

# EDITORIAL

## The foreign student dilemma

If anything, the recent market crash demonstrated one thing: the world is an interdependent marketplace, and those countries that cling to archaic, isolationist policies will most certainly suffer. Unless Canada fully interacts with the rest of the global community, she can never expect to realize her full economic potential. And just one example of this detrimental government policy trend is the current state of foreign student attendance levels in Canadian universities. Before our eyes, an invaluable resource is slipping out of our hands, yet the government is prepared to do little about this dilemma.

Over the past five years, Ontario foreign student enrolment has fallen by 40%, largely because of fee differentials. Presently, foreign students are faced with fees which cost over twice as much as Canadian students pay to attend university in this province. But the argument still stands: don't these people take up university spots which could otherwise be granted to Canadians? Not at all. In fact, foreign students indirectly contribute enough to our economic system that they open up other positions for Canadian students to attend post-secondary institutions as well.

Essentially, the effects which foreign students have on the Canadian economy are two-fold. In the short-term, the Vancouver Board of Trade estimates that foreign students brought \$500,000 worth of business to Canada while supporting 17,000 domestic jobs. In the long-term, many alumni who attend Canadian universities return to their homelands and assume important economic and political roles, putting Canada in a favourable light with that country's decision-makers. For instance, after a student has acquired his MBA from York and established local contacts, he can expand the local business's production run by opening up trading doors in his own country. With these kinds of possibilities, the potential for growth is limitless, and as the system produces more revenue, universities in general will be better funded, enhancing accessibility for all Canadian students.

Unfortunately, the logic of the situation eludes the federal government. Presently the government gives out only 1,700 scholarships to foreign students, and is planning in the near future to raise this figure by 1,000. But that's a minuscule amount in relation to the Soviet Union which issues 80,000 scholarships a year, or even the United States and Britain which allocates 20,000 scholarships annually. And probably the most embarrassing fact is Canada's dismal record on supporting Third World students in particular, while we continue to vocally advocate global development. For instance, out of 1,548 foreign students at York, only 53 students come from Africa and only 20 come from Central America. These figures are a direct result of exorbitant differential fees and the gross lack of federal scholarships.

So Canada will sit back and watch as other developed countries like Japan, West Germany and the US continue to open up their doors to foreign students even wider, realizing the economic benefits for such a move. In the meantime, we'll stick to old myths and rationalizations while a precious resource disappears from our institutions.

## Getting the Premier's attention

The red tie, the flawless speeches, and the prerecorded song espousing Premier David Peterson's magnanimous stature. How could anybody take his promises seriously after his September 10th election landslide? So, why even criticize the government's recent demonstration of their so-called commitment to a better post-secondary education system. To go on about how little a 6.7% increase in operating grants will help redress over a decade of chronic underfunding is useless. Peterson probably doesn't even read *Excalibur* anyhow. Thus, it's time for students to get off their passive behinds and start taking some active measures to protest the current state of post-secondary education in Ontario. And for your benefit, instead of just leaving the readers to their own devices to figure out exactly what we mean, *Excalibur* has devised some surefire ways to get Peterson's attention and show him WE MEAN BUSINESS!!

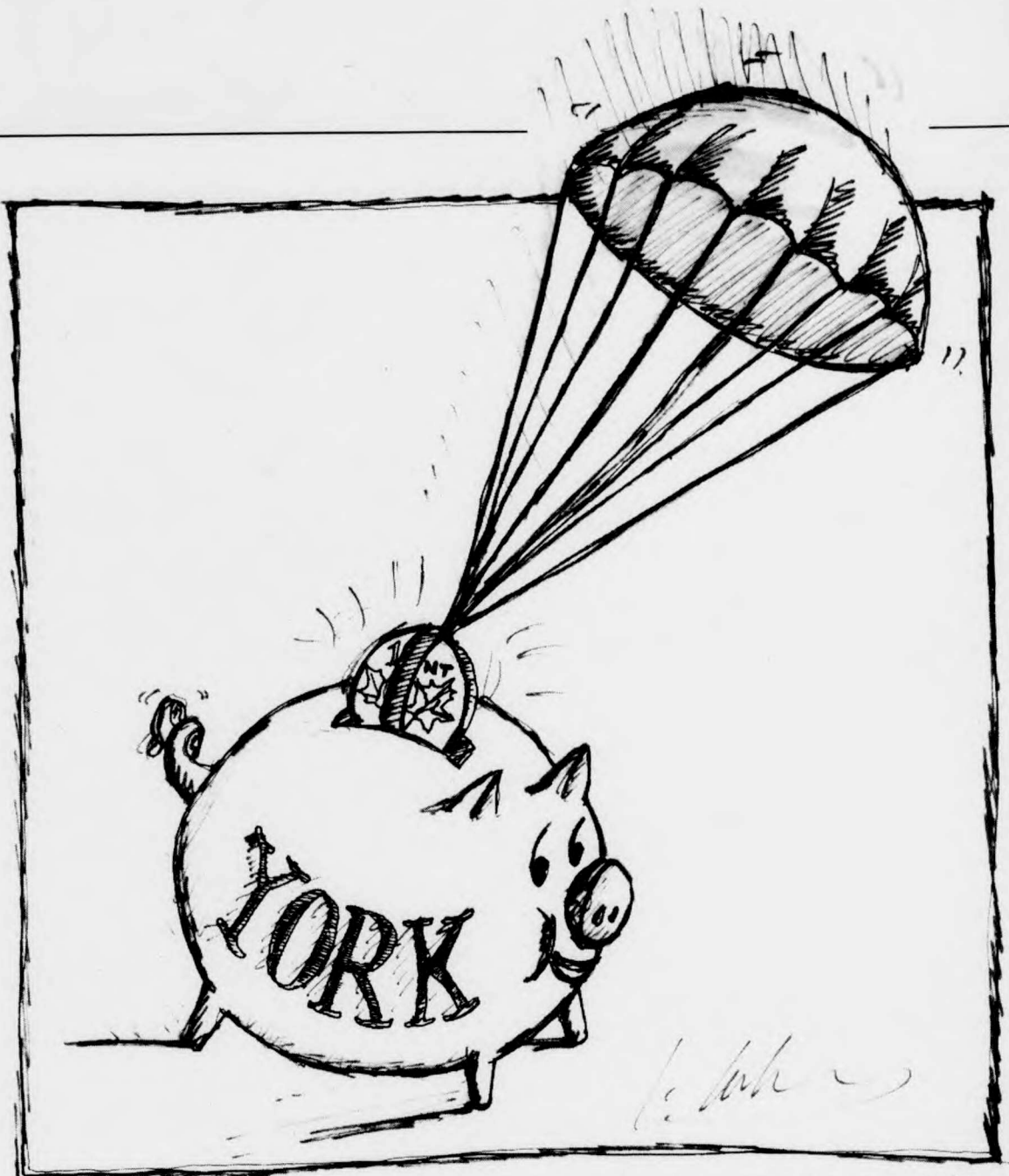
- Lock Peterson up with the Liberty Coalition for 10 days and appoint President Greg Hopper as interim Premier
- Kidnap Peterson's dietician, tailor and hairdresser, plus confiscate all his red ties
- Appoint Drew McCreadie as Peterson's next campaign manager and let the CYSF executive "mis"manage the provincial purse
- Fabricate pictures of MuchMusic vJ Erica Ehm having a sexual liaison with Peterson and quote Ehm as saying, "I think Davey is really cool, because he has the neatest T-shirts"

