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No more studying . . . please! Second-year Psychology major Claire White is one of thousands of York students swamped with essays, exams, and other miscellaneous assignments as the semester draws to a speedy close.

Controversy surrounds racism report

Macdonald's statement angers Committee Against Racial Discrimination

By GREG GAUDET
and GRAHAM THOMPSON

Members of the Committee Against Racial Discrimination at York (CARDY) said Monday that President H. Ian Macdonald's statement on his Review Committee on racism is "a deliberate misrepresentation of the facts."

CARDY has also called on the President to make public a report the group says may include defamation of senior University officials.

Macdonald's statement, made last week, includes recommendations that the University Provost (to be appointed in early 1984) assist in developing "policies, procedures, and programs" dealing with campus life; that information-sharing between the Safety and Security, Housing, and Student Relations offices be improved; and that the University improve its sensitivity with respect to issues of racism and sexism.

The Review Committee prompting the statement was established last year after York graduate Janice Joseph was allegedly racially harassed by psychology student Grant Austin.

In addition to recommending Austin's expulsion from York—an action the University rejected—the Review Committee produced two final reports—one of which was submitted to Macdonald on 3 August 1983.

It's the second report which the controversy revolves around. Written by two CARDY members on the Review Committee out of a concern that the first was inadequate, the report was backed as the majority Review Committee report and was submitted to Macdonald on 31 October 1983.

CARDY member and co-author of the second report Teresa Hibbert said "Macdonald does not refer to both reports in his statement. He completely ignored the whole set of findings and recommendations submitted in the report by representatives from CARDY."

Hibbert said Macdonald's statement is "inaccurate" and that "this is an unequal situation in terms of resources. Macdonald can go on record with distorted statements and can use University funds to do it." CARDY members are attempting to raise funds to publish their response to Macdonald's statement.

According to Hibbert, "Macdonald shows only the University's response after the events. But the essential point is that the University only responded under duress and then under pressure from CARDY."

In an interview last week, Macdonald admitted that "if particular situations reach this office, they are serious," referring to the Joseph incident. "In 10 years, this is the only non-academic discipline case which has come to my office," he said.

Another issue surrounding the second report is the question of its being made public.

"I have no problem in principle with releasing reports," said Macdonald. But he also said that the Review Committee's second report had problems which might prevent him from making it public.

In a letter sent to CARDY on Monday, Macdonald said he had "decided that York University will not approve, or participate in, the circulation of the (Review Committee's second) report." He noted that conclusions and opinions were not supported by proper evidence and that certain references "possibly defamed" Vice-President (Employee and Student Relations) William Farr, Assistant Vice-President (Student Relations) John Becker, Manager of Housing and Food Services Norman Crandles, and Director of the Office of Safety and Security George Dunn.

Hibbert said "we (CARDY) will do our best to present to the community the (second) report." Hibbert also wants to set up a public forum to discuss the issue.

Universities face identity crisis: Stephenson

By LILY CONTENTO

Ontario's Community colleges are gaining status, while universities face an identity crisis, according to Minister of Colleges and Universities Dr. Bette Stephenson.

Stephenson was expressing her views on the future of post-secondary education to 22 community college student association presidents on the first of a three-day conference on the weekend. The conference, organized by Centennial College, was held at Howard Johnson's in Markham.

"The division of tasks between colleges and universities is becoming less clear," said Stephenson. "Universities are on the horns of the dilemma, not the colleges." Stephenson waged concern over the "lack of rationality in Ontario's Universities," but said that colleges continue to be responsive to students' and employers' needs.

She proposed a redirection of goals for universities, urging that they "limit their

education to those fields in which they specialize." She said universities are trying to cover areas that they know nothing about. By contrast, she referred to colleges as "the greatest educational success story."

"The task of a university is to discover new truths about the world and the task of a college is to apply that truth to the world," she said. She advised students to establish their goals. "We must know where we're going," she said.

Stephenson informed the student presidents of a new educational structure for colleges which will come into effect next year. She said a college diploma will require almost double the number of credits than in the present system.

