

Excalibur

Vol. 12, No. 20

York University Weekly Community Newspaper

Thursday, Feb. 23, 1978

Coffin gets standing ovation

Rally of 800 protests cuts



York president Macdonald addresses 800 unfriendly faces during no-cutbacks rally.

By Paul Kellogg

"The administration and H. Ian Macdonald must redefine their priorities. A top priority should be human beings, not figures on a balance-sheet."

So said Lauma Avens, President of the York University Staff Association (YUSA) to tumultuous applause at the "No-Cutbacks" rally February 9.

Called by the York No-Cutbacks Committee as the culmination of the week against the cutbacks and supported by virtually every union and student association on campus, it attracted between 800 and 900 students, faculty and staff. The overflow crowd squeezed into Curtis lecture Hall "I" to hear speakers against the cutbacks, listen to proposals of action and listen to, question, and heckle York president H. Ian Macdonald.

A puppet show in Central Square just before the rally attracted a large

and lively crowd. The puppets spiced up their explanation of the projected \$4-million cuts, with such statements as, "administration is like kitty litter; you always try to cover up the shit".

The theatre began again later at the rally when two GAA members entered the rally with a coffin labelled "quality of education".

Inside were hundreds of petitions that had been signed demanding that president Macdonald lead a public campaign to secure adequate university funding. The coffin was greeted by a thunderous standing ovation.

The rally was chaired by Harvey Pinder, student member of York's Board of Governors.

Leading off the speakers was Dawn Smith, president of the Atkinson College Students' Association, who said, "If President Macdonald believes in quality of education then why is he making it impossible to get a quality part-time education?"

Smith was referring to the cut of at least 30 courses projected for Atkinson College.

Norm Noddle, secretary of CUPE local 1356 representing caretakers and maintenance workers, said that, "it's my feeling that we've had enough of this." Noddle said that the cutbacks were hurting the workers on campus and that "the administration is trying to take away many basic things that workers have fought for."

Lee Lorch vice-president of the faculty association said "it's nice to see so many people here at the beginning of our struggle to get adequate funding."

"But sometimes," he said to much laughter and applause, "my classrooms look like this too and that's not so good." Lorch warned that if the cutbacks continue, then York will become a "branch-plant university in Canada's branch plant economy". He said that "universities must be seen as having an essential part to play in this country, or we will be party to the deterioration and destruction of Canada."

Paul Hayden president of the Council of the York Student Federation, was next to speak, and his appearance at the podium was met by a smattering of hisses from the audience.

Hayden suggested a few possible solutions to York's budget crisis. He thought York could sell some of its

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Tony Woolfson, president of GAA.

Calumet says "NO" to forced merger

By Laura Brown

The students of Calumet College reached a decision at their February 8 Meeting that amalgamation with Bethune or any other college is not acceptable.

A motion was passed by the students "that in the interest of the continuation of Calumet College's existence as a serving community, the General Meeting will undertake steps to negotiate withdrawal from CYSF; and they will use the student activities fees gained by this action to make up the college deficit caused by university cutbacks."

"If my college is of the opinion that a merger is bad for them, I would be a bad master for Calumet if I negotiated with Bethune", Winter later told *Excalibur*. "In the same token, I'd be a bad master for Bethune if I walked away from my college."

The meeting was joined by several student politicians, including CYSF president, Paul Hayden and student BOG member Harvey Pinder. "The visiting politicians fouled up our chances of a decent discussion by bringing about a confrontation," with university vice-president Bill Farr, said Winter.

He said Farr was antagonized by the "visiting politicians using him as a sort of personification of all that has gone wrong in the university."

During the meeting Farr had been criticized by Calumet's student liaison officer, John Mays for his manner in dealing with students.

Commenting on the prospects of the college next year, Winter told *Excalibur*, "in the coming year we'll be able to prove our indispensability in the evident value of services rendered to our students, such as the small businesses project."

Winter said that Calumet was looked upon as a "cripple" because it has no building.

