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2,500 students march on Queen's Park to protest grant cutbacks, tuition increases

By MICHAEL HOLLETT

Talk of the rebirth of the student movement was in the air as 2,500 students from across the province packed the University of Toronto's Convocation Hall last Wednesday to protest cutback in Ontario social services as outlined in the provincial government's McKeough-Henderson report.

The rally, described by organizers as the biggest mobilization of students in years, was followed by a march and demonstration at Queen's park.

The rally was organized by the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS), the provincial federation of post-secondary student councils of which York's CYSF and the Glendon College Students Union are members.

York and Glendon sent about 350 students to the rally. This was not a large showing, especially considering that CYSF, GCSU and President H. Ian Macdonald provided a number of free buses downtown.

U. of T. was well represented at the rally, and Carleton University provided the largest out-of-town contingent. Six busloads of students made the 10-hour return trip from Ottawa and 200 high school students were included among their number. Large representation was also in evidence from McMaster, Fanshawe College, Trent, Queens, Western, Waterloo and Ryerson.

The McKeough-Henderson Report calls for sweeping cutbacks in the province's social services. The report is especially hard on post-secondary education, calling for tuition increases of 65

per cent, as well as decreased student grants and an increase in the loan portion of provincial student aid.

The loan portion of student aid is already slated to increase next year and many see this as the first step in the implementation of the entire report.

It was this report that sparked the rally and demonstration.

Early arrivals at the rally were greeted by David Rea, a folk singer who climaxed his set with a rousing version of "We Shall Not Be Moved" that had the crowd on its feet stopping and clapping.

The banner and placard waving crowd was first addressed by OFS chairperson and president of the University of Waterloo Student Union, John Shortall.

Shortall who acted as MC throughout the day, said OFS called the rally and demonstration



Thousands of students from across the province congregated in front of Queen's Park to protest anticipated government cutbacks in post secondary school education.

because "after having tried to deal with the government in good faith for four years they had had "enough" and felt more drastic action was necessary.

He read a telegram of solidarity with the rally and demonstration from the National Union of Students (NUS). Shortall also announced that New Brunswick universities had gone on a three-day strike in solidarity with the action in Ontario.

Ryerson Polytechnical Institute president and former NDP MPP Walter Pitman then took the podium, and gave what many considered a surprisingly outspoken speech.

"I'd like to congratulate you all for being here at this time," Pitman said. "The starting gun has been sounded of a great debate in the province and perhaps the nation. This rally indicates that students are joining the debate

before things are decided and all we can do is look back with remorse.

"Equality of education was the slogan of the sixties. But the government failed to do the things to make this slogan real, and now this is being used as a reason to cut back. They say that since most students are in the upper and middle classes they should pay their way," he said.

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A deep Coppertone tan in -10° C. temperature



Guy Chevreau and Doug Hill lying supinely under the warm January sun, in front of the Petrie Science building, Thursday.

By IAN MULGREW

York University is now the home of the most original beggars in the world, Guy Chevreau and Doug Hill of Bethune College.

Last Thursday, Hill and Chevreau deposited their bikini clad bodies against the south wall of the Petrie Science building. After 15 freezing minutes they ran for Bethune, slightly blue, their sunbathing and begging expedition ended.

Sitting on deck chairs, playing a radio, lemonade by their side, Chevreau and Hill enjoyed the brisk 10 below zero weather by slapping on baby oil and calling for donations that would help pay for their school text books. "We hope to get a good tan today. You just wouldn't believe how healthy and beautiful this is" they commented.

Passers-by were greatly

amused by the whole affair, and comments ranged from "you guys are crazy" to offers to buy the sunbathers "coffins" and "new underwear".

When it was all over they had collected \$2.37 (a tremendous \$9.48 an hour) and had bronzed a little.

According to Guy, the reason they left after only 15 minutes was: "You have to be careful the first time out, you could get sun burned."

Most students don't like the idea of beggars on campus however, as the Bethuners pointed out. "We really weren't out to panhandle money, that isn't important. What is important is that people get a chance to laugh and smile."

With motivation like that, and the response that occurred, one can only conclude that York University can boast of the most successful beggars in Toronto, nay, the world.

Commercial Caterers asks out of contract, will vacate by May

By JULIAN BELTRAME

Commercial Caterers has asked the university to be let out of their 2-year contract to service the Stong-Bethune and Central Square cafeterias.

The decision was reached at an informal meeting between Commercial Caterers vice-president Paul Farkas and J.R. Allen and Norman Crandles of ancillary services at 10 a.m. Tuesday. Allen, in an open letter to the university (text of letter on page 8) has advised the community that the university has accepted the caterer's withdrawal.

The decision to terminate the contract came on the heels of plans by Bethune and CYSF college councils to attempt to organize a boycott and take-over of both eateries. Those plans, however, had received a severe setback last Wednesday when the Stong college residence council voted against boycotting the caterers.

The council, however, did make three demands of ancillary services.

- that ancillary services support the college in its efforts to have food quality upgraded.

- that they commit themselves to the replacement of Commercial Caterers by June.

- and that the university seriously consider instituting a university-run service for the cafeteria.

Crandles told Excalibur

Tuesday evening that Stong's demands in no way precipitated the termination of the contract, although the fact that the caterer's last bastion of support had disappeared figured in the university's acceptance of Commercial's request.

The "bombshell" announcement, as student president and leading advocate for the expulsion of Commercial Caterers the past year termed it, came completely unexpected to most members of the community, leading to speculation that the university, not Commercial Caterers, had wanted an end to the contract.

Under terms of the contract,

either member can terminate the agreement upon 90-day notice of intent.

As late as Friday, Farkas met with Crandles and a contingent of Stong's food action committee to try to iron out complaints with the service at Complex II. At that meeting Farkas agreed to reduce the price of the hot and cold meat buffet to \$2.75.

"What nobody seems to realize is that there has been a very significant increase in food prices since Versafood left (July '75) and that their prices were low because the university underwrote their expenses," Farkas complained.

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THIS WEEK



The York invitational track meet draws 900 participants and large crowds, but York athletes fall flat

York workers win \$50,000 in Olympic lottery p.5

The Ontario Liberal party shows that it can do something right. It elected Stuart Smith as its leader p.7

Harbinger is on the verge of extinction, and no-one seems to be coming to the rescue p.11

Terry Mosher is more familiar to most under the name of Aislin. One of Canada's top cartoonists p.13