

# Editorial

## It's time to stick up for York in budget breakdown

Praise is definitely warranted; the provincial Liberal government's pre-budget announcement featuring an increase of 7.3 percent in university funding is a constructive step towards rectifying the past decade of chronic underfunding.

The incorporation of the Excellence Fund into base funding is also an extremely beneficial move for universities, as it allows them to address long-term problems in a long-term fashion. The \$84-million, nine-year Faculty Renewal Fund will ensure that universities replenish faculty while opening doors to aspiring professors and increasing permanent staff by offering deserving faculty tenure.

The Library Acquisition and Teaching Equipment Funds will also enhance education quality by maintaining state-of-the-art equipment in the classroom and libraries. On every front the response expressed on budget allocations slated for next year was not only positive, but one of sheer surprise for no one expected such a large increase.

However, a note of caution must be interjected. It remains to be seen whether the Liberals are sincerely committed to improving the quality of our post-secondary institutions or just playing pre-election politics. The sudden discovery by Treasurer Robert Nixon of \$405-million lying around Queen's Park further fuels the rumour mill about an imminent election call. Along with the expiry of the Liberal-NDP accord in May and the large debt of the Progressive Conservative party, a spring election is almost certain. We must not be too quick in patting ourselves on the back in the wake of such minority government politics. It is the university community's challenge to secure this kind of budgetary treatment every year; it is York's challenge to secure an appreciable amount of funds to address existing inequities this year.

The government, through a \$50-million special allocation, has "acknowledged those universities that appreciably expand their instructional and research activities with inadequate, incremental base funding." York definitely fits into this category as it has increased its enrolment from 24,000 to 40,000 in the past decade while dealing with a funding formula that discriminates against such a growth in the student population. Consequently, York is now funded at 80 percent of the provincial average and we must ensure that this grant alleviates the pressures caused by this formula.

This involves successfully lobbying the Ontario Council of University Affairs (OCUA), which was directed by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities to determine how the money is divided. York's financial plight must be stressed within OCUA if this formula is to be altered so the debilitating effects of the past years can be reversed.

We've secured a healthy increase in university funds; now it's time to stick up for York.

HOURS AFTER FEASTING AT THE MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL...



"AND VISIONS OF PEROGIES É SHISH-KA-BOB DANCED IN HIS HEAD..."

## Letters

### Webber to develop links between students and Centre

Editor:

I would like to correct one item in your recent article about the Sexual Harassment Education and Complaint Centre.

Daryl Webber has been hired to develop links between the Centre and students but not, as you state, to handle student complaints. I, as coordinator of the Centre, will continue to deal with all complaints, including those by students.

As you suggest, with two of us in the Centre, we will be able to spend more time educating the University community—students, staff, and faculty—about sexual harassment. Now that Daryl has been appointed, we have one person focussing exclusively on the needs of students.

Gill Teiman  
Coordinator, SHEACC

fee for this service (sorry, \$14.99) would work out to a \$900 an hour salary. Clearly, I've got the wrong job at this university.

Obviously what's going on here is that the Parking Office, running a monopoly operation, feels it can levy whatever charges it wants to, legitimate or otherwise. Surprise: this person is going to fight back. It's off to small claims court for me. May I suggest that others in a similar position proceed in the same way?

Jerry Ginsburg  
Department of History

The multicultural festival (Nov. 3-7) sponsored by CYSF and exhibited by various cultural groups at York signified their eagerness to reach out for human understanding and harmony. I wonder how many people welcomed the festival with an open mind and a warm heart?

Alfred Choi

### Plea for freedom of speech is just thinly guised anti-Semitism

Editor:

Regarding "Let Jews for Jesus speak on Campus", *Excalibur* October 30, I would like to address Messers Verhovsek and try to explain to them, in a simple fashion, an issue whose simplicity apparently eludes them.

I am one of the Jewish students who campaigned vigorously to have the "Jews for Jesus" group expelled from our campus. They were not singled out for "special treatment solely on the basis of their Jewish heritage". On the contrary, these individuals have willingly revoked their right to be considered part of the Jewish religion and their expulsion was a direct result of the action of concerned Jewish York students. This, however, is not the issue. This insidious group of smut-mongers were denied permission to appear on York's campus because of their harassment against Jews, promulgation of hate literature and a deliberate attempt to rile and insult Jewish members of York University.

I charge Messers Verhovsek with thinly guised anti-semitism cloaked by the cry for "freedom of speech". This pair has fooled no one by their passionate wail for a forum for the "Jews for Jesus" proponents on our campus. Their urge that Jewish students awaken to this "disregard for human rights" smacks of paternalism and downright stupidity. Rather, let us applaud the efforts of all concerned York students and our Administration in expelling and keeping off campus such purveyors of smut as the "Jews for Jesus" group who seek to convey their religious message by harassment, the dissemination of false literature and who, in no way contribute positively to the life of the University.

Howard Binder

### Cultural groups not reason for erosion of campus unity

Editor:

Re: "Do cultural groups contribute to campus unity?" in your Question Engine, November 6, 1986.

I find it perturbing to see that all the subjects interviewed and shown believed that cultural groups on campus do not contribute to campus unity.

What is campus unity? Surely we are not referring to homogeneity in skin color (incidentally all four subjects are Caucasians), fashion or political ideology on campus. It has to be a common pursuit shared by all (with some exceptional cases!) at York. Is it correct to say that we are here in search of intellectual enlightenment and humanity? If yes, can any educated person say that culture groups do not contribute to campus unity?

To work together toward a common objective and still be able to pursue individuals' particular interests is the greatest virtue of a democratic system. York is characterized by a bi-campus (York & Glendon) and multi-college system. It has various faculties and departments that offer courses to students with different needs and interests. If we can accept this system, why can we not accept cultural groups?

It is not cultural groups per se that erode campus unity, rather it is ethnocentrism that hinders campus integration. It is not diversity in cultural groups that segregate people on campus, rather it is reluctance to appreciate other cultures and inability to come to terms with cultural differences that keep us apart.

### Victims of stolen parking permits hit with double whammy

Editor:

Anyone who has had his or her York parking permit stolen has been victimized not once but twice. You were first victimized by the thief. And let there be no mistake—anyone who steals a pass is nothing more than a petty thief, a common criminal. It is a depressing sign of the times that when such individuals are caught, they are not immediately booted out of York but instead given a wrist-slapping fine. The message is unmistakable: York does not regard theft as beyond the bounds of civilized behaviour.

Unfortunately, a person whose permit has been stolen is then victimized again—by the Parking Office. One is charged a \$15 "administrative fee" to replace one's stolen permit. This fee is bewildering, an obvious example of punishing a victim. What exactly is the "administrative" expense here? The materials in question are worth no more than a tenth of a cent. The time used by the Parking Office employees is already being paid for by the University. In any case, since it doesn't take more than a minute to fill out a new form, a \$15

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