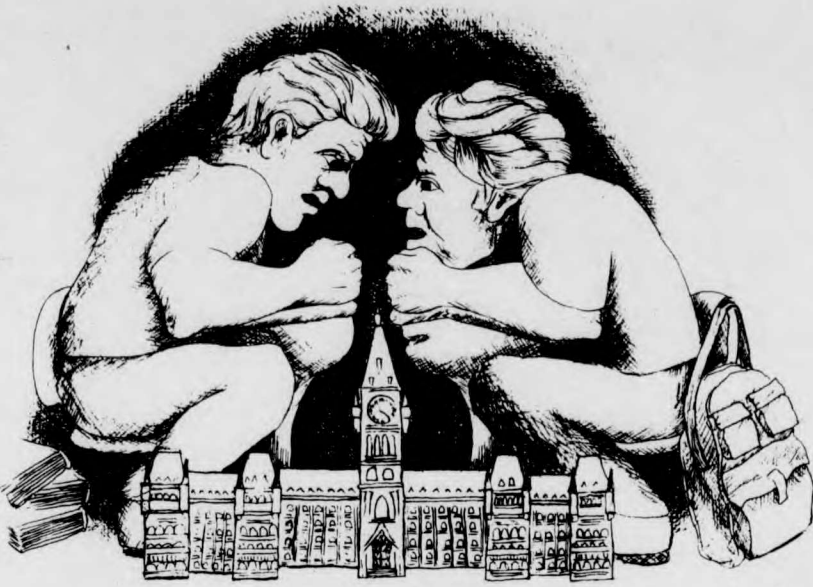


ILLUSTRATION: DAWN CUMMINGS

majority of seats when The House reconvenes; the breakdown is 64 PC, 30 Liberal, and 16 NDP.

The environmentalist Green Party is also expected to field members.

MPs are expected to come mostly from Ontario, but there will be some regional representation. Secretary of State Jean Grenier will deliver a speech in French. There will also be

several bilingual members from Glendon College.

The mock session will not be without some pomp and ceremony as several Ottawa MPs will appear. Patrick Boyer, the member for Etobicoke Lakeshore, will be on hand, as will fellow Conservative Alan Redway, who will open the free trade debate on Sunday.

Liberal Sergio Marchi is also expected to make an appearance.

Conservative Prime Minister Glen McQueenie, a political science graduate, will face fierce opposition as his party tries to push through some controversial legislation during the three-day session. Legislation will cover defence, immigration, the environment, women's issues, privatization, and senate reform.

Remo Paglia, a third-year history student, will act as International Trade Minister, while Andrew Feldstein will hold the Minister of State for privatization portfolio. The opposition will have its chance at McQueenie and his ministers during two question periods on Saturday and one on Sunday.

But McQueenie will first have to consult with the Governor General before recalling Parliament. History professor John T. Saywell will act as Governor General and Reid indicated Saywell is not taking the job lightly.

"He's demanded the prime minister meet with him before the House reconvenes, or he'll dissolve Parliament," said Reid.

The three-day event is expected to cost \$325. The CYSF has provided printing and phone access, but the key ingredient to the session is student involvement.

Reid said he hopes to hold another model parliament next year.

"We hope this sets a precedent," said Reid. "Other universities have had model parliaments and we have had to go there [to participate]."

## Create your own major

By NANCY PHILLIPS

Few students are aware of York's Individualized Studies Programme, even though it has been around for over 13 years. About 15 people currently participate in the programme, which allows students to design their own course of study.

Co-ordinator of Individualized Studies Professor Tom Cohen said students who wish to major in a subject not officially listed in the calendar can organize their own specialized honours programme with an advisor.

Cohen said the programme is "a nucleus of invention. New ways of thinking initiated in the programme may become an institution. Things that used to be done in it are now real programmes." Canadian Studies and Women's Studies are examples.

Cohen said that students with B+ averages and above in first year are best suited to the programme. Ideal candidates should be good at inquiry and constructing arguments, he said.

Victoria Hestler is a third-year student concentrating on intentional social change. She is taking courses in sociology, anthropology, history, political science, and social science. She said that Individualized Studies was ideal because "I wanted to draw on several disciplines and a double major wouldn't do it."

She said her programme "forces courses to hang together, to relate to each other." She said Individualized Studies provides a much richer intellectual experience than the "salad bar of learning" of regular majors.

