

## Not much Christmas cheer in senate

# Job security top concern, states Macdonald

By OAKLAND ROSS

The announcement more than two weeks ago that the provincial government will raise the basic income unit of Ontario universities and colleges by a meagre 7.4 per cent is still sending shock waves down the administrative spine of York University.

"I have difficulty seeing why a government supposedly sensitive to public opinion would take an action which would offend such a large portion of the population," said York president H. Ian Macdonald, in a special address to the university senate last Thursday.

In an atmosphere of considerable gloom, the senate members listened to Macdonald explain that there is little chance of seeing this policy changed. In a year when government

funding to primary schools has been raised by 24 per cent and to secondary schools by 13 per cent, the severe limiting of funds to universities "has to represent a fundamental shift in priorities", said Macdonald.

### RAY OF SUNSHINE

In an effort to reassure worried faculty and staff, Macdonald stressed that any solutions to York's financial ailments will be governed by four major concerns: first, the preservation of jobs for people currently employed at York; second, the desire to see that people employed at York make good financial progress "vis à vis the industrial and other outside sectors"; third, the maintenance and enhancement of York's academic quality; and fourth, the maintenance of York's

financial strength and integrity.

But Macdonald cautioned that even if the university institutes no new programmes and incurs no new major expenses this year, it could still only afford a six per cent across-the-board salary increase.

With the consumer price index up by 11.6 per cent over the past year, and showing no signs of diminishing, the prospect of a six per cent pay hike is not apt to provide much Christmas cheer in the corridors of York.

But Macdonald stressed that he was mentioning the six per cent figure not as a possible solution to the problem, but simply as an illustration of the problem's severity.

While vice-president for finance Bill Farr and his staff are currently hammering out new budget proposals for the university, Macdonald said this process may take considerable time.

"We badly need a basic budget-making organization and an organization for setting priorities at York," he said. "In fact, we need a major improvement in communications."

### CLOUDS GATHER

Shortly after Macdonald's report, the senate heard a report from its

special budget committee. M. A. Bider, acting chairman of the committee, said that "we're going to have to be realistic in our projections about how the 7.4 per cent BIU increase can best be handled, and I guess we all know what that means."

On a less ominous note, Bider suggested that the government's announcement on financing for universities may teach York a lesson.

"We need complete, factual, powerful data, we need numbers, in order that we may present our case to the government and to the public," he said.

According to Bider, York's financial woes could, to some extent, have been avoided if Ontario's universities and colleges had armed themselves with statistics to back up their claims in negotiations with the government. In order to remedy this shortcoming, Bider is currently developing a "course file" at York.

A course file, he explained, is a data system which would keep constant tabs on "who teaches what to whom for how many hours a week and how many people are actually there."

One senate member wondered if this information could be suppressed

in the event that it reflected to York's disadvantage. Bider replied that "hanging tight will never get us out of this unconscionable situation (the budget crisis) because the government will interpret our silence as an admission that we have something to hide."

"Heaven forbid," whispered someone nearby.

## Unlucky in love

NEW JERSEY (CPS-CUP) — Charles Saunders, 20, was recently convicted for the crime of committing fornication.

A 1796 New Jersey law makes it illegal for single persons to have sexual relations.

Saunders argued the statute was unconstitutional, was seldom enforced, violated his privacy and was established in the "prevailing notions of religious morality of the latter 18th century".

Justice Stanley Bedford rejected the arguments and fined Saunders \$50, citing "compelling secular reasons" to enforce the law: prevention of illegitimate children and the spread of venereal disease.

Saunders is appealing the decision.

## Montreal citizens' party upsets Drapeau machine

MONTREAL (CUP) — Once considered Canada's most formidable political machine, Montreal mayor Jean Drapeau's Civic Party was humbled November 10 by a coalition of poor people, trade unionists and intellectuals.

The Montreal Citizens' Movement (MCM) won 18 seats on the 55 member city council, thus denying Drapeau's party the necessary 2/3 majority needed to pass municipal bills. Drapeau's team claimed only 36 seats, and an independent took the last seat.

This was a poor showing compared to Drapeau's sweep of all 55 seats in the last election of 1970, when his party received over 90 per cent of all votes cast.

While the turnout was slightly lower than for most Montreal elections, those who voted made one thing clear: they've had enough of Drapeau's policies of funding massive expressway building, grandiose spectator sports and Man and His World deficits, while Montrealers lack adequate housing, parkland, public transit and pollution controls.

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