

# The only place open Monday

By Paul Kellogg

While most of Toronto slept in Monday morning, recovering from a weekend of ringing in the New Year, York University's several thousand inhabitants made their way to the Downsview campus to kick off another term of university.

For many of them, the journey took a lot longer than usual. Most of the city was taking the day off, and that included buses, streetcars, and subways.

Half-hour waits along Steeles and hour-long ones on Keele were the order of the day, as a rush-hour York crowd had to contend with a transit system operating on holiday hours.

When they got there, many students

found their classes cancelled as some students and faculty had decided to take an extended holiday anyway.

Most other university campuses were given Monday off, and McMaster and Laurentian even stretched their holiday to Tuesday.

York, along with Trent and Laurentian, was one of only three Ontario universities whose population had their new year of school begin one day early.

And at bus stops, parking lots, and residences, a lot of Yorkites were wondering why.

According to a spokesperson for Statistics Canada, Monday was not, as most people

thought, a statutory holiday. "January 1 is the official holiday," she said, "and when it falls on a Sunday as it did this year, employers and institutions are under no obligation to close down on Monday."

"However, it is my understanding that most people were given a holiday on Monday anyway," she added.

Bill Small, a vice-president in the York administration, said that York was open Monday for academic reasons and because of previously negotiated union agreements.

"We lost several Mondays of classes in the fall," he said, "and if you lose another Monday, it affects the academic work of people who have Monday classes."

He added that in negotiations with the unions on campus, it was decided it was better to come back to work on Monday than come in for only one day of work the week before. The university was closed from December 23 to January 1.

As for the transit problems encountered by York commuters, a spokesperson for the Toronto Transit Commission said that the TTC was unaware it was business as usual at York on Monday.

"However," he said, "if the university itself called our planning department, special arrangements could have been made. We could have put on extra buses."

Apparently, no one from York gave TTC a call.

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## Millions in aid money to go unspent: Parrott

By Agnes Kruchio

The money set aside for student aid in the Ontario government's budget will not all be spent.

This was admitted by Dr. Harry Parrott, minister of colleges and universities (MCU) at a public meeting at York attended by a handful of students.

The meeting, organized by the student council (CYSF) was held December 9, the last day of classes before exams, and was called so students could discuss with Parrott

proposed changes in the Ontario student aid plan.

"This means that even though the province has projected an increase in the student aid budget from \$61 to \$76 million, students still won't get the money in the budget," said Allan Golombek of the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS).

"It's a neat public-relations ploy," he said. "The government gains points when it increases the student aid budget, and gains points

again when it does not spend all of it."

Golombek said the restrictive regulations used by the MCU in giving out student aid have meant that it has spent \$33 million less than it has budgeted during the past six years.

The minister's repeated assurances that the new plan is an improvement over the old one drew jeers from some of the students at the York meeting. One fourth year student said she probably will not be able to go to graduate school under the new scheme, which cuts students off after four years.

"The new plan discriminates against people in the arts," she said. While students in professional schools could, at least in theory, get a bank loan, this would not be possible for graduate students in arts, she said.

Dr. Parrott suggested that some of the students now in the system will be covered under a "grandfather clause".

He said they will probably  
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Harry Parrott was flabbergasted at the small turnout at the CYSF-organized student aid meeting December 9.



Spying a parking officer, skier prepares to hoof it during Monday's storm.  
Sandy Zeldin photo.

## Human rights the issue

# Hunger strike goes 11 days

By Maxine Kopel

Twelve York students ended an 11-day hunger strike December 11 after a Canadian government representative promised the government would intervene in the case of Russian dissident Anatoly Scharansky.

Scharansky has been imprisoned

without formal charges since March 15, 1977 after his arrest for monitoring the Helsinki Agreement, a provision granting human rights, and for being an alleged CIA agent, an accusation US President Carter has denied.

The strikers' demands also included a public denouncement by Prime Minister Trudeau of the Soviet Union's violations of the Helsinki Agreement and against the treatment of Soviet Jews.

A statement released by the strikers maintains that the government's decision to make a direct representation "indicates that the Prime Minister and his government

is deeply concerned with the plight of Soviet Jews. The action proposed on behalf of Anatoly Scharansky illustrates that our government is committed to its program of monitoring the human rights aspect of the Helsinki Agreement."

The fast was called off following a meeting in which Norm Cafik, Minister of Multi-culturalism, told members of the Scharansky family and a small ensemble of strikers and supporters that the government would approach the Russian ambassador. According to striker David Gotfried, the Canadian government informed the

\*see STRIKERS page three

## Faculty members defend Forest

By Laura Brown

"Nobody benefits from Jeffrey Forest's suspension; students are suffering and charges against him have nothing to do with his teaching," said Professor Gerry Hunnius to *Excalibur* this week.

Hunnius, chairman of the social science division at Atkinson, was commenting on the suspension of Forest who is a lecturer at York University and a director of an Atkinson course.

Forest was suspended by the university on November 21 following his arrest for assault on November 18. Fighting broke out

that day in Central Square after two days of heated debate about Zionism between Forest and a small group of the York Student Movement (YSM), and students who opposed their views that "Zionism equals racism". The Metropolitan Toronto police were called in by York Security and Forest and three other people were arrested.

Hunnius told *Excalibur* that the Atkinson social science department believes Forest should be allowed back on campus. He said President H. Ian Macdonald is "not justified for banning Forest from campus as

there is no knowledge at this time who started the November 18 fight."

The social science department passed this resolution on their position to Macdonald, to the Graduate Assistants' Association, to Forest and to Atkinson Dean Knittel.

Hunnius said that Forest's absence from campus is affecting the fifty students in the Atkinson course of which Forest is course director. A tutor has been able to maintain the course but end of term papers and exams have not been dealt with.

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### inside Excalibur this week



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