

## Sorbara focuses on Chretien, Wilson

By JOEL GREEN

Gregory Sorbara, Ontario's Minister of Colleges and Universities, was at York last Thursday to "talk politics" at a gathering organized by the York University Liberal Association.

Speaking the day after Finance Minister Michael Wilson brought down his second budget, and only hours after Jean Chretien announced his resignation, Sorbara dwelt on both events in his talk before facing questions from the group of about 30 gathered in B02 Administrative Studies Building.

Sorbara called Chretien's resignation "a very sad event" for "those of us who are dedicated to liberal principles and the Liberal Party."

"I think the kind of political dedication that Jean gave to his country—a selfless dedication—ought to be the style and approach that is the example for all of us who are in public office and for all of us who participate in the public process," Sorbara said.

Sorbara called Wilson's budget "something less than creative."

In the question period following his talk, Sorbara also criticized Wilson for not transferring enough federal money to Ontario for post-secondary education.

"The real dilemma we face with that transfer arrangement is Michael Wilson's initiative to cut back funding—to reduce it over a period of five years—reduction which in the

aggregate for Ontario over a five year period will amount to some \$2 billion in post secondary transfers," Sorbara said.

Asked if he thought the Ontario Federation of Students are an effective lobbying group Sorbara said that "from my perspective I rejoice in having the opportunity of meeting the province-wide body that speaks for most of the institutions. In absence of the OFS frankly it would be more difficult for me to get views from the perspective of students."

Sorbara said he could not comment on how effective the OFS is in representing York's particular needs, saying, "If they're not, use the democratic process, throw the guys out and vote somebody else in."



JOSEPH COLLINS

Minister of Colleges and Universities Gregory Sorbara speaking to members of the York University Liberal Association last Thursday. Sorbara said he "rejoices" in having the opportunity to consult with the Ontario Federation of Students.

## Guyanese High Commissioner to US addresses Caribbean conference

By KEVIN O'NEILL

American interaction in the Caribbean has been "episodic and reactive," according to the High Commissioner of Guyana to the U.S.

Dr. Cedric Grant, a former political science professor at the University of Waterloo, said on Monday the United States has shown "long periods of neglect (and) short periods of concern," with regard to Caribbean countries.

Grant made the comments in a speech titled "Geopolitical Factor and Caribbean Development," part of Bethune College's three-day conference "The Caribbean Today: Third Decade of Independence."

Grant's presence at the conference drew the ire of the Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Guyana

(CFEFG), a Toronto-based group. It felt that by having Grant speak York was "legitimizing a repressive regime that has no respect for human rights," according to Herman Ali, a member of the group.

Ali sent a letter to various members of the York community calling for a boycott of Grant's visit. In the letter, Ali charged that "the present regime, the People's National Congress rigged the December 9, 1985 elections to give itself a massive majority."

Grant's speech contained only a passing mention of the alleged fraudulent elections, saying that doubts expressed by opposition parties were laid to rest after a meeting with Guyana's leader.

After his speech Grant said, "Allegations were made... by some

Caribbean leaders, who met with President Hoyt (of Guyana), who expelled the fears and concerns of his colleagues."

He went on to say that Mrs. Eugenia Charles, President of Dominica, said in an interview with the Trinidadian Express "she was quite satisfied with explanations about the conduct of the election."

Grant said he was advised by organizers about a planned protest by the CFEFG. "I took two positions," he said. "It reminded me of what a campus was all about. Two, as an ambassador, I have to be familiar and conscious of occupational hazards."

The CFEFG, in protest of Grant's appearance, handed out pamphlets denouncing Hoyt's government and the elections of December 9.

## Pro-choice forum attracts small crowd as it bashes pro-choicers' apathy

By DRAZEN BULAT

"Those who are pro-choice are often not ready to come out and support the movement," said Glenna Caldwell, the executive secretary of the Canadian Union of Educational Workers (CUEW), local 3, at a forum held last Thursday by the York Students for Choice. The comment was underlined by the presence of only about a dozen people in the room.

Caldwell was one of three speakers who volunteered their time to come and speak on the subject of involvement in the Pro-Choice movement.

Chris Burton, a member of the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League (CARAL) and a graduate student, spoke first. She outlined the make-up and function of CARAL, a national organization working to

repeal the present abortion law and to protect access to abortion. She spoke of her experiences in giving talks in high schools and stressed the importance of pressuring politicians to take a stand on the issue of choice.

Caldwell spoke next and outlined the contribution that a union such as CUEW makes to the pro-choice movement. She saw the mortality issue that is always brought up against the supporters of pro-choice movement, only as a "good way to cloud the fact that what they are really controlling is the women and their bodies."

Sherie Macdonald, a member of the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics (OCAC), described the function of the group and stressed the fact that it is a group involved in many other issues, including Inter-

national Women's Day.

According to Andrea Markowski, one of the spokespersons for the York Students for Choice, the purpose of the "Forum on Movement-Building" was to discuss ways of bringing people forward to get involved. She believes that "there is a silent pro-choice majority on the York campus" and hopes that by holding forums such as the one last week, the silent majority will become vocal.

The York Students for Choice is in its first year of existence but is not funded by CYSF because it is seen as a political group. Although it is not sponsored by the Woman's Centre, the group meets once a week to plan activities such as the forum held last week.

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