

# Editorial

## York will remain poor cousin unless it receives special injection of catch-up funds

The institutional battle over university funding is an old one: there's never enough allocated by the provincial government to properly address post-secondary monetary needs and money which is obtained is never distributed equitably throughout the system.

York is a victim of these entrenched inequities which have plagued the university funding formula in the past by discriminating against those institutions which have increased enrolment. Over the past decade, York for instance, has jumped from 24,000 to 40,000 students while its institutional funding has dipped to 80 percent of the average funding level of Ontario universities.

Because of its persistently underfunded state, York looked forward to the introduction of a new funding formula in order to secure allocations to catch up to average funding levels within the system. The funding formula arrived last week; York's desperately needed money to catch up to the rest of the system was nowhere to be seen.

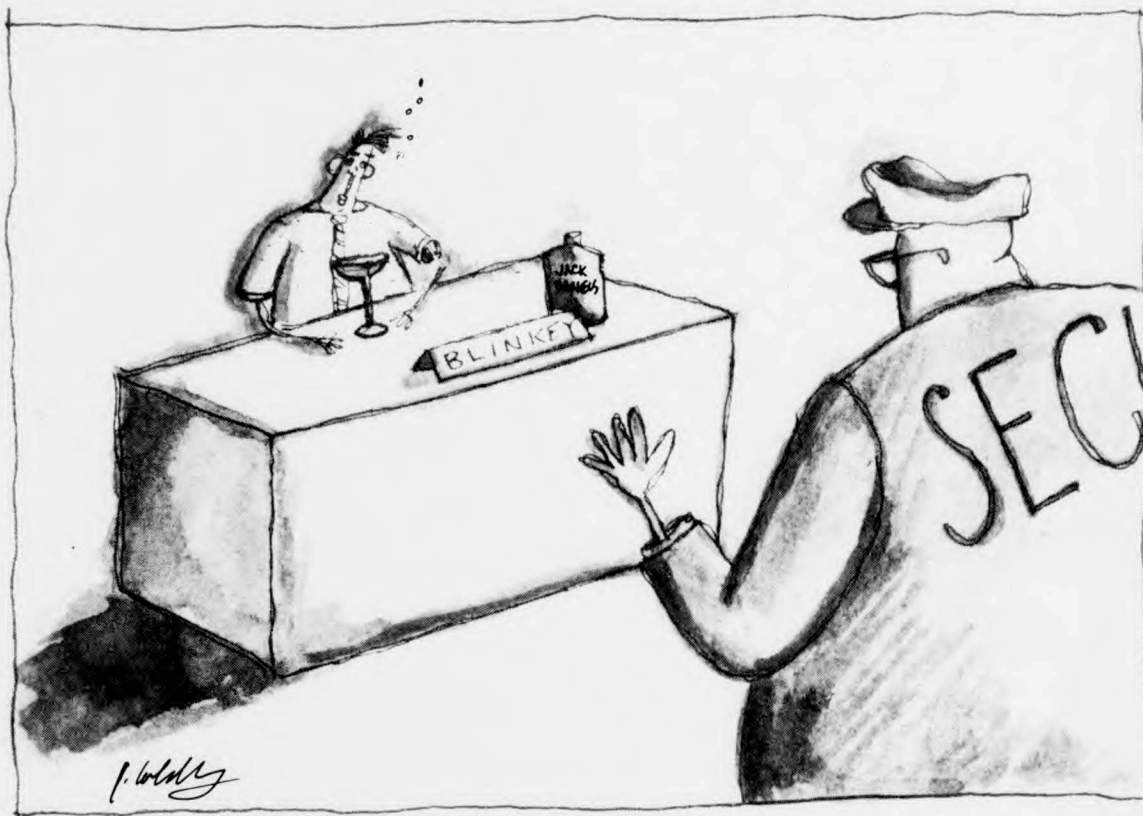
The Liberal government, by recommendation of the Ontario Council on University Affairs (OCUA), recently adopted a new allocation scheme. They claim this will help achieve rough equity while enhancing accessibility, research and other financially starved areas within the system. Essentially, the new approach will incorporate funding envelopes which will be divvied up among individual institutions on top of the basic operating grants each university usually receives. These grants then become part of each university's base operating grant so rough equity will be maintained.

Unfortunately, the new allocation process does not go far enough. Even with the overall \$9.3 million envelope allocation on top of York's basic operating grant, York is still 10 to 11 million dollars behind the system's average. However, according to the OCUA formula, rough equity still exists as long as each university's funding level stays within six to seven percent of the system average. Certainly, no funding formula, based on rough equity, can condone a principle that allows an institution to lag so far behind the funding norm.

However, an OCUA spokesperson claims that one can look at York's allocation in two ways: either York is behind 10 to 11 million dollars or York has made up important ground through the added \$9.3 million grant. The accessibility envelope only contained \$25 million OCUA said, and every institution was complaining for more. OCUA also informed *Excalibur* that the accessibility envelope will be an annual allocation to continue facilitating York's financial recovery in the future.

Unfortunately, the problem with financial envelopes is that no one can forecast what exactly the amount of the allocation will be from one year to the next. As a result, when York will reach funding parity with the rest of the system can never be determined.