### "salad bar of learning"

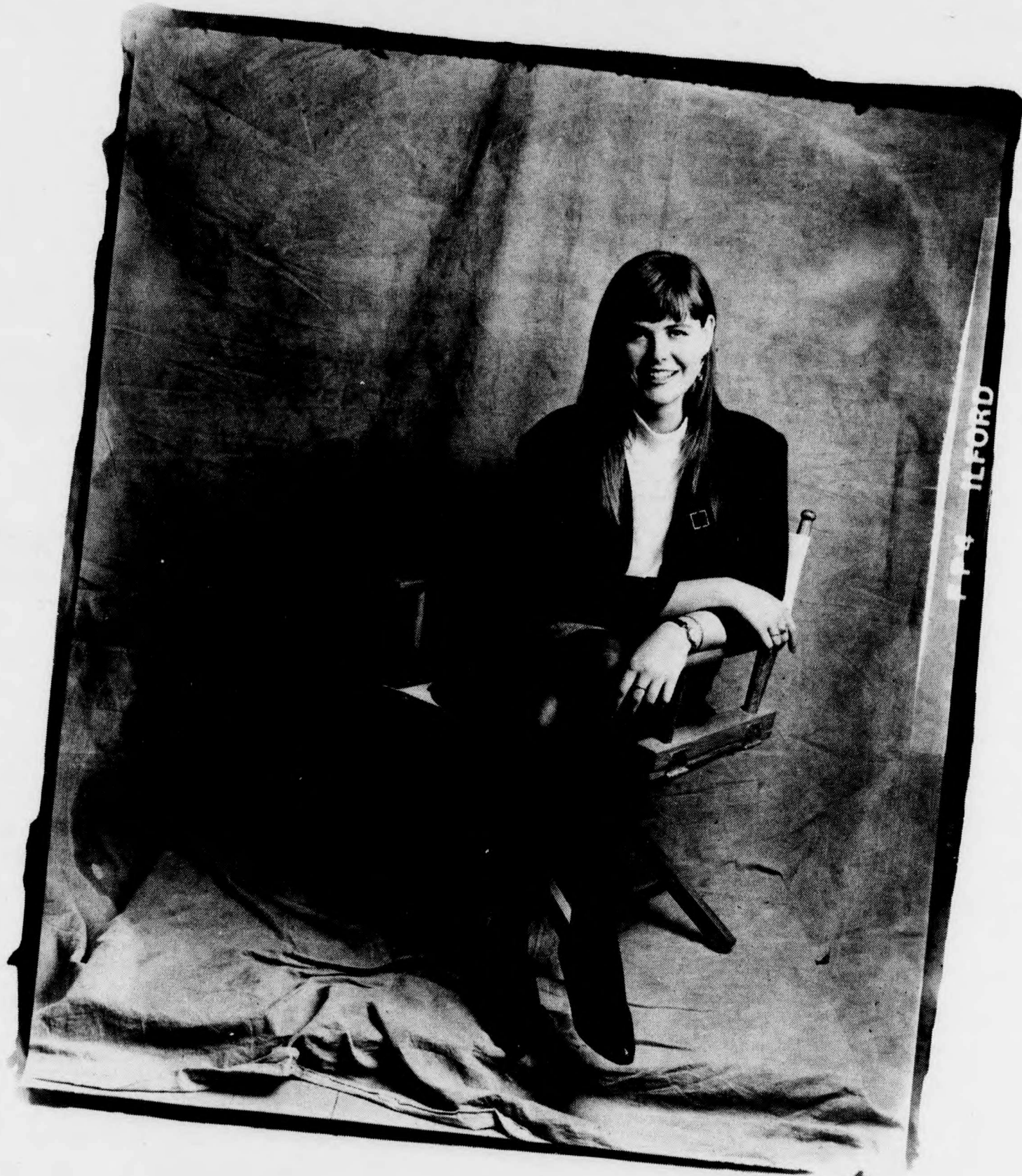
Janine Amber is a third-year student majoring in Canadian Cultural Studies. She is drawing on courses from Fine Arts, English, Canadian history, Humanities, and other departments.

"I think it's a great programme," she said. "I was in Fine Arts and I felt I was limited because I wasn't allowed to take Canadian history, literature, and a few mass communications courses that were interesting. I'd like to work in the promotion and development of the arts community in Canada, in the media, or arts administration," she said.

Cohen would like to see more students involved in Individualized Studies.

"I'm sure there are people who are unaware of it, and I'm trying to open it up," he said.

Victoria Hestler said Cohen "has just been outstanding. He's a plus to the programme and a great support."



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