

Students afraid to walk alone at night

York has oppressive environment: Task force

By DEBBIE PEKILIS

Many people in the York University community feel alienated and depressed by the low quality of physical and cultural surroundings that exist on campus.

That was the conclusion reached by the task force on the physical and cultural ambience of the university in its January 4, 1977 report to the President's Commission on Goals and Objectives.

"Academic excellence — intellectual and creative achievement — cannot long flourish in an oppressive physical environment that fails to offer even compensatory cultural and social activities," says the report. "For too many people, York just doesn't

feel like a university."

In a section entitled, "General Physical and Cultural Ambiance", the task force grouped the most important problems on campus into three areas: protection, communications, and enrichment.

Concerning protection, the report says, "Two major fears were expressed to the Task force: fear of weather, and fear of bodily harm at night".

The report goes on to say that both the student who rides the TTC and the student who owns a car must walk along long stretches of un-protected walks to get from the bus stop or the parking lot to their classes. "The wind-chill factor on many days (and even more on

evenings) can come close to being painful."

According to the report, students often have frightening experiences when they walk on a dark winter evening to their car in a far corner of a parking lot.

As a partial solution to these problems, the task force recommends that covered walkways or trees be placed along the longer paths between the buildings to act as windbreaks. To provide extra security, an increase in lighting on the paths and parking lots is

recommended, along with "emergency phones (to) be placed at the path entrance to all peripheral lots."

With regard to communications, the report says, "The Task Force heard frequent complaints about the lack of adequate information, especially for the commuter student. While Information York and the YES Centre serve important functions, they are difficult for the campus newcomer to find..."

Mention is made of the University of Guelph Information Centre,

located in that university's new centre...filled with all kinds of information for members of the campus community and newcomers alike."

As well, the Task Force found that many students feel lost and disoriented on campus.

To solve these problems, the Task Force recommends that "a complete graphic signage programme be created for both descriptive and directional signs, to be coordinated with a visual identity program for the university."

Unemployment survey "useless"

By JENNY JOHNSON

The information gathered from an employment survey held at York in September turned out to be useless according to Ontario Federation of Students representative Dale Martin who coordinated the surveys taken across the province.

Martin said "There were tremendous inconsistencies in any one form. It is obvious that the forms were fixed".

Close to three thousand survey questionnaires were sent into the OFS office to be examined and the results put on computer cards.

Paul Hayden who coordinated the York survey said, "We were one of the first to start but I know as soon as I told them (OFS) how many replies we had they were astounded."

The CYSF spent \$370 to conduct the survey. CYSF president Barry Edson said that York was forced to hire people from Manpower to do the survey because there was a lack of volunteers from York students. The surveyors were paid \$2.50 per hour.

Inconsistencies in the questionnaires cited by the OFS include the following:

Several forms were filled out using the same figures denoting money earned and money saved from summer employment;

A large proportion of the forms were filled out in the same handwriting.

Western, Queens, Ryerson, Carleton, Laurentian and the University of Toronto were among

other universities across Ontario who conducted unemployment surveys. So far official results have been put out by Carleton and Western.

OFS researcher Chris Allnut said that the results for Western indicated an unemployment rate during last summer of 25 per cent. This figure was arrived at by dividing the amount of time a student was available for work during the summer by the amount of time he actually worked, whereas the government student employment surveys of past years calculated the number of unemployed on the basis of whether the student worked regardless of for how long.

OFS wanted the survey to be conducted to provide information vital to the organization of student programme to combat increased tuition fees and student unemployment. The survey is also expected to take the place of the government's student summer employment survey that was discontinued last year.

They eliminated the OFS programme and the same year they eliminated the employment survey for students, said Allnut.

Results from the other universities that participated in the survey are expected to be completed before the summer.

Hayden said "There was nothing official as to what happened. OFS said it looked like someone just sat down and filled out all the forms by themselves."



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Admin. withholds CYSF funds

By ANNA VAITIEKUNAS

The second half of the York Student council's operating grant is being withheld by the York administration because of a general lack of written authorization for payments and poor and inadequate bookkeeping by last year's student council.

The chartered accountant firm of Entwistle, Adams, and Hutcheson completed an audit report on the 1975-76 council's finances last December but was unable to certify the audit. The covering letter of the audit stated "Because we were unable to assure ourselves of adequate internal control for the year ending April 30, 1976, we are unable to express an opinion on these financial statements".

CYSF was to receive \$85,000 this year from the administration to be allocated to its campus clubs and student constituencies. To date, it has received \$40,000 and, according to John Becker, assistant vice-president, will not receive the balance of funds until CYSF's current business manager Doug Wise meets with York's internal auditor and proves this year's council is complying with accepted accounting principles. The meeting was scheduled for yesterday.

In a memo to Becker, York comptroller John MacArthur said, "In this instance, since Jeff May (internal auditor) registers an unsatisfactory report, I request that

future advances to CYSF be delayed until the matter has been cleared".

The audit report stated that though two bookkeepers were hired to assist in the bookkeeping, there was little or no evidence of continuity of understanding between them. Last year's ULC-dominated council fired the present business manager Doug Wise in favour of part-time bookkeepers.

When asked what his comments were on the auditor's statement on the insufficient authorization of cheques, Charlie Lee said, "That's not the requirement of the bookkeeper because he doesn't authorize the cheques or keep the requisition forms, - that's done by the staff of the council".

He said, "The bookkeeper just collects all the papers and invoices that come in the office and makes the appropriate entries in the ledger".

"They (1975-76 council) were using petty cash from the coffee money and printing receipts and it's difficult to audit records when those things were done", said Lee.

Dale Ritch, last year's CYSF president said "We kept good records that year. Barry Edson has had the books for a long time, why is he now making an issue out of it? Why is this thing being raised just before election time?"

When asked about the auditor's statement on the lack of written authorization, he said, "I know

that's a bunch of bullshit, every cheque that was written had two signatures on it."

Alice Klein, executive secretary to last year's council and one of the council's signing officers, is a presidential candidate in the upcoming CYSF elections.

Klein told Excalibur she was not responsible for the bookkeeping of last year's council. "I had nothing to do with the bookkeeping. Besides my main duties as executive secretary I signed cheques for the council, managed the intake and outtake of the petty cash and kept requisition records — bills, receipts and vouchers — I was also one of three signing officers for the council."

Then-president Dale Ritch and finance director Gael Silzer were the other two signing officers for the council.

Klein was hired as executive secretary in May, 1975 but also received \$1 for the year to fulfill a constitutional requirement that CYSF must have a 'full-time' business manager

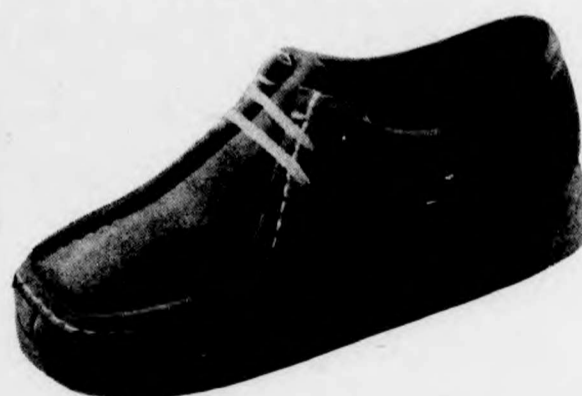
"I think the council's (1975-1976) intention's were correct in replacing Doug Wise who made \$10,000 and now does the same work for \$4,000 so that students could do the bookkeeping," said Klein. "It's unfortunate that the student bookkeeper wasn't able to keep his studies and the books properly."

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