In a question and answer period Stephenson acknowledged Seneca College's concern over high enrolment, saying "measures have been taken to deal with the problem." She noted the current use of elementary schools, portables, and factories as a class replacement. In reference to York's overcrowded classrooms,

the Minister said: "You think that you've (York) invented overcrowded classrooms; but we had exactly the same problem 40 years ago," adding, "some courses have higher attendance than others."

According to Stephenson, demographers have advised that there will be a decline in enrolment in 1984, for both colleges and universities. However, "it is predicted that universities will be affected more than the colleges," she said.

In an interview later Stephenson addressed the issue of tuition fees at York. She explained that tuition fees are increased in direct relation to the increase in grants given to the university. She said student pay 53 percent of the cost of their education because "it is believed that taxpayers should not share this cost."

Stephenson said she wants better relations between national governments, so that tuition fees paid by visa student could be decreased.

Legal basis for Bearpit ban, Fire Marshal says

By GARY SYMONS

York administration has a legal basis to ban events in the Bearpits, political or otherwise, that could cause congestion, according to University Fire Marshal E.C. Richards.

Richards said a 1978 directive, issued by the North York Fire Department, "indicates the Bearpits should only be used as a mixing area for students, not for any activity causing congestion."

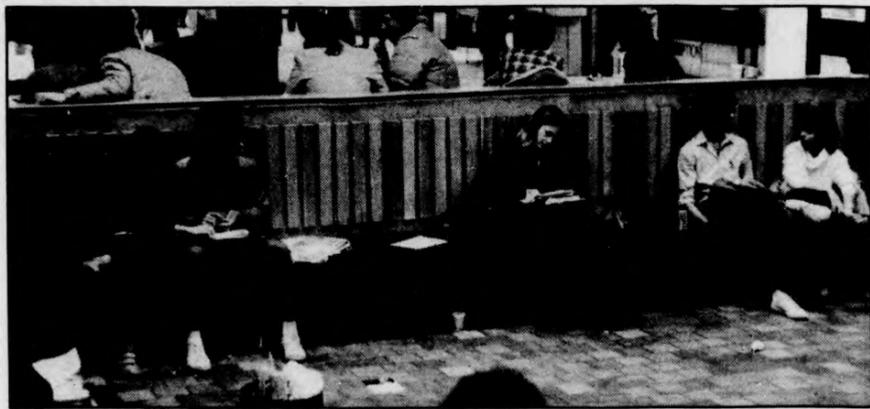
He said reinforcement of the directive was originally assigned to York's Ancillary Services, but the responsibility was later handed over to the Conference Centre. The Centre's manager, Jack Moore, this year declared "all crowd-generating activities, including political forums, be banned from the Bearpits."

The problem, according to Richards, is crowding of passageways adjacent to the Bearpits and an "inadequate number of exits from the Central Square area for the number of people."

The fire department directive did, however, allow entrepreneurial tables to be placed in Central Square provided "a 12-foot wide passageway is maintained."

This week fire department officials resurveyed the Central Square Concourse area at the request of Dr. George Bell, vice-president of External Relations and University Development. But Richards said he expects no reversal of the 1978 position on Bearpit activities.

According to Richards, the investigation was requested because of increased congestion problems this year and because "a reassess-



Life goes on in the Bearpits.

ment was needed in terms current Fire and Building Safety code requirements that are generally more strict than the previous code."

"We're not preventing anyone from having a rally," said Bell. "We're simply trying to administer the space for the general good—within regulation."

John McNamee, chairperson of the York Association for Peace (YAP), disputes administration's position that canceling Bearpit activities, especially political rallies, is necessary to remain within the "spirit" of the fire safety regulations. "I really don't see how the fire safety business is relevant. The dispute is really whether the activities cause too much congestion or not," he said.

McNamee's group was the first to be affected by the ban when they were refused the Bearpit

area for a forum on the nuclear disarmament issue last month.

"Political forums don't bring more people into Ross. The people coming to the meetings are already in Central Square," said McNamee, contending the fire departments claim that there's an insufficient number of exits.

McNamee proposed a solution to the problem—a "compromise" that he hoped would "satisfy all parties." "One thing we could do," he said, "is monitor meetings and not allow too many people to attend. As long as we allowed 10 feet or so for people to pass in, there would be no problem."

He said YAP and other groups would continue to oppose the closing of the Bearpits by taking their protests directly to administration.