



Not all line-ups last Monday involved this much jostling and shoving. But there was the odd one, like the one pictured above where the going got rough.

Actually, this isn't really a line-up. It's a picture of team 2 of the York Rugby Club exterminating the Toronto Welsh 44-0. Earleir team 1 played the Toronto Welsh

winning 12-0. York's team 3 beat Midland 36-6 on the same day just for good measure. More sports on the back page.

Excalibur

Volume 12, No. 1

York University Community Newspaper

Sept. 15, 1977

Tighter controls stricter criteria for student grants

By Ted Mumford

Ontario minister of colleges and universities Harry Parrott announced in August the "principles" of a new student grant program to take effect in 1978-79.

OSAP (the Ontario Student Assistance Plan) administers both student grants, which come from the Ontario government budget, and the federal Canada Student Loans (CSL) plan.

When the new principles come into effect student assistance will be more tightly controlled but needy students from low income families will be more generously supported with grants so they will not have to borrow money under the CSL plan.

One of the new controls will be a limitation on the number of years (as of yet, not specified) students can receive assistance. The reasoning behind the limit, according to Parrott, is "we have to conserve public funds by encouraging students to complete their studies as quickly as possible."

The reaction of Miriam Edelson, chairperson of the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS), to Parrott's announcement on grant program principles was one of surprise. "We had presumed that it would be a comprehensive outline of the long waited replacement to OSAP. Instead it is a rather ambiguous statement of administrative criteria that 'might' be found in the new scheme, along with what the minister dislikes in the report of the interim committee."

"There is no comment on goals and objectives for the new plan," she went on to say, "or how particular principles will ensure improved equality of opportunity to a college or university education. Rather, the minister speaks of 'tighter controls' and 'stricter criteria.'"

Edelson also feels Parrott's statement ignores important factors in any new grant plan, such as the assessment of actual resources and actual expenses of students.

Edelson approves of the plan's aspiration to make lower income families less loan dependent and a

proposal by Parrott to hold regional meetings to discuss the details of the plan.

Some of the new principles that the new plan will follow include:

- every student will have to make a contribution to the costs of his or her education;

- the provincial grants program will have different and stricter criteria than the federal CSL plan;

- the amount of the grant students can receive will depend on their family income.

• see **TIGHTER GRANTS**, page 11

Hiring suspension till 1978

No more profs this year

By Paul Kellogg

Hiring of new faculty members has been suspended for at least one year, after a mid-August meeting of Deans and Vice-presidents with York President H. Ian Macdonald.

The suspension, according to Macdonald, is a result of York's uncertain budgetary outlook, and the need to plan for the future in terms of definite priorities. The one year freeze period will be the first step in setting these priorities, said Macdonald.

The suspension of hiring "will undoubtedly lead to a decrease in the number of faculty at York, although it doesn't mean that all vacancies which arise will not be filled."

The suspension occurs while the administration is in the midst of contract negotiations with York's faculty association (YUFA). YUFA executive member Virginia Hunter wasn't prepared to comment on the decision until the YUFA executive discussed it. However, she did say the administration had raised the possibility of such a hiring-suspension during contract negotiations and "it was certainly not a thing we wanted to negotiate or accept."

According to Macdonald, the suspension "was one of the only



York has a new chancellor. The appointment of Progressive Conservative ex-premier of Ontario, John Robarts (pictured above) fills the post vacated last spring by Walter Gordon. It was announced September 12 by Bertrand Gerstein, Chairman of the Board of Governors.

ways we saw to meet the growing demands on the budget, for instance, that of salaries."

It also comes as a response to the decrease in first-year enrolment, down about 400 from last year. "It's a question of where does it seem the slack can be picked up," said Macdonald. "Reducing course options is one, and a hiring suspension is another."

As *Excalibur* goes to press, the impact the hiring suspension will have on class sizes is undetermined.

Bigger classes, fewer courses says York's prez

By Agnes Kruchio

York university should increase the size of its undergraduate classes and decrease the number of courses offered to allow some professors more time for research, according to a report first released last April and now before the university senate.

The report, prepared by York University president H. Ian Macdonald with the aid of two professors, a student and an alumnus, suggests that York should specialize in "its areas of academic excellence". It suggests that York cannot continue to try doing "a great number of things" but should rather divert its resources to areas in which York is good at, and to adopt methods of regular and systematic planning and review its affairs.

The report, which is over 100 pages long, containing 102 recommendations and costing \$2,000, suggests that only a thorough shakeup can ease York's discontent.

"Even before I joined York University, members of the community spoke to me about the importance of rekindling the spark which brought about at York a truly innovative environment," president Macdonald wrote in an addendum to the report.

"Having grown large in a short time, York has not been able to sustain the co-operative integrated spirit which characterized its early

years," the report states.

"There are a lot of issues I've been suggesting they (the university community) should be looking at, in their own interest," Mr. Macdonald said in an interview early this week. "Tough decisions will have to be made in the years ahead", he added.

RESEARCH PROMOTED

The report recommends that since research is the "sine qua non of the modern university", this activity should be encouraged by allowing some professors "positions that reduce individual teaching commitments", a vice-president of research to be appointed, and regular sabbatical leaves to be replaced by "research fellowships".

The commission which took about 18 months to complete its report, envisions covered walkways, heated areas for commuters waiting for buses, an express bus-line to the subway terminus at Wilson (ultimately, direct subway connection), more trees, and regular planning and assessment of professors and the university as a whole.

A key suggestion of the report aims at eliminating the present college system and reducing the number of non-faculty colleges from the present seven to five. A task force on colleges stated "colleges at York are the mutations of chance and wishful thinking".

See **FACULTIES**, page 3

BOG meetings - open or closed?

By PAUL KELLOGG

Exactly half of York's Board of Governors (BOG) are now on its executive, following a decision at its monthly meeting last Monday.

Enlarging the executive to four from the previous five members on the 28-member board, "is a transparent attempt to continue, de facto, the secret decision-making meetings of the Board," according to Harvey Pinder, one of the two student members of the board.

The board voted at its meeting in May to allow limited public access to its meetings for the first time since

its inception. Until that decision, York was one of only a handful of universities in Ontario whose board - the most powerful decision-making body at the university - conducted its meetings in total secrecy.

Executive-committee meetings, like all committee meetings at the board, are not open to the public. According to Pinder, the new enlarged executive will discuss matters hitherto handled by BOG general meetings. Neither Pinder nor the other student member, Jay Bell, is on the executive.

Chairman of the board, Bertrand Gerstein (Chief Executive Officer

and Chairman of the board of the Toronto-Dominion Bank), denied that the enlargement of the executive was done in order to continue secret decision-making.

"Mr. Pinder is entitled to his opinion," he said, "but it is a difficult thing to impute motivations at any time, and certainly to the executive of the board."

The executive was enlarged because "all the chairmen of the committees were not on the five-man executive" said Gerstein. He said that the enlarged executive would be more representative of the board.