

# Future shock at York

Leora Aisenberg

Dear Diary:  
November 26, 1993

What a day! I paid my second tuition installment—still owe \$5,000. Then the express ramp broke down and I had to walk to Curtis Video Hall, only to discover that class was cancelled (technical difficulties). I couldn't even start my Pol. Sci. essay—the Scott terminal was shut down in honour of the CUEW picket line.

The day began to get better when I saw *Andrex* and *Kadelion* in the drug store. We bought some *Pink X-14s* and played a few games in the Tech room. We ended up at *Atkinson for Big Macs*. Of course, *Kadelion* had a soy muffin from *Calumet*.

There was a speaker at Moot Court named *Bette Stephenson*; some ex-politician, or something. Anyways, she told us all about the good old days when tuition was \$1,300 and education was government's top priority. She says that now that it's a federal responsibility, politicians refuse to recognize the crisis situation facing universities.

We left the lecture midway through to attend the big war protest in *Central Square*. A couple of mangled vets from the 1985 Wars led the *Hymn of Hiroshima* before the RCMP took them away. *Andrex* burned his radiation-intake card, but I think he did it just to get on omnivision.

Tomorrow, *Kadelion* is taking me to the *Yeowomen game* at the *Tentandrome*. I'd better read up on my football—she still thinks that guys belong in the kitchen and the bedroom.

Until then,

Joe Q. Student

York in the 1990's. In all likelihood, the above scenario is merely the work of a corny science fiction writer, rather than a plausible depiction of the future. But, judging by the opinions of several York students, a "Jetsonized" world of higher education is not completely far-fetched.

## computerized classes

"I imagine that things will be largely computerized," says CYSF president Greg Gaudet. "Teachers may well be on video teaching classes of thousands."

Gaudet foresees an increasing emphasis upon graduate programmes. "We'll probably have more facilities, such as engineering," he said.

He also predicts that York will be at the forefront of communications and Canadian studies.

Glendon student union president Perry Mallinos envisions a unique role for Glendon in the 1990's. "It will be a small, completely

bilingual college with high academic standards, attracting a certain clientele and becoming very reputable."

Students interviewed by *Excalibur* were divided over which academic route York will follow. Some predict a move away from the humanities and social sciences; others maintain that the trend towards specialization will end, making way for an increased interest in general education.

All students agreed upon one factor—learning will be a costly undertaking.

"Students will probably be an elitist class," noted first-year student Gord Creelman. "The people who are going to be here are the ones who have money."

CYSF's Gaudet estimates that, "if things continue the way they have been, i.e. inflation and funding, tuition may be as high as \$7,500 in ten years."

Nevertheless, he prophesizes, beer-drinking, radicalism and college councils will flourish.

So, evidently, will part-time education. Adults seem to be going back to school in

exponential numbers—part-time students comprise almost half the present student population. And, taking into account the anticipated jump in tuition fees, more students will work and take courses concurrently.

With more parents attending school, the already crucial need for non-existent day care spaces will only increase. Whether York's day care service will expand, says director Jane Bertrand, depends on government and

## murkier waters

university policy concerning day care.

University policy, laments Greg Gaudet, will probably be designed with a fiscal slant. "York," he said ruefully, "will become more and more like a business."

If business is the wave of the future, then MBA students will have their heyday. Law students, however, face murkier waters.

"People will go to law school for status, power or altruistic



Alex Wolosewycz

reasons," predicts Rebecca Cowman, a second-year student at Osgoode. "It won't be for the money," she explained, noting that the legal field will be saturated.

Fellow law student Brent Bentham makes a fairly safe forecast for the 1990's. "Trees will be a lot taller," he said.

Unless they are victims of nuclear bloopers, the trees will surely have grown. But what about the rest of the

York environs? Will we have changed, and if so, for better or worse?

No one knows for sure. There may be flying saucers and illicit drug stores, as second-year student Garson Hoffman suggests. Food entrepreneur Rill might resort to employing robots, as student president Greg

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# Radio York: on the air?

Adrian Iwachiw

The only time many York students have ever heard anything about *Radio York* is in *Manus* or *Excalibur*, but almost certainly not from one of the closed-circuit speakers located in various places around campus. The reason for this is that *Radio York* (located in 258A Vanier) has for a few years now been having difficulties fulfilling its role as the official campus radio station.

But just because we're not hearing *Radio York* doesn't mean the station isn't serving an important function. Beyond entertainment this radio station provides useful experience for students who spend volunteer hours working on it (witness the number of *Radio York* graduates who went on to work in the media, including David Pritchard and Bruce Heyding). But it can be much more. Such a radio station can become a youthful and exuberant center of creative thought in the university.