In the fratricide that marks these funding battles, York has lost time and time again and the new allocation scheme does not present much promise in the way of addressing York's grant shortages. The solution for York's woes can only be found outside the allocation scheme with a special transfusion of funds going straight to York over a period of time. Without monetary aid from outside the funding formula, York will remain a poor cousin in the Ontario university family.



I PROMISE I WON'T TELL BLINKY, IF YA POUR ME ONE.

## Letters

Letters to the Editor are welcome, and should be sent to 111 Central Square. All letters should be double spaced and preferably typewritten. Although *Excalibur* may withhold names of correspondents in extenuating circumstances, all letters must be signed and include the writer's phone number for verification. Anonymous letters will not be published. *Excalibur* reserves the right to edit letters for length, and to withhold all correspondence which is of a libelous nature.

### Student escorts are not a 'taxi service'

Editor:

In a letter to the *Excalibur* on the 12th of March, Miss Hortsing, in making a complaint about the Student Security Escort Service asked the question, "What exactly is your objective?" I would welcome the opportunity to answer her question.

The Student Escort Service was inaugurated and operates solely to provide a method of transporting students safely on and about the 600 acre campus area, thereby reducing the possibility of their being placed in a compromising or vulnerable position. It was never meant to be a taxi service, and for that reason pickups beyond the campus boundary cannot be accommodated.

While this may occasionally present the type of problem Miss Hortsing states she encountered, our responsibility must remain with the movement of students on campus and any time that may be spent by the Escort Service away from the campus property would increase the potential for a problem due to a delay in serving an on campus student.

The Escort Service does drop off students who live just off the campus boundary as the writer stated. However, these students were picked up on the campus and we have both a moral and legal obligation to transport them all the way to their drop-off point, e.g. bus stop, apartment, etc.

While I share Miss Hortsing's concern, the fact is that a boundary must be set and adhered to, and in this case, this boundary is the University's property line. As I have attempted to outline above, the objective of the Escort Service is to provide the students of the University with safe transportation on campus. In fact, during the year 1986, 21,620 students were carried about the campus. This year, over 3,000 students per month have utilized the service.

I hope that my explanation will allow all students to gain a better perspective of our operation and

that our concern is and must remain with the welfare of all students.

—E.A. Pond

Assistant Director, Special Services Section, Department of Security

### Actions of CRO very 'suspicious'

Editor:

I am disconcerted with the actions of the Chief Returning Officer of this week's Student Centre referendum. It seems highly suspicious that the headquarters of the "NO campaign" was not given a polling station in the vote. Every other college was given a polling station in which its students could register their votes. One cannot help but think that this was a deliberate move to limit an effective opposition. Moreover, it seems that a special effort could, and should have been made to give Atkinson students, who are primarily night students, an opportunity to vote.

The explanation of the CRO are simply not adequate. When questioned about the lack of a polling station in Atkinson, Mr. Stokes claimed that stations were located where the largest flow of traffic would be. The stations were put in the same places as they were last year during the CYSF elections despite the fact that only 40 students voted in the Administrative Studies building last year.

Another unanswered question, is why two polling stations were allocated to Bethune and Stong when they were not more than 100 yards apart. The hardship of crossing between these two buildings could have been overcome by the patriotic duty of these students. The CRO also explained to me that he felt that because Calumet students were all commuter students they would have to be going to other buildings to go to classes any ways. They therefore could vote in those buildings. He explained that residence students might not have classes on polling day and therefore no reason to go to other buildings. I really can't see that any residence students would wish to be cloistered in his/her room all day.

It seems incomprehensible to me why, in a referendum aimed at getting a facility primarily for commuter students, that the largest single

block of commuter students should be so casually brushed off. I understand the problems of trying to get as many people to vote as possible but ignoring Calumet and Atkinson students seems to be a growing trend among CYSF run elections and referenda.

—Ken McCrimmon

### Nuclear notions are not so 'radical'

Editor:

I would like to address Susan Kranjc's letter—"Nuclear reality demands global view" (*Excalibur*—March 5, 1987), and her statement that, "anyone who is a proponent for the Peace through Strength organization is in no doubt an extreme radical him/herself." The philosophy of the Canadian Coalition for Peace through Strength states that, "meaningful peace can only be assured by a strong deterrent force of the Free World or by the balanced, multilateral, verifiable disarmament of nuclear and conventional weapons by all nations." Yes Ms. Kranjc, that is our RADICAL philosophy. While our "peace" movement claims the same goal, their actions and inactions suggest the opposite.

Western "peace" protests are saturated with countless signs, banners and buttons denouncing the US and US weapons systems by name, (Refuse the Cruise, Star Wars starts Wars, etc.) but the corresponding number denouncing the USSR and its arsenal is between zero and one.

When the Soviet nuclear powered satellite, COSMOS 954 crashed in the Canadian arctic (1977) contaminating an area costing approximately eight million to clean (of which the Soviets paid under three million) where was the "peace" movement? Had the satellite been American, rest assured they would have been out in full force. When the Three-Mile Island reactor near Harrisburg Pa. sprung a leak in 1979, there were mass protests and NO-NUKE benefit concerts.

When the Chernobyl reactor exploded in April, 1985, killing more than 30 people outright, with deaths from cancer and radiation related illnesses to eventually reach over

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(We hope you've enjoyed Irish playwrights & Samuel Beckett novel characters; Next week: T.B.A.)

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