

# New formula unnerves potential students

By CAROL BRUNT

The recent announcement by Education Minister Bette Stephenson that "Ontario can no longer guarantee a university education to every qualified high school graduate" has alarmed some potential university applicants.

Faced with this prospect, some grade 13 students from local high schools are unnerved. Mara Biancolin, a senior at Downsview Secondary School, admits she's concerned that she might not be accepted. "I don't think it's fair. All those students that would have had a chance now won't," she said.

Tom Tittel, head of counseling at Downsview S.S., said "the general reaction of grade 13s is that they're scared. They're looking for a lot of reassurance that we (counselors) can't give because we can't speak for the universities or the provincial government."

Stephenson's statement was a response to concerns raised after announced changes in the distribution formula of government funds to universities, and the appointment December 23 of a commission by Stephenson which will address a number of concerns with the present university system.

The new funding formula means that a large portion of government funds will be based on past enrolment figures.

According to York Vice-President Sheldon Levy, the new formula will have a significant

effect on Ontario universities' accessibility. "Each additional student presents a losing proposition at York. I can't speak for other universities but I think it's logical now that each university will take a second look at its enrolment targets, and I don't think one will want to increase its target. The net effect is that first-year enrolment in Ontario universities will go down next year," he said.

Debbie Fillippe, a grade 13 student at York Memorial high school, said, "I think it (inaccessibility) stinks because we're here (in school) and working and trying and if I get the grades, I think I should be guaranteed a place."

Michael Murphy, York Memorial student council president, questions the reasoning of spending 15 years in school if he's going to be denied access to university.

A January 10 Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario/Ontario Federation of Students (CFS-O/OFS) press release states that Stephenson's plans constitute "the end of university education as we have known it."

In response to Stephenson's formation of the commission, CFS-O/OFS Chairperson Ian Nelmes said "universal accessibility as a policy has gone right out the window in the Ministry of Colleges and Universities' mad rush to rationalize a system falling apart from underfunding."

"No one wants to see the quality of

institutions in Ontario go down so I think they (the government) believe they must provide the service to fewer people. We at York never believed that," according to Levy.

"The ministry is saying quite clearly that it can't afford the university system and therefore they are going to change it. Intervention by the government into universities' affairs is not anything that anyone wants to happen," said Levy.

Throughout the summer York waged an unsuccessful war with the ministry in an attempt to prevent the application of a formula that would discourage the university's accessibility policy.

Levy said the university can't stop the fight. He said "other constituencies, if they believe we were right, now have to pick up the ball. The people of Ontario have to get some idea as to what they want out of university."

According to York Alumni Affairs Assistant Director Steve Dranitsaris, his group is in full support of the university's position on accessibility. He said the group is waiting work from York administration for a course of action.

Dranitsaris said the formula will not cut down on the quality of education "but will harm the university's ability to provide educational services to the surrounding community."



Bette Stephenson

Ross Crate, the ministry's university affairs officer, said "there is a limit on the total amount of money available to government."

Recalling the government's response to questioning last fall regarding the number of places available in universities, Crate said universities have not reached the point of saturation.

He said "premature conclusions" are being drawn by the CFS-O/OFS in their statements regarding the future of the university system. This is supposedly to placate grade 13s, said Crate.

# Solicitor-General Bob Kaplan lays down the law at York U.

By JOHN WRIGHT

Solicitor General of Canada Robert Kaplan outlined his legislative plans for the present sitting of Parliament to a group of about 125 York students in the Administrative Studies building last Thursday.

Kaplan is a Member of Parliament for the riding of York West (which includes York). The meeting was sponsored by the York University New Liberals.

Kaplan said he intends to bring down new legislation aimed at helping young offenders. He said the government is taking the position that rather than viewing them as "sick and incapable of responsibility," these 12 to 17-year-olds will be held more accountable for their actions. Also included in his legislation, will be a move away from incarceration as a penalty and instead allowing judges the alternative of a community service sentence.

Kaplan also said he intends to proceed with the proposed security service legislation. He said the legislation, in its final form, will provide "a better system of controls and safeguards intended to respect the rights of the decent while protecting the national interest."

Kaplan pointed out that as Solicitor General he is responsible for the administration of all police forces in Canada. He said he intends to focus police action on the organized aspects of illegal drug trade in Canada. He said it is impossible to prevent drug use without having a policeman at every corner and that the government believes that Canadians are not prepared to invest in such a police effort. By concentrating efforts "at the top," Kaplan hopes to restrict the drug trade as much as possible, given existing police resources.

In the question period following the speech, Kaplan was assailed by members of Jewish

