

editorial

Davis Doublespeak appeases unilingual 'General Public'

Whatever our political bent, many of us long suspected that Bill Davis was a master of political linguistics, especially when it comes to handling the press and public.

He has nurtured his deft talent for filling the air with wonderful noises disguised as meaningful political prose. But you probably never realized that the man is a closet bilingual nor that he could speak both languages simultaneously.

Non. Davis doesn't speak French.
Finance? Oui.

Employing his Tory guerrilla rhetoric Davis feigns disappointment with some of the major recommendations of the Bovey Commission on the Future Development of the Universities of Ontario. To decrease accessibility, Davis says earnestly, to a university education would be an inequitable way to help resolve the financial problems of the province's universities. Bill Davis, champion of downtrodden students everywhere. Edmund Bovey: scapegoat.

While this ethereal battle of words rages on in an attempt to seduce the hearts and minds of the 'general public' it only serves to divert our attention from Davis' financial statements which are spoken in quite a different tongue.

The provincial government has devised a funding system which penalizes universities, like York, which attempt to live up to Davis' rhetoric of increased accessibility by enrolling more students and it simultaneously rewards schools that remain static and even shrink.

It's a complex formula and thus it doesn't receive much attention in the press, because they know that we, the "GP", don't read, write or speak finance.

But Davis can read the public.

He set up a commission to reorganize our universities with the explicit instructions that they not spend more money in the process. To improve the quality of the system, Bovey had little choice but to recommend that funds come from the only other major source: the student.

Davis set up Bovey to test the public's collective stomach for tough measures in education, and when the press and public deserted Bovey, Davis safely distanced his government from the report with a few off-the-cuff remarks about the inequity of Bovey's recommendations.

Bovey was a trial balloon. Fortunately for us it crashed and burned. The only sad part about the whole manoeuvre is that Bovey still labors under the illusion that his report went over well and will be seriously considered after the leadership convention is concluded.

Even without the implementation of Bovey's report the situation is grim. Tories are successfully masquerading as the Friends of Higher Education while actively seeking more ways to cut back.

There's no light at the end of this tunnel.



letters

Student unity can bring change

Editor:
York University needs a change. The current governmental policy to increase tuition fees 50 percent, the constant TTC fare hikes, the criminal cost of books, and educational universality cuts by six to eight percent raise some interesting questions.

York University's own president merely advocates that "we will have to make the best of it." CYSF appears to be too busy to deal with the matter. Their

recent efforts primarily consist of a film series on immigration and an entertaining music show. Who is left to represent us?

One appears to be left out in the cold. The purpose of this commentary is to find out whether York students will continue being helpless in determining their roles at the university.

Can every student's "daddy or mommy" dish out up to \$1,800 per year on tuition fees alone? Does anyone in this university find it difficult to cope with the present day crisis? Are all York students simply concerned with building a fictitious career with a "big bucks" corpora-

tion?
I suppose the apathetic air that enmeshes itself in this institution is simply too difficult to resist. You may share these convictions, you may not. In any case, let's hear some opinions! Personally, I feel that the change can only be brought about through student solidarity. What do you think?

—Alex Riha

Keep that hate mail coming, folks!

excalibur

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