

New white paper spells out cutback options

By Paul Stuart

The Ontario Council of University Affairs released a white paper on September 26, entitled *The Ontario University System: A Statement of Issues*, aimed at giving "some guidance as to the various funding levels" that Ontario universities have been saddled with by the provincial government.

Though the report has not yet been studied by York or any other university in Ontario, it will be. And the options it recommends to university administrators on how to "absorb" shortfalls in government funding, may turn out to be the way that cutbacks are administered over the next few years.

The first to comment so far is Miriam Edelson, chairperson of the Ontario Federation of Students, who charged that the white paper is "nothing more than an endorsement of the concept of under-education in Ontario," on the day it was released.

BALANCE BUDGET

In light of the provincial government's avowed intention of balancing its budget by 1980-81, OCUA, a government advisory body (not to be confused with the Council of Ontario Universities which is a voluntary association) presents three possible models of the funding universities will receive until 1981-82, all of which "represent financial stringency and will necessitate expenditure restrictions at the universities."

"The report takes for granted that there will be continued under-funding of universities by the provincial government," comments Edelson in an OFS press release.

"It assumes that there will be a continued decline in participation in post-secondary education. No consideration is given to the arguments for increased funding, or for increased access to universities," she added.

MAINTAIN STAFF

OCUA presents a scenario in *Model One*, in which an taining the existing number of faculty and staff jobs throughout the Ontario system in an era of cutbacks.

OCUA presents a scenario in *Model One*, in which an accumulated shortfall of \$71.4 million, due to a 6.1 per cent cutbacks - induced drop in operating expenditures, is absorbed by all areas of the system's budget equally.

This would result in a reduction of 744 faculty positions across the province by 1981-82, all through attrition.

Using the report's *Model Two*, in which it is assumed that total university revenue will increase at a mythical rate of inflation (six per cent, as assumed in the provincial government's budget, rather than the current rate of over nine per cent), adjusted downward by 50 per cent of the rate of enrolment decline, then the Ontario university

system will, by 1981-82, fall \$104.3-million short of the \$1,169.5-million, needed to retain the existing faculty staff complement.

FEWER POSITIONS

This means that there would be 1,086 fewer faculty positions by 1981-82 in Ontario, if an accumulated 8.9 per cent decline in revenue to the university system, forecast in *Model Two*, is absorbed equally by all areas of the system's budget.

The report's worst case scenario chose an "arbitrary" figure of annual grant increments of four per cent per annum, just in case government forecasts of aid to the universities are not borne out.



OFS chairperson, Miriam Edelson, says paper is endorsement of under-education.

Thus, *Model Three* predicts a shortfall of \$148.6-million, if an accumulated decrease of 12.7 per cent is absorbed equally by all areas of the system's budget, until 1981-82.

In this case, 1,549 Ontario faculty positions would disappear by '82.

How will the faculty complement be cut?

OCUA estimates that about "250 positions will be lost annually through attrition and non-renewal of contracts over the next three years" in Ontario.

Thus, assuming that one of the council's latter two models is correct, 336 faculty positions (according to *Model 2*) or, perhaps, 754 positions (according to *Model Three*) will have to be withdrawn, as OCUA delicately puts it, by "other means."

PICTURE COMPLICATED

However the picture is complicated in that "absorbing-

the shortfall in all areas of the budget" is just one of three options OCUA suggests to the universities. The other options are absorbing the shortfall in "non-salary expenditures" or absorbing the shortfalls purely through decreases "in faculty staff salary and benefit expenditures."

The report claims that "because non-salary expenditures have borne the primary burden of cost - cutting in recent years, it is not reasonable to expect that they alone could experience further reductions."

Thus, the situation may vary dramatically from campus to campus, as university administrations choose the options which they believe to be the most suitable to their own financial situations.

While the report does not deal with the number of support staff jobs that would be withdrawn for given reductions in faculty positions, this is obviously an area that will cause considerable concern, particularly at meetings of the staff association.

METRO CAMPUSES

The report asks if, in light of "decreased student demand," it is "appropriate to have five, four-year, undergraduate Arts and Science campuses in Metropolitan Toronto?"

In a sub-section entitled, *Satellite Campus Rationalization*, that will be of particular interest to Glendon College members, the white paper asks:

"Could some, or all, of the satellite campuses be closed without jeopardizing the parent institutions? If closure is not the answer, could the functions of these campuses be modified to assist in the system's need for reduced undergraduate capacity?"

The white paper deals, briefly, with a subject of profound importance to the Canadian economy: basic industrial research.

The statement says "Canada lags far behind most developed nations in terms of expenditure on research (0.9 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product; compared to 2.3 per cent for Holland and Germany, and 2.5 per cent for the US).

"Unfortunately," continues the report, "during the past few years funding from the federal granting agencies for basic research has been effectively decreased because increases have failed to offset inflation."

Warning that "Canada could end up with one generation of scholars with no interest in research, because they perceived no employment opportunities," the council "states its opinion that new funding, from whatever source, should not be used to promote graduate studies, but to provide research associates and technicians."

