

President's report in senate today

What may possibly be the most important document ever to appear in York University, with perhaps the longest-lasting effects in its history will be discussed this afternoon at 4:30 in the Senate Chamber (Ross Building, 9th floor).

After a hiatus of more than five months, the President's Report on the Goals and Objectives of the University will be again discussed and this time, decided upon.

Significant and long-term questions have been and will continue to be asked, in determining the fate of York University. What is it? What should it do? Who is it responsible to and why? Which way will it go from here?

The report, first presented last April, suggested that York should concentrate its resources on areas it

is good in, by enlarging classes and by cutting down on the numbers of choices offered at the undergraduate level and to help those professors who do much productive research by reducing their teaching loads among others.

Public sentiment in the university ran high against the report which one professor labelled "pernicious" and "detrimental to the long-term well-being of York" in a public session at the beginning of May. Students and professors alike decried the lack of time needed to evaluate the implications of the report which was to be implemented over the summer break. Students signed petitions, professors lobbied to have a postponement of the meeting that was to have the final

decision on the matter of the President's Commission Report.

At a marathon two-day Senate meeting entirely devoted to the discussion of the president's Report, many of the key recommendations of the report were referred to committees of Senate, with appropriate guidelines. These subcommittees of senate were to report back in the early part of the school year, and Senate as a whole was to determine the appropriate measures to be taken at the special meeting on the 13th of October.

At the last Senate meeting, in September, however, the special meeting was postponed to allow Senate committees more time to file their respective reports. However, few reports were turned in in time for the discussions this afternoon.

The chairperson of Senate, Professor Michael Lanphier said last week that the customary mailing for Senate meetings, normally conducted at least 7 days before meetings, would be held off as late as possible in order to allow various committees to submit their reports.

As a consequence many people, including *Excalibur*, received their copies of Senate reports but four days before the actual debate was to take place.

The York Community is invited to take part in the debate this afternoon.

Library schedule

• continued from page one

The weekend closing can't be avoided, said Newman, "unless somebody donates \$9,000 to the library." This figure represents the estimated savings from a weekend shutdown in effect from mid-November to the end of the fiscal year in April.

Newman claimed there was no alternative to reducing the hours of service, "other than cutting the book budget which already has been hit by a \$30,000 cut this year."

What will happen to the library's service next year? No one knows until the 78-79 budget is completed, a task which has just begun.

"But most likely the figures will be fairly restrictive," said Newman.

Abie Weisfeld, graduate representative (ULS) on student council, said the reduced library service would "be a further hardship to graduate students, who already have to deal with lower salaries and a poor and insufficient selection at the library."

"This tends to treat the library as if students don't function on weekends. Its my experience that graduate students work a seven day week. The university is a seven day operation."

Bob Freeman, President of the Environmental Studies Student Association, (ESSA) told *Excalibur* why the cutback could cause problems for students in his faculty, which is housed on the fifth floor of the library.

"Many of our students work 9-5 in off-campus jobs and they need access to the library. People have their desks and work materials there, so there has to be an alternate way for us to get in."

Freeman wondered aloud whether the library administration cares about ESSA's problems. After last Friday's meeting of the Council of York University Libraries, Freeman said a library official told him, "we never did need a tenant on the fifth floor."

Freeman's response to the \$9,000 savings the library hopes to reap from a weekend reduction was, "big deal."

He maintained that costs could be cut simply by employing a skeleton staff of students, paid the minimum wage on weekends.

George Bell, York Executive Vice-President, and a key figure in the calculation of the university's budget, provided the ad-

ministration's explanation of why the library must share in Ontario's cutbacks to post-secondary education.

He pointed out the university must cut back \$1.5 million in all areas, "not as a result of any accident", but due to factors like: reduced provincial grants lower enrolment and a resultant drop in fee income, and potentially higher labour costs due to wage settlements arrived at in collective bargaining.

Asked if cutting the availability of York's major academic resource does not seriously impair the basic function and integrity of the university, Bell answered in the language of hard-nosed economics.

"I think the point is the library, like the other major academic centres, will have to be cut back." According to Bell if the library is spared cutbacks, other areas of the university will suffer.

"It's not the library which is especially suffering, everything we've been doing has been done in a measured way," he said.

Asked to comment on Bell's remarks, Weisfeld expressed the view that the government could tap other sources if it really wanted to reduce cutbacks.

