

NEWS

# Protesters meet Mulroney with macaroni

by Brent Poland

York administration thought that they could get Prime Minister Brian Mulroney onto campus quietly but they were wrong.

The prime minister visited York to give a lecture to a group of business students on Canada's competitiveness in a global economy.

Flying insults, accusations and macaroni greeted the prime minister as he passed a group of about 300 students who waited for his arrival in a basement lecture hall of the Administrative Studies building.

Chants such as, "Brian, Brian you're a swine, we demand that you resign," and "Harry and Brian, the both of you are lying," aroused the crowd who had waited two hours for Mulroney's arrival.

"Very rarely have I been prouder to be a teacher at this institution," said Professor McNally of the Political Science department, speaking to the group of student protesters.

McNally said that this kind of protest shows that students are not apathetic, but are sending the federal government a resounding message.

The protesters wanted the government to stop "screwing" students with cut-backs which affect accessibility to post secondary education.

Some students called on Mulroney to slash the proposed GST



ANGRY PROTESTERS: 300 students showed up to protest Tory policies and the secrecy behind Mulroney's visit. Flying insults, accusations and macaroni greeted the PM.

while other demanded that Canadian troops be removed from the Gulf.

"I don't think that there is any particular group of people here today; it's just anti-Tory senti-

ment," said Martha Kanya-Forster of the York International Socialists.

Phil Jackson, a teaching assistant at York, told the crowd that "It's time to get off their knees and fight the government."

"Mulroney can spend money to re-rig ships and send men to the Gulf, but he can't stop the cut-backs in the student transfer system," said Jackson.

A small group of Tory supporters showed their support with shouts and placards but they were drowned out with shouts of "fascists go home."

According to Eric Pond, assistant director of security, two students had to be removed, but no charges were laid by the university or metro police.

The opportunity to listen to Mulroney and ask questions, was given to the winners of a lottery held among business students.

Inside the lecture hall where the prime minister was speaking, shouts of "we want in" could be heard.

"I see bigger demonstrations when I leave my house in the morning," said Mulroney in an effort to brush off the protest. But it was evident that the protesters had an effect, as Mulroney made numerous references to the loud group still outside.

Mulroney's speech to the 75 business students focused on the proposed GST and its impact on Canadians and the global community. He then fielded questions about deficit reduction, free trade and the national unity panel.

Mulroney left the university to shouts of "resign." Maccaroni pelted the prime minister as he hurried to his limousine.

"We are really pleased with the turnout, despite the short notice," said Jim Hounslow, communications co-ordinator at YFS.

A number of students were upset that they had not been properly informed of the prime minister's visit.

Excalibur was informed on Thursday night through an off-hand comment from an electrician, and only had time to include a brief note on the front page before the Monday issue went to press.

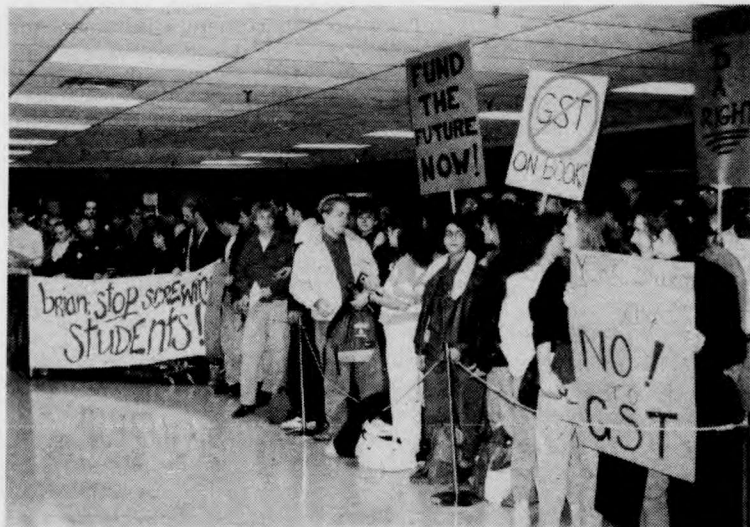
## The PM wanted to communicate with the business students

"It's nice to see the York business students showed up considering that they knew about the prime minister's visit a week ago," said Jean Ghomeshi, president of YFS in a shouting match with Tory supporters.

"The Prime Minister wanted to communicate with the business students and faculty and we had to cater to his wishes," explained Suzanne Firth, a spokesperson for the office of the dean in Administrative Studies.

Firth said that the Prime Minister's Office only came out with the media release on Friday night. The dean's office then put the press release out on the Canadian wire service but campus press were not notified.

Although the campus papers have their phone numbers in the York phone directory, and can be reached through the main switch board, Firth claims the situation was "a learning experience." In the future we will have to get phone numbers and do a media blitz," said Firth.



## Students rally!

Tomorrow, a group of students from universities across Ontario will rally at the office of the Minister for Colleges and Universities, demanding that the newly-elected NDP government "stand and deliver" on policies concerning access to post-secondary education.

YFS president Jean Ghomeshi said, "the NDP government made a lot of promises during their election campaign, and we want the NDP to live up to their promises."

York students interested in attending the rally can get a free ride to and from the rally. The buses are being provided by the YFS.

Buses will pick up students at the flagpole in front of the Ross building at 12:00 noon and bring them back to the university at 3:30 pm.

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