

News Beat

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Government subsidy withdrawn

University parking policy explained

The following is a statement issued this week to members of the York community under the heading *Parking: Present Principles, Practice and the Future* by Mr. W.W. Small, Vice-President (Administration) of the university.

The present and growing magnitude of the York constituency results in a wide variety of understandable, but irreconcilable aspirations with respect to the provision and the financing of parking lots on Campus.

Recent discussions with representatives of the York University Faculty Association and the York University Staff Association and the receipt of a few letters on the subject suggested the need for clarification of a number of

points.

Consideration of the following background is requested as a basis for making informed judgments in the interests of the York community:

1. The Master Plan for York University was developed to provide a guide for meaningful physical expansion. One of its fundamental principles was the delineation of a core area which would be small enough to permit ready access between buildings during the 10-minute break between class periods.

On the one hand it recognized that the safety and convenience of thousands of persons moving within the core from time to time throughout the day would be dependent on the exclusion of as many vehicles as possible. In addition, there was a conviction that

the intrusion of large numbers of cars within the academic precinct would detract greatly from the environmental qualities of the community.

On the other hand, the Master Plan recognized the provision of adequate and economical parking to be a basic requirement.

Cost estimate

2. Consideration was then given to the three common types of parking facility — surface, multi-storey above and below grade. The cost differential at the time, estimated to be \$350, \$1,500, and \$3,000 respectively — the large number of spaces required annually combined with Provincial Government support for surface parking spaces only dictated the sole realistic course of development at the time.

A schedule was developed to provide a sufficient number of spaces to meet the growing need at reasonable cost while adhering to the basic concept of the pedestrian core.

3. Recognizing the import of a satisfactory parking operation to the well-being of the York community and wishing to provide an opportunity for the exchange of views between persons in different roles in the community before policy was set some four years ago a separate Parking Committee was established and its membership broadened to include four faculty, four students and four staff.

There was a conviction at the time, which has been strengthened by experience, that it is highly desirable to have an exchange of views between persons in different roles before policy is set and that the same persons could assist in creating understanding of complex issues by reporting back to their constituencies.

4. In view of limited operating funds and the heavy demands for academic programs, it is considered reasonable to require a self-sustaining parking operation.

Funds withdrawn

Originally fees were set to meet only the charges for supervision, lighting, repairs and snow removal as capital construction was provided

from designated Provincial grants.

The latter support was withdrawn in 1970. The Parking Committee considered reasonable the continuation of the policy that the parking operation should be sustained by fees from those using the facilities.

On the basis of the projections of enrollment and available cost estimates for ten years, the Parking Committee recommended that the fee for parking in the peripheral lot be increased to \$25 per annum. (Due to a change in the University's fiscal year the fee payable from July 1, 1971 to April 30, 1972 was set at \$22.50. The fee for reserved parking was not changed, having been increased from \$35 to \$50 to \$75 over six years).

The annual requirements for operating and capital expenses indicated a need for a variable fee, increasing by approximately \$2 per year. It was considered inappropriate to adjust the fee each year, and by recommending an increase of \$10 it was anticipated a change would not be necessary for several years.

While no guarantee can be given at this time, past experience shows that no increase was made in the peripheral lot fee for six years from 1965-66 to 1970-71.

5. In view of the questions raised recently concerning various aspects of the parking operation the Parking Committee is being requested to make a thorough review of anticipated parking requirements prior to determination of 1972-73 fees, taking into account any new policy decisions affecting the ultimate size and annual increments of enrollment, development in public transportation services, and the nature and location of additional parking facilities.

Report cited

Reference from time to time to the Report on Parking, prepared in 1968 by DeLeuw Cather, Parking Consultants, with the inference that the University has ignored its findings, indicates a need for knowledge of two basic points made in the Report: a) It is not possible to provide spaces (some 14,000) within the ring road

and in fact demand can be accommodated within a combination of facilities in the area and still keep maximum walking distances within acceptable limits. (Suggested ratio, 3,000 within the ring road and 11,000 outside.)

b) On the basis of rough capital costs for constructing the necessary number of spaces it is estimated the annual charges of \$80 per person (of the University population, not per driver!) would be required, with approximately \$50 per space for maintenance purposes. If the existing level of parking fees is maintained this will yield revenue which is wholly inadequate to support the costs involved.

The University is willing to consider the erection of a parking structure within the ring road as soon as there is evidence of sufficient community demand, taking into account a required fee of some \$200 per year to meet capital and operating expenses, as estimated by DeLeuw Cather.

Solution difficult

While it is popular to criticize the actions of the Parking Committee and the Administration and infer that there are simple solutions to existing problems, closer examination reveals the complexity of establishing simple regulations and maintaining economical policies that will ensure the convenience of some 15,000 regular drivers in the 1971-72 session with pedestrians on the York Campus.

Perhaps in no other area of university life is there a need for a recognition of the concept that community well-being should take precedence over unlimited individual preferences.

The application of such a spirit combined with the hard work of an alert and conscientious faculty, student and staff Parking Committee can establish a workable, acceptable basis for dealing positively with an on-going though changing problem. The Committee will welcome constructive recommendations from any member of the York community.

