

Majority of public oppose fee hikes: report

By GORD GRAHAM

"We have to be careful not to ask a loaded question and get a loaded reply," said Harry Parrott, Ontario minister of colleges and universities, commenting on a recent government report that revealed 54 per cent of Ontario's voters are opposed to tuition increases.

The study, funded jointly by the ministries of education and colleges and universities, also showed over three quarters of secondary and post-secondary students opposed to any tuition hike.

"I think that's reasonably understandable," continued Parrott, "no one really wants an increase in fees. I don't and I've never said that I do. We'd get the same result if we asked whether coffee prices should increase."

Only 10 per cent of the public and students questioned felt any tuition increase was

justified. Despite these results, the government has no plans to roll back the \$100 university and \$75 college fee increases announced for next year.

The study that asked such "loaded" questions took over a year and \$619,000 to produce, and runs more than 1,750 pages. It's called the Interface Study and is concerned mainly with the transition of Ontario high school students to university or college.

Asked whether universities now received enough government funding, about 40 per cent of the public interviewed were undecided, with the same number agreeing present funding levels were sufficient. Only 18 per cent of the voters felt Ontario's universities needed more money.

"The public doesn't seem to want fees to go up or the government to pump more money into education," commented Alan Golombek, information officer for the Ontario

Federation of Students. "The obvious interpretation of this result is that they feel the universities and colleges are adequately funded right now."

Parrott found other aspects of the report more significant than the opinion surveys.

"To me the report was about the interface between secondary and post-secondary institutions. It would be too easy to get into making interesting but superficial comments on its other aspects," he said.

Among the findings of the study, which was distributed to student, labour, academic and community groups for their response, are the following:

- there is almost no co-ordination of subject matter and course content between high school and post-secondary institutions

- many Francophone students are forced to work because the post-secondary courses they would like to study are not offered in

Ontario

- variations in high school marking systems are so extreme that some students are prevented from entering certain highly competitive university programmes such as pharmacy or nursing

- educators generally feel post-secondary entrants are worse prepared than they used to be, though achievement tests showed mixed results: deterioration in some subjects but not others

- students view the development of creativity and problem solving as important goals for post-secondary institutions, while faculty don't feel schools have any major responsibility for the personal growth or social responsibility of students

"There was some good news and some bad news," said Parrott. "It wasn't a scathing condemnation of the whole educational system."

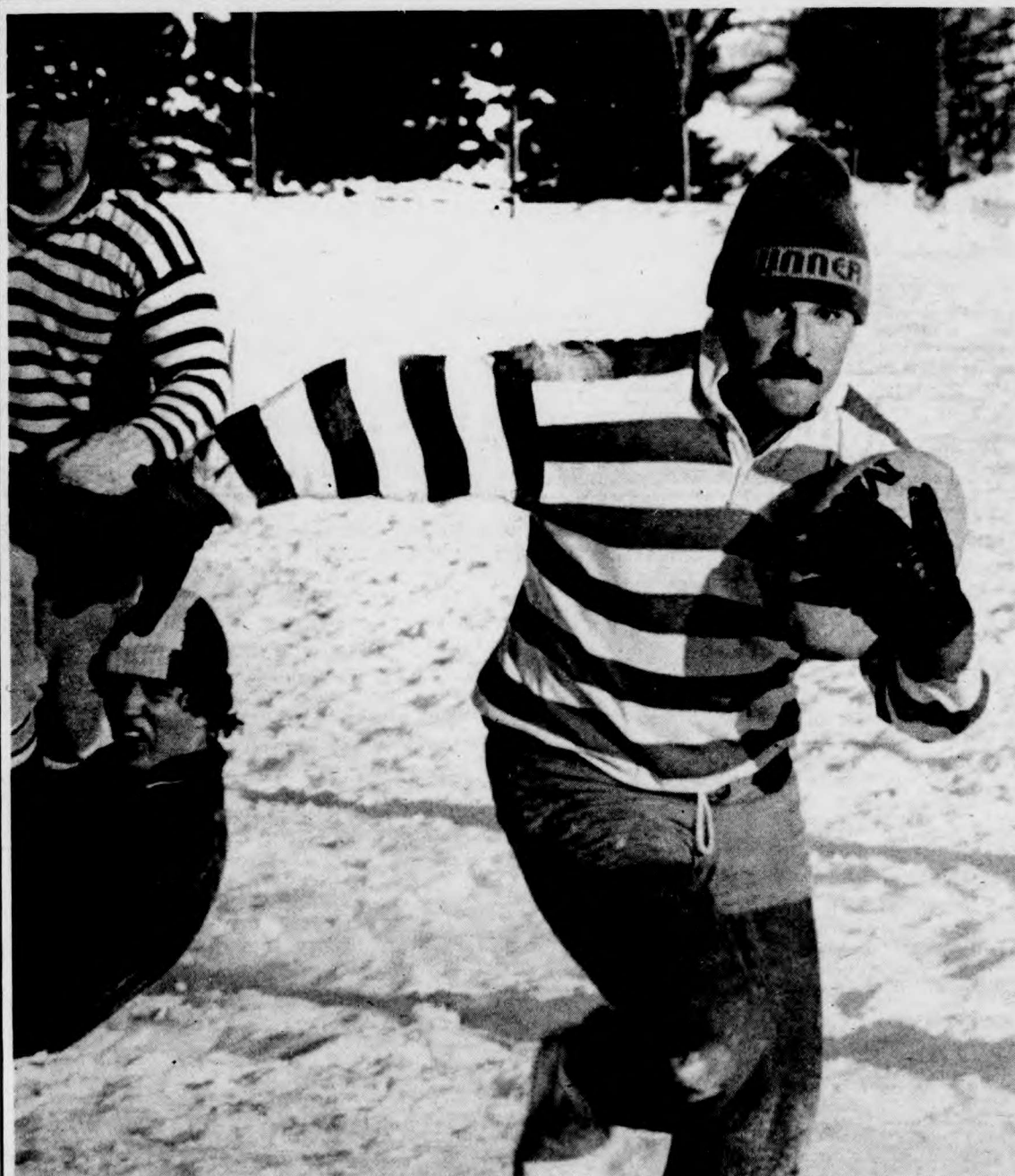
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No that's not a watermelon. It seems rugby season never ends for some York enthusiasts of the game. This unidentified scrum scrambler was caught taking part in a game last weekend scheduled as part of Founders College's Scottish Week festivities.