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THANKS DAVE, FOR YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION!!

## LETTERS

### Greg Hopper a "maggot"

Dear Editor:  
 Looks like you have a real bunch of loonies in the York club inaply named "Liberty Coalition," if the letter from sociopath "Greg Hopper" regarding the Benjamin Linder article is any indication. His letter appeared in the November 12 *Excalibur*, and could most aptly be termed "sociopathic filth," in its claim that Linder was a Marxist combatant and thus deserved to die. In fact, fool Hopper seems to virtually slather at the fact of Linder's death.

His facts are of course lies, gleaned undoubtedly from some neo-Nazi tripe that crossed our border to his sweating hands in a brown-paper wrapper. As the flimsiest of fabrications they do not deserve discussion—let it suffice to point out that Linder's body was examined by his own father, a physician, who had the tragic task of observing the point-blank range bullet wound and powder burns on his son's head. It was Benjamin Linder's father who called a press conference to denounce his son's obvious assassination.

It is disappointing in the extreme that in the comfy cozy burrow of York University, one has to observe that maggots like Hopper and his fellow "liberty" coalitioners fester, cackling in cocoon-like safety about the murder of fellow human beings and a tragic mercenary war far away. If they would rest content to whisper their insecure inaccuracies among themselves, that would be fine. Tragically, jackasses like this must brag their immature "viewpoints" to offend others, exhibiting their psycho-sexual lack of development.

It is unfortunate that Hopper could not have learned something from the very Sandinistas he has been told to hate—the only reason

that the contra army exists at all at this moment as Reagan's proxy is the humane decision taken by the Sandinistas when they rescued poor Nicaragua. This decision, which has resulted in 40,000 deaths since Reagan came to office, was to put an end to killing, to forego legitimate revenge, and allow the National Guard soldiers whom they had defeated to live, in the country or not of it. Most chose to leave until they could return and spread more death. And, just like there are rich sponsors willing to pay for his death, there are slimeballs hiding in places like York to worship it, true fans of misery.

Ugh.  
 Yours sincerely,  
 Jim Smith

### Defending York's honour

Dear Editor,  
 Will the real York University please stand up? I've been here four years now and I still get crap from various people about York such as: "Oh York; is that a real university?", "they call it Yukk U., don't they?", or the famous "If you can't go to university, go to York." Granted, most of these comments come from people outside the University who choose to unquestioningly accept a negative reputation of York. Since that generally stems from ignorance and elitist snobbery, I usually just brush that off. But when this "York-bashing" is done by York's own students this really gets to me. Look, I'm not going to extol the virtues of this "glorious institution"; no, it is a mixed bag of the excellent, and the not-so-excellent; of good and bad points. I think constructive criticism is great.

But students of this University who "York-bash" the whole institution just reveal their ignorance and inadvertently put themselves down in the process—after all what are

they doing here? (By the way that also goes for some members of the faculty and staff who "York-bash" too.) Rather, isn't it better to build on the strengths of York University, the institution at which most of us exert a great deal of time and effort?

Yours Truly,  
 Brian Keith

### Textile workers "overpaid"?!?

Editor,  
 Recent discussion has pointed out that some people are getting a monopoly profit due to government legislation. For example we are told that wages of textile workers are higher than they should be because Canada has tariffs and quotas to protect the industry. In other words, people are forced to pay more for clothes than they should in order to support excess wages for other workers.

Similarly, Wallace McCain, president of McCain Foods, was quoted as saying, "Canadian food processors must purchase many of their ingredients such as flour, poultry and cheese at artificially high prices." This means Canadian consumers are forced to subsidize farmers. These monopoly profits hurt the efficient working of our economy. People pay more than they should. This means they can buy fewer goods and cannot save as much for a house for their retirement. The lower savings, besides causing hardship in old age also mean less money is available for investment in job creating industries.

We have gone as far as we have in these things since the losses to an individual are small for any one tariff or program. It is not worth spending money to fight for such an advantage. It has gone on so long that these tariffs, subsidies and marketing boards now cost us huge