

OFS funds not approved

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The decision not to approve the increase was made in consultation with York president H. Ian Macdonald, he said.

Student representative to the Board, Shelley Rabinovitch, told Excalibur Tuesday that if Becker did not bring the matter to the Board she would do it herself, in the form of a recommendation. Becker said he would recommend that the Board not increase tuition if that were done.

Ritch doubted that the Board of Governors would approve the \$2.50 increase in the face of an administration recommendation to reject, but said the chances of a favourable judgement from his point of view would improve if a petition with a few thousand signatures could be submitted to the Board along

with the proposal.

Ritch termed Becker's decision a "flagrant violation of the students' vote" and charged the administration with attempting to "prevent the OFS from becoming an effective student movement."

He also accused Becker of trying to place CYSF look in an uncomfortable position by promising to increase the student council grant along with a general tuition hike, which might be in the offing for the '77-'78 academic year.

Ritch reiterated his stand that a contractual relationship should be established between student governments and the administration to guarantee the transfer of moneys from the administration to the student councils.

Becker's statement

(Abridged)

Some Considerations in Relation to the CYSF Request for an Increase in their Operating Grant for 1976-77:

1. The University was under the impression that the Government, through frequent announcements from the Minister of Colleges and Universities, would be unhappy to see any increase in the academic fee this fall — particularly in those programmes already bearing the maximum fee.

2. Since the University's resources were very strained, any increase in the operating grant would have to be 'added on' to the academic fee and would therefore have the effect of increasing the compulsory cost of attending the University.

3. The cost of attending the Faculty of Arts at York is already higher by about \$25 than the equivalent fee at both University of Toronto and McMaster University.

4. While the university and the various student governments have not evolved a definite policy which speaks to the 'quality' of referenda, nevertheless it is obvious that all students should not be forced into paying higher fees based on a very small affirmative vote. The two referenda in question were:

1974: 5.3 per cent of membership voted — 71.9 per cent of this group said 'yes' or 3.8 per cent of the total membership;

1975: 9.7 per cent of membership voted — 62.3 per cent of this group said 'yes' or 6.1 per cent of the total membership.

This degree of support does not appear to be adequate given the other negative factors here listed.

5. We have no evaluation system at York which would help us decide which of the many requests we receive each year should be agreed to. Student governments like other parts of the university should expect to be measured against 'effectiveness' measures in order to ensure that they remain responsive to members' needs and efficient in their operations. We hope to address these questions during 1976-77 so that positive decisions can be made in the spring of 1977 regarding alterations in 1977-78 operating grants.

J. Becker

University considers proposal

Harbinger decision is due

By OAKLAND ROSS

The fate of Harbinger, York's sex counselling and abortion referral centre, will almost certainly be sealed today.

Harbinger, which for months has teetered on the verge of extinction, has presented the university administration with a three-point funding proposal. It includes a demand for a basic \$9,000 grant each year for five years, an annual cost-of-living increase factor, and special "bridge financing" this year of \$3,600. If accepted, the proposal will raise the university's share of Harbinger's financing from its present level of approximately 13 per cent to almost half.

DECISION TODAY

York president H. Ian Macdonald will announce today whether or not the university will accept the proposal. If not, Harbinger will probably have to cease operations.

During weeks of correspondence and meetings, the administration has steadfastly refused to budge from its offer to raise its annual contribution to Harbinger from \$2,500 to \$3,000.

Harbinger, which occupies two rent free rooms in Vanier residence and employs two full-time and several part-time personnel, has projected expenses next year of over \$18,000.

York's college and student councils have traditionally provided the balance of Harbinger's funding needs, but those resources are already being tapped to near their limit.

LAST DITCH

On Tuesday, Harbinger director Bill Robinson met with President Macdonald, assistant vice-president for student services John Becker and Stong master Virginia Rock in a last ditch effort to sell his case.

According to Robinson, the cost-of-living increase proposal was rejected "out of hand" by the ad-



Part-time worker mans the phone in Harbinger reception area.

ministration since no other agency or department at York has a guaranteed annual increase in its funding agreement.

Robinson also told Excalibur that during the meeting, Becker mentioned the possibility that the university's contribution to Harbinger might be raised to \$5,000.

Becker later informed Excalibur that he had mentioned this figure in "a purely hypothetical sense".

It was flatly rejected by Robinson anyway, he said.

Robinson told Excalibur that the absolute minimum Harbinger could accept from the university would be a basic \$6,000, plus this year's special \$3,600 "bridge fund" (which is required in order to clear Harbinger's outstanding debt to the university).

"To that extent, our proposal is negotiable," he said. "But if the university's final offer is any

lower, we'll just have to hang a sign on the door saying 'Go see John Becker if you need an abortion referral.'"

In order to pare expenses, Harbinger has already decided to close for three months during the summer. According to Robinson, that move will save \$4,600.

FURTHER CUTS

Becker has suggested that Harbinger further cut its budget by concentrating its full attention on sex counselling and abortion referral and eliminating the education component of its service.

Becker estimates that Harbinger's budget could thereby be reduced to approximately \$11,000.

Robinson, however, sees the education component as too important to cut. Education in sex and sex-related matters is just not available through any other agency at York, he said.

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