Our Town

Bethune

Elections are coming up soon for positions in college council...positions are open for residence chairperson, treasurer, two first year reps, commuter rep and a member at large...see notice boards for date of voting.

Stong

Aspects of 20th century Italian paintings...this collection is being shown in Stong's Zack's Gallery until the 18th...

Today at 4:30 pm there's a Program's Committee meeting in room 309...and in the same room tomorrow, there's an Athletics Committee meeting at 4 pm.

The film *Death of a President* will be shown on the 12th in Stong Theatre. Director Jerzy Kawalewicz will be present to discuss the film...and that same night there is a poetry and folk nite in the Orange Snail.

The poster policy is now in effect...posters are only allowed room to hang in designated areas of the college.

Winters

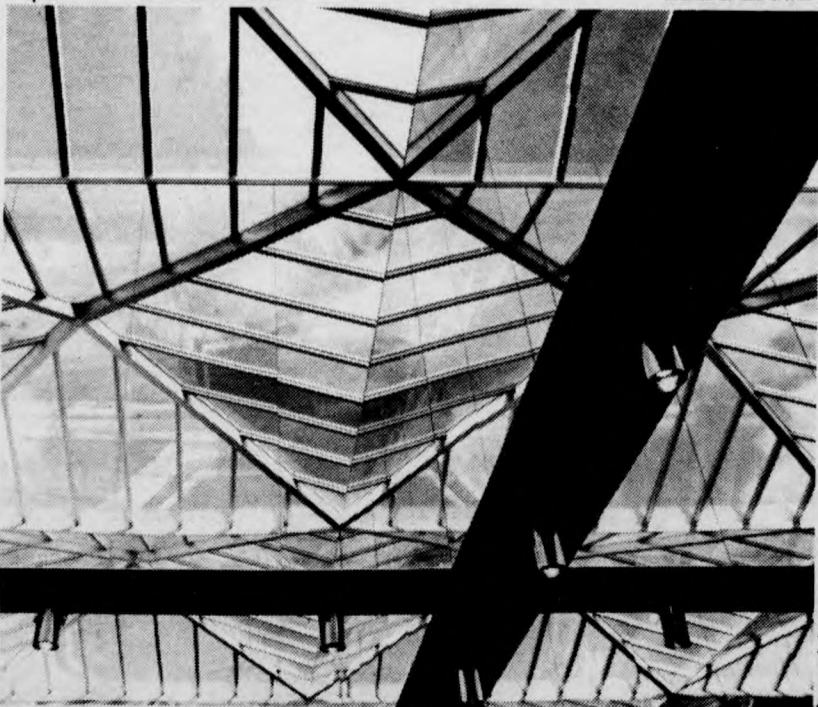
Let it bleed...today the Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic is being held from 9-5 pm in the JCR...

This Wednesday, catch the film *McLaren* in the JCR...see notice boards for the time of viewing.

Winters Alumni are invited to the York Homecoming, Green Bush Re-Union in the dining hall...there's a live band.

Because of this past long weekend, the faithful *Our Town* contacts could not be reached. See next issue for a complete schedule of upcoming college events.

Laura Brown



Gazing heavenward through the skylight of York's religions centre.



The resonant tones of John Wright's voice add to a relaxed atmosphere in the evening hours.

Radio York will "stay and fight"

By Jill Troyer

Every autumn marks a new television season sprinkled with specials and premieres, looking ahead to the TV menu for coming months, and it also marks a new season on campus: the beginning of regular programming for Radio York. Only one thing about their upcoming year seems certain, and that is that there is an upcoming year for CKRY.

The station has many and varied problems, to face, including loss of office space, uncertainty about funding, and malfunctioning speakers, but station manager Steve Rimmer is determined to "stay and fight".

Right now CKRY is piped out to speakers scattered around the campus at strategic points, but Rimmer has expansionist ambitions. He is in the process of applying for a license from the Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission that would allow the station to broadcast on cable television, and on carrier currents. If the carrier currents become a reality, any radios plugged into the power lines on campus will be able to tune in to CKRY.

Exactly what you may hear isn't clear yet. At the moment the programming diet is mostly music, but there are plans for diversification. Rimmer said he

hopes to incorporate campus sports and news into the station's output, along with regular interview features. So far the only established feature is a calendar of college events presented every Thursday afternoon. Everything else is still on the drawing board.

Much of what happens with Radio York this year depends on the amount of funding it can attract. Although Rimmer said CKRY will be earning some revenue from advertising, most of their money will have to come from the Council of York Student Federation. The vice-president of social services and communication is largely responsible for determining the amount of money Radio York will get from council.

Don Suggs the communications UP, is preparing a report that will recommend to council how much of its budget should be allocated to Radio York. Sugg isn't sure what his report will suggest except that he "wants to keep the radio station going". He added that he's "looking for ideas and initiative from the people there" before he makes any proposals.

It could be an exciting year for Radio York and its listeners. While details of funding and programming are still up in the air, CKRY is still on the air.