The largest obstacle for *Radio York* has been financial. Whereas other university stations function with annual budgets of up to \$100,000 or more (Carleton has \$124,000 to throw around, Waterloo \$100,000), *Radio York* has virtually no budget other than the occasional handout from the CYSF, who gave \$4,000 to the station last summer. The funds were used to replace aging studio equipment.

Where do other campus stations get their funding? Some (Waterloo, Windsor and Trent among others) receive annual fees directly from the students—five or six dollars a year per student. This is voluntary in the case of Waterloo. Others, like McMaster and Brock, receive funds from their student unions. Most of Ontario's campus stations are funded by a combination of students' unions and external advertising, with occasional grants from the university administration. And, in fact, most of them broadcast on FM cable, or at least AM carrier-current (U of T is still working on obtaining an FM cable license).

Greg Gaudet, president of the CYSF, sees *Radio York* as doing a reasonable job within its means, but doesn't seem willing to offer much immediate help (although a CYSF sub-committee dealing with the station has been formed). John Becker, the university's Assistant

Vice-President in charge of Student Services, views the station as just another student club serving a small section of the York community, and points out that the station's financial relationship is with the student council.



Andy Holowaty and Kevin Kelly of CKRY-Radio York.

The only reasonable option available to *Radio York*, other than closing down or remaining dormant (which won't help matters any, since no one will be willing to advertise without a guaranteed audience), is to continue trying to raise money on their own. This they will do through the recently-initiated "Knights of the Sound Tables" disc-jockey service. Furthermore, Program Director Andy Holowaty informs us that, "we hope that Calumet College Council has set a precedent visible to other college councils in budgeting \$1,500 towards *Radio York*. College councils and other campus organizations are the only immediate source of funds available to *Radio York* in order to overcome initial operating costs. Once we get over these we can look at advertising."

One of the initial hurdles facing the *Radio York* crew is the replacement of the closed-circuit speaker system, one that has been subject to vandalism and theft in the past. Once that is done York students may finally be able to hear their own radio station. With luck, CKRY-FM may once again become a reality.

# Tenants beware!

Joan Koszo

At one time, apartment rents were quite a bargain in Toronto. However, this is no longer the case with landlords passing on substantial increased mortgage costs, property taxes, and heating/fuel costs to tenants. Landlords are taking advantage of the average tenant who does not know what his rights are.

If the building you live in is under the Rent Review Act, the landlord is allowed one six per cent increase per year on your unit. Rents that are increased on a unit between tenants are illegal. Furthermore, if the landlord wishes to increase rents above the six per cent limit, he must apply to the Rent Review Board, sixty days prior to the stated date of the increase. The landlord also must post the amount of rent being paid at present, the amount of the increase and the date the increase will take effect.

A legal aid speaker said she has seen "many settlements higher than 6% recently" and the vehicle for justifying the increase is the cost/revenue file. This file consists of the landlords actual revenues and costs of the last year. Some of these costs include: heating/fuel costs, property taxes, 85% of the mortgage rate and the lawyer's fee for the rent review hearing.

Major costs such as roof repair must be amortized over a number of years so that only a portion can be included as a cost in any one year. Capital costs such as the roof repair are substantial items to check, as a slippery landlord may try to include the entire cost in the year the increased rent is being applied for. Also, the cost of vacancies is important to examine. The vacancy rate in Toronto is only .01 percent, and most tenants know how long units in their building are vacant. Thus, a landlord can be successfully challenged on a claim that the apartment cannot be filled and thus must carry the cost of the rent.

If you are the victim of a substantial rent increase and are under rent controls, check into these costs — the landlord has to show them to you. Moreover, a tenants' association should be formed to gain support in fighting the cause and to ensure notification of increased rents. Although a substantial cost, it is advisable to hire a lawyer to search the title of the land, to draw out the mortgage documents and to do a corporate search to find out who you are dealing with. In one case, a legal aid representative observed that a landlord bought a building from his subsidiary and then proceeded to charge the sale to the tenants.

## proposed increase

It is at the hearing that the cost/revenue statement is gone through, but as many tenants have never been to a hearing, they encounter many snags that can be avoided. For instance, in many cases the hearing will be scheduled for the afternoon when working people cannot attend. According to legal aid, you can write the commission and ask for an evening hearing. Also, hearings are usually scheduled around the time of the proposed increase, but if left to the Commission it will not be until 14 days prior.

Furthermore, any tenant can speak at the hearing and also have the right to cross-examine. Also, do not be intimidated by the commissioner, and do not let him rush you through the hearing — something which seems to be common practice. Finally, if you feel your commissioner is biased you can appeal to the Supreme Court of Ontario for a judicial review process.

However, if you become knowledgeable about the issues and procedures revolving around rent policies, then you gain the power to ensure you are dealt with fairly.