"But we're more sensitive to the students and to what is going on in the world because we don't have to worry about how to fill a building," Winter said. "The trend in the university will be colleges without buildings because they are a better idea."

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"No-cutbacks" demo set for March

By Paul Kellogg

On March 16, students from at least across Toronto, and possibly from all of Ontario, will march and demonstrate at Queens Park, protesting the spiralling cutbacks in post-secondary education financing.

The demonstration was called by the Toronto Area Cutbacks Committee, a loose coalition of students, faculty and staff from, York, Ryerson, and the University of Toronto.

The anti-cutbacks committees on the 3 campuses have sprung up as the bad news became known about the financial crises facing their institutions, and the cutbacks in services and personnel it will mean for coming years.

The executive of the Ontario Federation of Students, a province-wide organization that represents over 160,000 university and college students in Ontario, has endorsed the demonstration. This weekend, the member institutions of OFS will be meeting in Ottawa and will vote whether or not to endorse the action and turn it into a province-wide demonstration.

Allan Golombek, information officer for OFS, refused to speculate on the chances of OFS endorsing the demonstration. He did say, however, that from the people he had talked to "they think that now is the time to demonstrate our opposition to cutbacks and inadequate student aid in large numbers at Queens Park".

How big those numbers will be is anybody's guess, but according to Harvey Pinder, student representative on York's Board of Governors, it could be in the vicinity

of 5,000. According to Pinder, "if the OFS endorses it, and student councils' across the province actively build it, and we've forced the university to officially close, then it will be at least that big".

Whether or not the university closes for the day is up to president H. Ian Macdonald. At the "no-cutbacks" rally held two weeks ago, the 900 students faculty and staff present, voted overwhelmingly to demonstrate at Queens Park, and called on Macdonald to close the university.

Macdonald refused to commit himself to closing the university, but after repeated and loud heckling from the audience, and persistent questioning from Tony Woolfson, chairperson of York's Graduate Assistants Association, he said he would at least raise the matter with the Senate and the Board of Governors.

Many people at the rally left believing that Macdonald had actually agreed to support the closing of the university. After the rally, however, Macdonald insisted that he had only agreed to raise the matter at BOG and Senate, and that he hadn't made up his mind about endorsing the closing.

Paul Hayden, president of York's

student council, indicated to *Excalibur*, that if OFS endorses the demonstration and the President closes the university, then the council will supply buses to ferry members of the York community downtown.

The last province-wide demonstration by the post-secondary education community was in January, 1976, when between 2,000 and 2,500 students showed up at Queens Park to voice their opposition to the government's education policies.



Harvey Pinder, student member on BOG, who chaired no-cutbacks rally.

BOG wants slower cutbacks

By Agnes Kruchio

York's Board of Governors, many of whom figure in Canada's establishment, may be going to the provincial government to make a case for better treatment of universities, following a motion passed at a tumultuous board

meeting last week.

The province should give more money to universities during a period, which, "for demographic and economic reasons is placing severe strains on the universities' abilities to meet their commitments and to maintain viable academic programs."

"The concern of universities is that the government not cut too much too quickly," because they will not be able to adjust to it in time, said chairman of the board Bertrand Gerstein.

A strongly worded motion made by student member Harvey Pinder, which called for, among other things, the board to organize an opposition lobby to provincial cutbacks, failed for lack of support.

A series of clashes between Gerstein and Pinder began when Pinder objected to not

having been allowed to attend an earlier joint meeting of the executive committees of the board and senate to discuss the cutbacks.

"I will not allow you to run this meeting", Gerstein told Pinder repeatedly as the student rep brought forward points and questions at almost every stage of the agenda. Cheers for Pinder from the audience followed the parries between the two.

More than 50 students and faculty attended the meeting, the first time a large audience has attended a BOG meeting. They had been invited to attend by Pinder at the February 9 No-Cutbacks rally.

Representatives of the Graduate Assistants Association (GAA) told the board that the cuts may mean York will lose its unique appeal as a university.

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No-cutbacks meeting today at 1 p.m. Curtis "B"