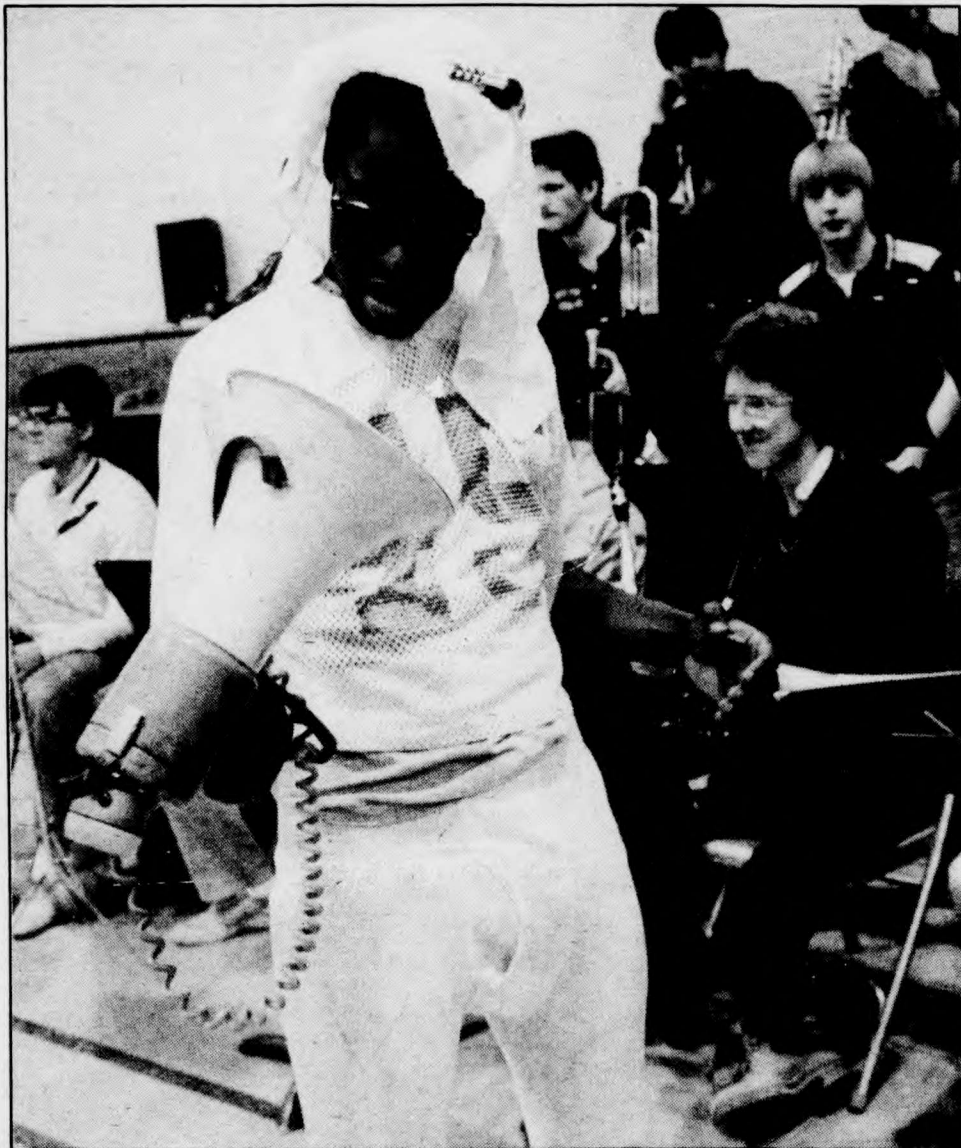
organizations expressing two areas of concern. The first group pressed for a concession that the government had failed to adequately identify and bring to justice World War II criminals. While admitting that one extradition was "nothing to brag about," Kaplan said the action was a start, and that he was continuing to press for the identification and extradition of Nazis in Canada.

Kaplan said he considered a photocopied letter supporting this group's views distributed at the meeting to be slanderous. When asked if Canada could not enact legislation enabling prosecution of these criminals in Canada without extradition, Kaplan said such action would contradict a basic right assumed by Canadian Law.

The laws necessary to prosecute here in Canada would have to be passed after the act had been committed. The principles rejecting such retroactive legislation have been upheld by the Supreme Court and appear entrenched in the new constitution.

The second group at the question period was concerned with an apparent lack of reaction by Canada to human rights violations in Syria. Leaflets, distributed at the entrance to the meeting room, described the plight of Syrian Jews, who are denied full property rights, and are forced to carry special identification. The leaflet also described the murder of a Jewish family.

The group appeared to want Kaplan to criticize Mark McGuigan, Minister of External Affairs, for remarks made in Syria during a visit late last year. Kaplan replied that he would not speak against McGuigan but maintained that Canada would continue to recognize Israel's right to exist and would remain a world leader in support of Israel and its people.



York student displays his mastery of modern technology at basketball doubleheader

# York University climbs over halfway point in fundraising drive

By CAROLINE CHIA

The York University Fund is currently in its third year of a five-year campaign and has earned about \$8.5 million of the \$15 million target university officials are aiming for.

The fund was established in response to the lack of government funding available for various projects. Since the University requires additional resources to achieve and maintain excellence in particular areas, the fund was developed to meet those needs. It also gives York students the opportunity to participate in campus-wide activities.

After getting off to a fast start in 1981 by raising approximately \$5.3 million, the campaign lost some momentum. However, with economic recovery in view, organizers are optimistic about reaching the goal.

According to Gloria Baldwin, assistant director of development of the fund, the campaign is experiencing great participation from York's faculty and staff, as well as from students.

York students have contributed through numerous fundraising activities. Some past

fundraisers included Casino York, the Radio York Lottery, pub nights, talent nights at the colleges, and concerts. York has contributed \$190,000 toward the fund this year alone.

Baldwin said she is pleased with the progress thus far but hopes to see more of York's faculty and staff participating in the campaign.

The monies from the fund will be used to support capital projects such as the construction of buildings, research, computers, telecommunications, teaching equipment, libraries, educational development, and public service and national development. These projects, once completed, will make York one of the best-equipped universities in Ontario, according to Baldwin.

She said recently the emphasis has been placed on building a corporate foundation of support for the fund. Many corporations are taking a vital part in the campaign—they alone make up more than 50 percent of the total contributions, she said.

Each York student donates a flat \$3 to the fund from their tuition fees. Baldwin said we can look forward to more fundraising activities in the future. For instance, Teenage Head plays York January 26 at Stong Dining Hall.

