

Underfunding rally draws thousands to help 'Stop the Gap'

By JAMES FLAGAL
and PAULETTE PEIROL

In a collective demand for the Ontario government to "stop the gap" between current university funding and the \$170-million needed to match the national average, thousands gathered at U of T's Convocation Hall last Thursday.

Ontario post secondary institutions rank ninth in government funding, and this year's grant increase of four percent barely equalled the inflation rate.

Brian Segal, president of Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, stressed that "this very serious measure (the rally), which was taken with no sense of joy and great reservation, reflects the breadth of our plight and the depth of our alliance."

Initiated by the presidents of York, U of T, Ryerson, and the Metro Post Secondary Coalition, the protest drew close to 5,000 students, faculty, and staff from York, U of T, Ryerson, the Ontario College of Art (OCA), and the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE). Classes were cancelled at each institution to allow students to attend the protest.

York chartered eight buses to drive supporters to the rally, and Gerard Blink, president of the Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF), estimated York's turnout to be about 500 people. Metro police said that there were close to 2,000 people jammed in Convocation Hall, which seats 1,700. An additional 2,500 people, according to Sean Meagher, a member of the U of T Staff Association and one of the rally's organizers, listened to the proceedings through loudspeakers

outside the hall.

A U of T organist and the University's marching band generated enthusiasm before the speeches, with the organist playing the Rolling Stones' "You Can't Always Get What You Want (But if you try sometime... you'll get what you need)." The crowd was a colourful one, with OCA's pink balloons bobbing above heads and U of T's engineering students donning yellow hardhats.

Banners and placards, proclaiming such phrases as "Underfunding makes no cents," and "More Dollars for your Scholars," abounded. Although there were a few hecklers in the crowd and Progressive Conservative party leader Larry Grossman was booed upon taking the podium, the protest was a peaceful one.

The presidents of York, U of T and Ryerson, leaders of the Progressive Conservative party and the New Democratic party, representatives of staff, faculty and students, plus Gregory Sorbara, Minister of Colleges and Universities, all spoke for their specific constituencies. In addition, John Polanyi, who won a Nobel prize just the day before, addressed the crowd who gave the U of T professor a standing ovation.

As the proceedings opened, Ryerson President Brian Segal explained that the protest was meant "not to condemn but to encourage the government to take that bold step." Midway through the rally, Polanyi offered a more dubious perspective, asking if universities were not "relying rather more heavily on God than

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STEPHEN WISE

SENDING THE MESSAGE LOUD AND CLEAR: Nearly 5,000 students converged on Convocation Hall last Thursday to protest underfunding of Ontario universities.

Forum gives York community a chance to voice security concerns

By PAULETTE PEIROL

While the York community is demanding more say in the planning of security measures, Security Services requests that students begin taking certain precautions to enhance safety and security on campus.

These were the predominant views expressed at the "Forum on Campus Security," organized by the Office of the Provost and Catherine Lake, the director of Women's Affairs for the Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF). Tuesday's open forum was attended by 35-40 people, who raised a wide variety of topics ranging from the accuracy of crime statistics to publicizing emergency services available at York.

Moderating the forum was York Provost Thomas Meininger, who called upon those in the seven member panel to answer queries. Included in the panel were Jack Santarelli, director of Safety and Security Services, Gill Teiman, coordinator of the Sexual Harassment Centre, and Inspector Bob Kerr of 31 division. Members of the audience, such as John Becker, the Assistant Vice President of Business Operations and Donald Dawson of Physical Plant, also responded to questions.

The forum generated examples of new security measures recently taken and new policies under consideration. These included:

- Last Tuesday, one new vehicle was added to the escort service, making the total fleet three.
- Seven telephones, which can be used free of charge and connect automatically with security lines, have been installed in parking lot booths which have been marked by blue lights at night.
- The parking lot booths will now be manned until 10:30 p.m.
- Two extra student security members will be on foot patrol on campus.
- A petition signed by 1,200 people requesting improved security services was given to Meininger by Lake. Meininger will forward the petition to the President's Office.
- York photo identification cards and also a Campus Watch system are currently under consideration by the

department of Safety and Security and by the Administration.