"It's ironic that the highest institution of the university, the Board of Governors, is comprised to a large extent of the representatives of corporations, which have contributed a declining proportion of provincial revenues in the past."

"This" he said, "has led directly to cutbacks in post-secondary education."



Allon rejects PLO

By Agnes Kruchio

Palestinians, yes, P.L.O., no! So said Yigal Allon, former foreign minister of Israel and now second to Izak Rabin in the opposition of the Israeli parliament in a speech given this week at York.

Allon said the Israeli government should be ready to negotiate with legitimate representatives of the Palestinian Arab community in Geneva, but not with the P.L.O., a "self-appointed, dubious organization", according to Allon.

In a year that promises to be critical in determining whether or not peace, war, or stagnation would come about in the middle east, Allon said four things have to be present in order to guarantee peace in the middle east: a readiness of Arab leaders to accept the legitimacy of the state of Israel, and its right to exist, a territorial settlement, defensible borders, and the constructive solution of the problem of the Palestinians.

Ideally, said Allon, Israel should have a signed, negotiated peace treaty, which would foresee all problems in order to prevent a future generation from possibly using a problem as an excuse for war, a peace treaty which would have a period of normalization of relations with the Arab states attached to it. A peace treaty without a normalization of relations in matters of trade, commerce, tourism, diplomatic relations, Allon said, is no more than a "piece of paper".

Because of its small, narrow structure, the state of Israel cannot afford to lose any battle, any war, because any battle for Israel is a "matter of life and death".

"We are the only nation on earth," said Allon, "who can't risk military defeat.... therefore, in a war, we must seize the initiative from the enemy, so we can outflank him his own soil while he begins to march toward us," he said.

Even in this day and age of mass destruction weapons, the terrain of a country is very important in military operations. The only way a



We are the only nation on earth that can't risk military defeat.

country can be occupied is by being overrun by enemy forces. If this is not done, no matter how much bombing takes place, (as in Vietnam) a country cannot be finally taken, Allon said.

Moreover, he said, by redrawing the map of the middle east along topographical and demographic lines, Israel would not only establish its secure boundaries, but would solve a significant portion of the Palestinian question. (A question, he said, which cannot be ignored. "Only a blind politician would ignore it... for to do so... would be politically and morally dangerous", he said.)

"I don't want to deprive ethnic groups from taking the shape of nationhood or statehood, or

peoplehood," he said. As far as a recent joint statement of the USA the USSR about the state of Israel was concerned, it "does not exist", he said.

"I consider the joint American-Russian statement a grave mistake", he said. "We were not consulted.... and I am afraid this (joint statement) may encourage extremism in the Arab world, it may create some unattainable expectations, and will make the feasibility of a successful Geneva conference rather doubtful...."

But as far as the Palestinians were concerned, said Allon, while the Israelis would not check "personal credentials" at the peace table, no Arab will be able to represent the P.L.O.

from page one

is even less, he said, as the union will pay back about \$70,000 to the university as soon as the new contract is signed for back pay the Anti-Inflation Board had rolled back last year.

He was not willing however to speculate what sum would please the union.

from page one

"If there is a serious change in the university's offer, we will take it back to the members, and it will be up to the members to decide," he said.

A strike date has also been set for the York University Graduate Assistants Association (GAA), following a report of failure of

conciliation to the Minister of Labour, Dr. Bette Stephenson. The GAA will be in a strike position on October 29. At press time no mediator had yet been appointed. While the GAA has not taken a strike vote yet, its executive committee is "seriously considering it", according to Ilene Crawford, executive coordinator of the association.

Following the YUSA strike vote late last week, Don Mitchell, director of personnel services, said in a telephone interview, the "university is always willing to negotiate", but not "if the unions don't change their positions." Negotiation means a process of give and take, he said.

YUSA voters OK strike

• continued from page one

According to Lang, the union meeting last week meant that the staff is not willing to accept 6.5% across-the-board wage increase plus 50% dental plan, when the faculty is offered 9%. The first strike vote was taken because there was no concrete offer from the university, said Lang. But, he said, "In some ways the university was saying, Let's see what we can get if we offer 6.5% and 50% of a dental plan. They thought the majority would accept that."

But he was optimistic about the possibilities of a settlement. "In terms of actual money, we are not that far apart, now in the range of about \$150,000," he said. This sum