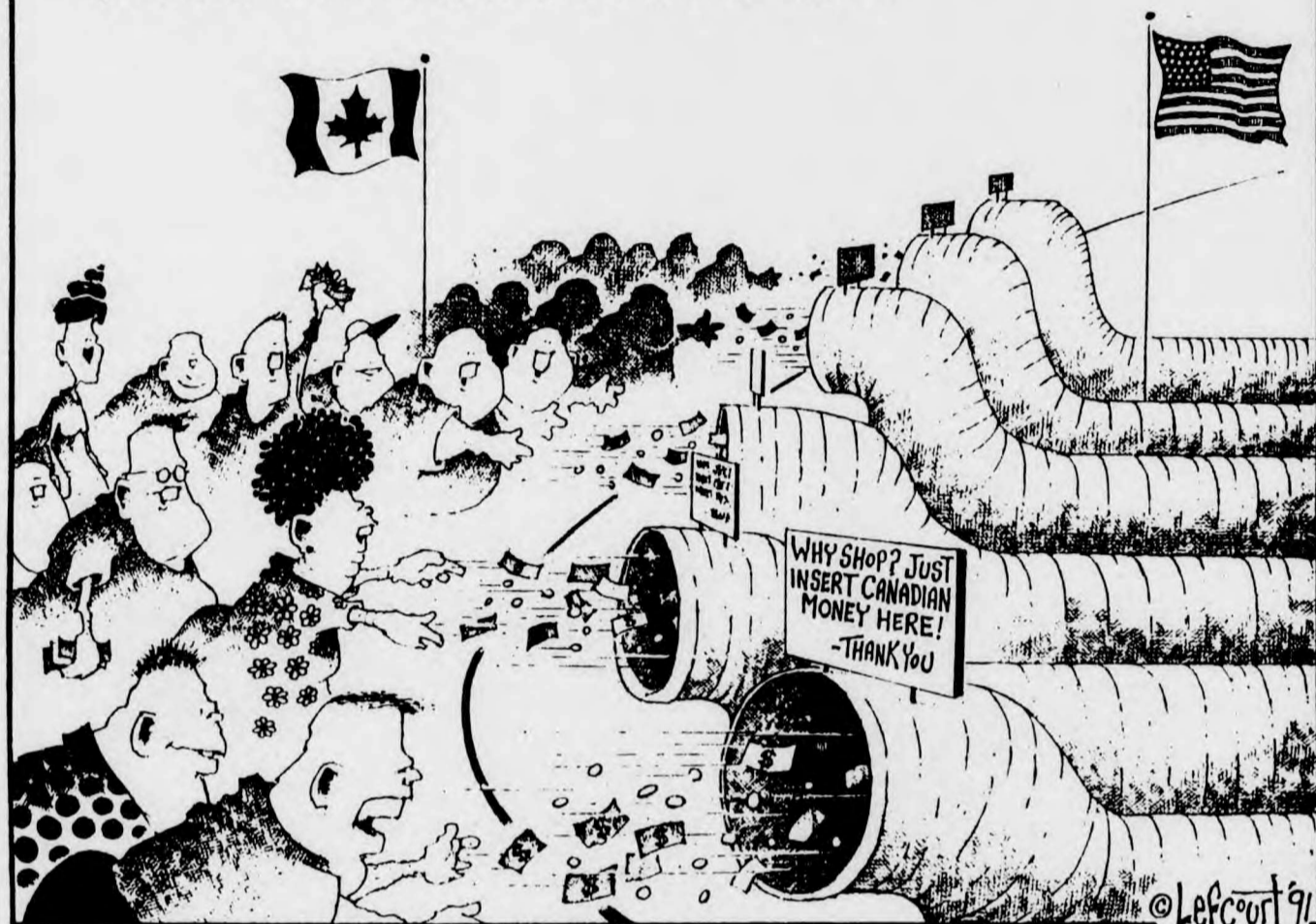


editorial

Excal editorials are written by a staff member with the approval of the staff. The initials below indicate the writer.

THE SCENE AT THE CANADA-U.S. BORDER.....



Cartoon: Jeff Lefcourt / Waterloo Imprint

Ontario policy stifles imagination

Workers, tenants and the unemployed can be thankful we have the NDP in Ontario. But students might as well have voted Rhino.

Richard Allen, the minister of colleges and universities, is able to out-Liberal the Liberals. His policy — where he has one — is certainly not socialist, or progressive. In fact, it often contradicts official NDP policy.

The NDP has long called for a freeze on tuition, leading to its eventual elimination. This isn't terribly radical. In many countries it's just common sense.

But this year, against protests from students and Allen's own party, he raised tuition 8%. The privileged few who enjoy a university education will become that much fewer.

There's a second approach Allen could have taken: keep tuition high, but pay the bill for students who can't afford it.

You'd have to make major changes to the moribund OSAP system to do that. Last month Allen put together a committee to do this. But don't expect much from it.

OSAP will still be based largely on loans. While what we need are grants. With a \$10,000 loan hanging over your head, anything you study will have to lead to a lucrative career. Forget about the pursuit of knowledge.

But 'the pursuit of knowledge' is just what Allen has abandoned. In his view — identical to the Liberals — Universities exist only to pro-

vide skilled labour to boost the economy.

"I believe [the] ultimate purpose of improving accessibility isn't to recruit more students," he told the Ontario Federation of Students last month. "It's to help expand people's educational and employment opportunities and, ultimately, to improve the social, economic and cultural life of the province as a whole."

This sent a clear message to the audience. Allen has abandoned the old NDP ideal of free and accessible education for students of all social and economic backgrounds, and replaced it with a system of elite education for those who can afford it.

This policy will have long-lasting repercussions. It will cause tuition to rise, because it won't be important to allow "more students" in. It will make OSAP loans a continual burden for students, who will be expected to get high-paying jobs after graduation.

And it will make career-oriented disciplines — like engineering, business and medicine — more important than academic and 'pure knowledge' disciplines in the arts and humanities.

There was a time when people went to university to develop their imaginations. Now, if you're a high school grad who takes more interest in your imagination than your career, you're bound to have a hard time.

DS

excalibur

Excalibur

Room 111, Central Square
York University
4700 Keele Street
North York, Ontario
M3J 1P3

Telephone:

Advertising • 736-5238
Editorial • 736-5239

Excalibur is York University's community newspaper

Excalibur is a volunteer organization. We will consider for publication all submissions that are not deemed libelous or discriminatory by the editors and staff. The opinions expressed are not necessarily shared by all members of the staff or board of publications.

Final responsibility resides with the editor-in-chief as outlined in the constitution.

Editor-In-Chief Jeannine Amber
Managing Editor Doug Saunders

Staff Stephen Balsky, Andrew Brouse,
Ira Nayman, Stephe Perry, Josh Rubin

Contributors Seth Awuku, Stephen Balsky,
Stephen Bergson, Mazen Bouri, Andrew Brouse,
Trevor Burnett, Simon Chung, Martin Gamulin,
Nikola Gamulin, Paul Gazzola, Deqa Haibel,
Brett Lamb, Jennifer Lim, Azed Majed,
Wayne Morrow, Ira Nayman, Stephe Perry,
Sam Putinja, Josh Rubin, David Sutherland,
Jeff Tensee

Business Manager Merle Menzies
Advertising Assistant Patty Milton-Rao

excalibur

every

WED.

at 5:30pm

all are welcome

general meetings