Future in doubt for Glendon as rumours abound

By AGNES KRUCHIO

Rumours that the Bayview and Lawrence campus of Glendon College is about to be closed and the college moved up to the main York campus are being met by denials from the administration as talk of sit-ins and demonstrations already stir in the air.

Earlier this week local French CBC radio and television stations as well as radio station CHUM have carried stories about Glendon College's imminent demise. Over 950 people at Glendon have already signed a petition to protest the threatened move to the main campus.

Principal of Glendon College David McQueen, says it is part of the President's current evaluation of the university. "This proposal has been aired at the president's commission on the goals and objectives of the university. There have been no final recommendations made yet."

He told Excalibur there has been an ongoing conversation between himself and the commission since early this year. He said he periodically meets the commission to answer its questions.

This rumoured move is not new to Glendon — there have been several scares since 1969.

"This is the fourth time around that this question is being considered", Professor McQueen said. "And as far as I'm concerned that's four too many times", he added.

"I'm personally adamantly opposed to the idea of moving and the community here is also strongly opposed to it", McQueen said.

"Glendon stands for the proposition that liberal arts studies are more relevant than ever and that the undergraduate student is an important person", he said.

"And because Glendon is a small place it ensures proper contact between students and instructors, which is vital to a liberal arts education."

"That smallness does not necessarily mean costly. We attempt to keep overhead to an absolute minimum", McQueen said.

McQueen estimates Glendon's bilingual stream to be about half of its total student population. Glendon now has approximately 1700 full and part time students. Glendon had to introduce a unilingual stream in the early 70's at a time when not enough people

wanted to enrol in the bilingual programme and it was running at a deficit.

Nolleg Mackenzie in charge of a committee examining the financial situation of the college says this is no longer the case. He thinks the feeling that Glendon is losing money is due to 'historical inertia'.

"People form an impression and it lasts for years", he said. Mackenzie is confident that the college is not costing the university any money. In fact he admitted that a figure recently unearthed by a member of the committee indicates that Glendon's residences make \$277,000 profit for the university. While it only costs the university about \$100,000 to run the facilities, they net about \$377,000 he admitted.

But York President H. Ian Macdonald said he does not understand the uproar.

"The commission on the goals and objectives of the university is studying every aspect of York and not just Glendon College", he said. He said the commission's work is still not finished and he does not know what the five man commission will recommend.

"It's like trying to predict what the outcome of a novel will be before it is even written", he said.

Student President Greg Beacon is not taking any chances.

In a Glendon faculty council meeting today he will propose a motion to set up a committee to study the feasibility of a separate Glendon university.

And if the university decides to move Glendon against all opposition, he says there might be occupation of the ninth floor of the Ross Building.

"We would be going back to the 60's with sit-ins", he said. "This would be a backward step but would be inescapable if the administration treats students on such a patronizing level".

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Seminar, rally on tap for Feb. 10

By JENNY JOHNSON

A seminar on student unemployment and a rally to discuss tuition fee hikes and government cutbacks in post-secondary education were among the proposals discussed at the initial meeting of a committee to organize the February 10 moratorium held last Monday at noon.

The February tenth moratorium of classes has been called by the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) to protest the government's current policies towards post-secondary education.

Last Monday's organizing meeting was told by Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF)

President Barry Edson that the CYSF executive had voted to centre the moratorium around the issue of unemployment.

"We feel it would be advantageous on this campus to change the slant of the walkout. OFS is organizing their walkout around the issue of a tuition fee roll-back we feel that in order to get a greater response from the students on our campus, we should centre it around the issue of unemployment. The tuition fee problem can come in as a periphery issue; that because of the government's inactivity in creating summer jobs and so on we protest the increase," said Edson. The CYSF executive also agreed

to invite various representatives from each caucus in the province of Ontario as well as from major business interests such as Imperial Oil, General Motors and Manpower to speak at the moratorium on the subject of unemployment however both business representatives have since cancelled.

United Left Slate representative for Calumet on CYSF Mary Marrone said at the meeting she felt that having business representatives speak on the tenth would detract from the main issue. "Are we here to help people find summer jobs?" Marrone said. "Then that's a separate programme."

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