Lake opened the forum by stressing the need for concrete action rather than further inquests and surveys. "The time for reports is over," she said, adding that students should have continual input on matter of security.

Lake noted that six security staff members working per shift is clearly "insufficient." It was for these reasons, she said, that the petition for improved security (initiated during the bearpit rally protesting assaults on women September 23) was being forwarded to the President's office.

Meininger then opened the floor to questions. Concern was raised about the levels of crime in Downsview and at York. Inspector Kerr reported that there has been "a rash of robberies" in the Jane-Finch area, inflicted mainly on taxi drivers and delivery men.

Kerr noted that "there has been a great deal of publicity about victims of crime . . . I think that more and more people are now reporting cases of sexual assault." When asked for specific statistics on sexual assaults, Kerr said that there were a total of seven major sexual assaults in the 31 district during the past year.

Santarelli said that on York's campus there were only two sexual assaults in 1986. "We're concerned that these cases of sexual assault not (be) blown out of proportion," he added.

Meininger later qualified Santarelli's figure, saying that in 1986 there were "15 incidents on campus of violence with sexual overtones. To my knowledge, no rapes have occurred in the past two years," he said, "although there were two attempted rapes and three to four cases of aggravated sexual assault on campus since September, "but these figures won't tell us about sexual harassment on campus (since) not many cases will be reported at all." Teiman stressed, "I want to know the extent of sexual assault on campus," and called for more rape awareness, education, and information on sexual harassment on campus.

Naomi Black, Advisor to the Pres-

ident on the status of women, offered two examples which may not normally be considered sexual harassment, but are of relevance to the issue. She described the case of "the foot fondler" in the Scott library, who repeatedly fondled women's feet, and another instance of a man masturbating outside a woman's residence window. In this latter case, the woman became hysterical and "felt violated."

Black said that because these incidents were not considered "dangerous or life-threatening," they were ignored by security. "It's not the actual danger but the fact that it feels dangerous" that is important, according to Black. People would feel safer seeing security walking around, she added.

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York student alarmed by man with gun on campus

By LAUREN PAUL

When a York student recently asked a man in McLaughlin College for a light he instead produced a gun and threatened "to kill someone."

York Security is investigating the October 7th incident, but have yet to find a suspect.

The student, who requested that her name be withheld, said that she was with two friends and had just finished writing a test at about 12:30 p.m. when the incident occurred. She left her friends in the foyer by the north doors of the college and walked around the corner to find someone to light her cigarette.

Seeing a man smoking a pipe, the student asked him for a light. The man then pulled a silver gun out of his pocket and told her "I'm going to kill someone." When asked "pardon?" the man repeated "I'm going to kill someone." He then lit the student's cigarette.

The student asked the man why he was intent on killing. The man replied, in a heavy accent, "If someone makes me mad enough my son told me to kill them." He then opened the barrel of the gun and showed the student one bullet.

"I wasn't thinking of safety," the student told Excalibur. "You'd ask someone older rather than younger for a light." The man, wearing a red sweater and a brown suit, was "about 50-60 years old," reported the student. York Security describes

the offender as mildly plump, unshaven, and having a dark complexion and grey hair.

After the incident, the student immediately left the building, accompanied by her two friends. Soon after, they re-entered the college and approached Professor Malcolm Westcott, with whom they were taking a social psychology class. Westcott told the students to call York Security.

After calling Security, the three students returned to the site of the assault, but by then, the man had left. The victim said that three security guards arrived within minutes. Eric Pond of Safety and Security Services, said that four security staff arrived on the scene, two in uniform and two in plainclothes. One of the four left to search for the offender, who was not found. "Security was excellent," said the victim.

"It's a big campus and not in the greatest area . . . what more can they (Security) do?" said one of the victim's friends, who was present during the incident but wishes to remain anonymous.

"It was shocking," said the victim, "since I had read in the paper (*Excalibur*) about the (attempted) rape and everything, (but) I didn't think it could happen to me. I'm not afraid of school, but now the latest I stay on campus is 5 p.m." The student added that "staying calm helped a lot; I didn't run away."