A letter from the President

During the coming session a thorough review of parking is to be undertaken in an effort to:

a) assess the extent of need and the type of parking facilities for a ten year period;

b) determine the most economical means of meeting the need consistent with the maintenance of appropriate standards of facilities and service;

c) examine the most efficient and acceptable means of collecting the required charges for operating and capital expenses.

Parking should also be considered in forthcoming reviews of student finances and staff and faculty salaries.

Mr. Small's memorandum offers a concise precis of the background and an invitation to widespread participation in the review.

Given the provincial policies on University capital and operating costs, the University has to cover all the costs of parking, including the amortization of present and future capital costs, from users and operating funds.

The presumption in provincial policy was and is that the full cost of University parking are to be met by user charges, and this is the practice in the majority of Ontario universities.

On the basis of the current estimates, the level of parking costs to be recovered in 1971-72 is not unreasonable.

The parking fund is subject to separate accounting and audit and open reporting. If a surplus arises the funds will not be diverted to other uses. The balance of the fund for 1971-72 will be taken into account in setting the fees for 1972-73 and subsequent years, as can new estimates of the total costs.

Taking into account the forthcoming review, the trustee safeguards on parking funds and the real possibilities of remedying any anomalies and inequities in the near future, I continue to accept the recommendations of the Parking Committee on the rates for 1971-72.

- David Slater

On Campus

Movies

YORK CAMPUS

Thursday: 12:05 p.m. & 1:05 p.m. — "Circle of the Sun" (30 mins. col.) — pictures one of the last gatherings of Blood Indians of Alberta, celebrating the passing glory of their tribe — Room 114, Scott Library

Friday: 12:05 p.m. & 1:05 p.m. — "Paul Taylor and Company: an Artist and His Work" (32 mins. col.) — shows how Paul Taylor and exponent of modern dance, functions as a creator and performer, excerpts from several of his dances — Room 114, Scott Library.

3:15 p.m. — "Catch 22" — sponsored by Winters College Council — general admission \$1.25; Winters students with ID cards \$1. — Room L, Curtis Lecture Halls

7:00 p.m. — "Funny Girl" — sponsored by Winters College Council — general admission \$1.25; Winters students with ID cards \$1. — Room L, Curtis Lecture Halls

Saturday: 7:00 p.m. — "Funny Girl" — Room L, Curtis Lecture Halls; "Odd Couple" — Room I, Curtis Lecture Halls — both films sponsored by Winters College Council — general admission \$1.25; Winters students with ID cards \$1.

Sunday: 7:00 p.m. & 9:30 p.m. — "Catch 22" — sponsored by Winters College Council — general admission \$1.25; Winters students \$1. — Room L, Curtis Lecture Halls

Entertainment

Wednesday 4:00 p.m. to midnight — Green Bush Inn Pub in new location in Founders College Dining Hall and Cock and Bull Coffee Shop — dancing to Jericho.

Sports

Saturday: 9:30 a.m. — Recreational Soccer — all players welcome — small soccer field adjacent to the ice arena — for further information call Roy Merrens at 3218

Thursday: 6:30 p.m. — "Old Boys" Rugged Match — Vanier Field

Continuing Education Courses

GLENDON CAMPUS

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon — English as a Second Language — 13 weeks — fee is \$60 — York Hall

9:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon — Conversational Italian — 13 weeks — fee is \$75 — York Hall

9:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon — Effective Reading — 13 weeks — fee is \$60 — York Hall

10:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon — Writing Workshop — 14 weeks — fee is \$60 — York Hall

Tuesday 7:00 p.m. — 10:00 p.m. — Gambling — 8 weeks — fee is \$60 — York Hall

Wednesday: 7:30 p.m. 8 9:30 p.m. — Effective Public Speaking — 10 weeks — fee is \$60 — York Hall

Orientation program

Founders College: Thursday — 8:30 p.m. — All-night Horror Movies — Junior Common Room; Friday — 9:00 p.m. — Concert — advance tickets available during orientation week at the college complex or the bookstore — everyone welcome — Tait McKenzie Building, large gymnasium; Saturday — 8:30 p.m. — Grand Re-Opening of the Cock & Bull — free refreshments and entertainment

McLaughlin College: Thursday — 8:30 p.m. — Dance — "Sweet Blindness" — Dining Hall — 12:00 midnight — All-night Horror Movies — Junior Common Room; Friday — 8:30 p.m. — Concert — "Crowbar" — advance tickets \$2.50, at the door \$3.00 — tickets available from Tait McKenzie or the bookstore — Tait McKenzie Building

College "G": Thursday — 10:00 a.m. — Films — "Summerhill", "High School", "Zucker Kandl", "The Hat: Is This War Necessary?" and "Pas de Deux" — T216, Steacie Science Library — 9:00 p.m. — Concert — David Bradstreet, Toronto folksinger — Common Room and Coffee Shop

Stong College: Thursday — 1:00 p.m. — Panel Discussion — Non-medical use of drugs — Junior Common Room — 3:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m. & 8: p.m. — 10:00 p.m. — York Masquers, Play — presented by Stong College's amateur theatre group — "A Day in the Death of Joe Egg" — Music-Theater Room, Room 112 — 8:00 p.m. — midnight — Folksingers — Senior Common Room; Friday — 1:00 p.m. — 3:00 p.m. — Forum II — Birth Control: a panel discussion — Junior Common Room — 8:30 p.m. — Concert — Tait McKenzie Building