

editorial

York's accessibility

Bill 42—in case you haven't heard of it—is a piece of legislation designed to impose penalties on Ontario universities with deficits greater than 2 percent. And those penalties are draconian.

The bill, which began its third reading in the legislature this week, will give the Minister of Colleges and Universities, Bette Stephenson, absolute power to place any university under her unrestricted guardianship. The bill proposes that a "university supervisor" be appointed to any university with an operating deficit of greater than 2 percent, to keep a watchful eye on spendthrift institutions. York would be one university to receive this "supervisor": its current deficit is close to 3.5 percent.

"During the term of office of a university supervisor," states Bill 42, "no act of the governing body [the Board of Governors] is valid unless approved in writing by the university supervisor." Thus, any program in a university could be axed if the supervisor deemed it necessary, and no one at the university would have the power to stop him.

This is unconscionable. The numbers are clear—York's deficit is the result of a defective funding formula, not rampant spending. Under the current formula, the Government punishes universities—like York—that have favored a policy of accessibility and have grown as a result. It's appalling that while York is trying desperately to give all qualified applicants an opportunity to attend university it should suffer, while universities that have restricted enrollment should prosper.

President H. Ian Macdonald has argued that it is morally wrong to turn away students for political reasons. "The students are voting with their feet," he said. "They want to be in university and the funding must be more ample."

York has remained accessible through deficit financing during past years, but the problem of inadequate funding is still paramount. The plain fact is that there is just not enough money being directed to Ontario's universities for them to continue at acceptable standards.

As students we must voice our concerns that York be treated fairly, and not be punished for being responsive to student needs. We must oppose Bill 42.



excalibur

Editor	Roman Pawlyshyn
Managing editor	Bernardo Cioppa
News editors	Jonathan Goodman Graham Thompson
Arts editors	Jason Sherman Paulette Peirol
Features editors	Kevin Connolly Paul Pivato
Sports editors	Mark Zwolinski Elissa Freeman
Photo editors	Mario Scattoloni Angelos Harpantidis Nigel Turner
Editorial cartoonists	John Ens Finn Harvor Gary Wehrle
Typesetting	Greg Gaudet Stuart Ross Rhonda Sussman
Staff	Peter Becker, Carol Brunt, Caroline Chia, Ian Clarke, Lily Contento, Craig Daniels, Howard Goldstein, Richard Gottlib, Anna Grant, Stephanie Gross, Steve Hacker, Sheila Hird, Adrian Iwachiw, Linda Janasz, Debbie Kirkwood, Joe Kispal-Kovacs, Marilyn Litwack, Laura Lush, Roger Newlove, John Nicklas, Paul O'Donnell, Anna Pelosi, Gary Scholich, Kathe Sesto, Lerrick Starr, Julia Steinecke, Gary Symons, Michelle Aung Thin, Richard Underhill, Wendy Ward, Chris Warren, Nancy Webster, John Wright, Fay Zalcborg, Andrew Zarnett
Circulation manager	Clark Hortsing
Business manager	Merle Menzies
Board of Publications chairman	James Carlisle

Excalibur is published every Thursday during the academic session (September to April) by Excalibur Publications Inc. 111 Central Square, York University, 4700 Keele St. Downsview, Ontario M3J 1P3. Telephone (416) 667-3201 (editorial); 667-3800 (business and advertising). Contents copyright © 1983 Excalibur Publications Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction or use, without written permission, of editorial or pictorial content is prohibited. Excalibur is an associate member of the Ontario Community Newspaper Association. ISSN 0823-1995.

News, arts, sports: 667-3201
Business and advertising: 667-3800
Excalibur typesetting: 667-3800



For National Advertising, the paper is a member of
310 Davenport Road, Toronto, Ontario M5R 3K2
(416) 925-6358

letters

Other view

Editor:
Re. Martin Zarnett's letter in *Excalibur* 24 November.

First, I would like it to be made known that while Zarnett was very supportive of the visa students, this does not give him the right to speak for, or on behalf of, individuals or groups. In his letter Zarnett mentions that Chris Summerhayes was very helpful to the visa students both financially and in principle.

Well, Mr. Zarnett, I've got some information for you. The fact that a person attends one "open forum" does not in my definition meet the criteria of support.

Sure the CYSF donated \$50 but it is interesting to note that visa students as well as "local students" pay for student representation and this \$50 was little compared to the amount other groups contributed. There were times when you and I spent some of our own money in order to print material for the same cause.

About Mr. Summerhayes' involvement, at the time a campaign was organized by me I had spoken to Mr. Summerhayes about getting involved but he assured me that he did not have the time. Summerhayes was involved in his campaign for the CYSF Presidency and I could sympathize with him, but this was no excuse since during that same time a committee was organized and a snowballing of activities began. It is interesting to

note that even then Summerhayes did not get involved, but only when he was elected President.

After this one time, Summerhayes did not attend or meet with any of us to discuss the issue in question. Furthermore I do not have any material or communiqué from him stating that he was supportive. At this time too, other groups and individuals had begun contributions to us: GSA, CSA, ASUM, Bethune College, MacMaster University, U of T, Guelph, as well as individuals who did so on their own behalf. The CFS members, Mr. Hoy, and others arranged meetings for us with the Minister of Colleges and Universities as well as attending meetings both at York and with the Minister, apart from doing research and giving financial assistance. I could go on, but I think that mentioning a few should give some indication about who did what for the visa students and in what manner. Perhaps if there is any credit to be given to someone then this should go to the former President who not only wrote to the Minister of Colleges and Universities but also met with us.

To this date the CYSF has not met with us to discuss how we feel about the stand that the University took and this I feel is what should be done. If the CYSF wants credit then they should have at least made this gesture, or perhaps met with the administrators of the University to discuss future developments but this has not been done.

There is talk about setting up a commission of inquiry for Visa students. Why has nothing been done by the

central student body to see the birth of this committee?

In his letter, Zarnett says that ASUM was like any other group on campus concerned with "social activities" but maybe the same can be said of this body that he so strongly champions. Over the last couple of days that is exactly what the CYSF has been doing.

Secondly in referring to financial support to the visa students it is interesting to note that CYSF was one of the last groups to offer money and the smallest sum. But for the same groups that Zarnett attacks the CYSF allots thousands of dollars.

There is a committee which was appointed to represent the visa students and I think that this committee should be the one to make a case for any one wishing to champion groups.

—Oma Surujdeen

Commending

Editor:
I would like to take this opportunity to publicly commend Brian Patterson, Director of Academic Affairs for CYSF. While the results surrounding my particular grievance are as yet unclear, it was Brian Patterson who put forth an undaunting effort that exemplifies his dedication to the students he represents.

There is little doubt in my mind that his persistence, coupled with his availability to students of the York community is one example of a responsible member of York's student government.

Bryan Taran