

Excalibur

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Moratorium called by OFS to fight fee hikes

By JENNY JOHNSON

A moratorium will be held on February 10 to protest the government's decision to raise tuition fees by one hundred dollars next year, following a decision made at a special plenary meeting of the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) this Saturday, January 15.

Also approved at the meeting was a four-pronged information campaign to gather support from students, community, politicians and the media against the governments post-secondary education policies. Specific groups towards which the campaign will be directed are high school students and their parents as well as various labour organizations.

In order to further alert the provincial community as a whole, OFS information officer Allen Golumbeck said, "We are also asking that student councils establish election preparation committees as OFS is going to consider ways of making post-secondary education an election issue. We also hope to come up with ways of involving students in the next provincial election."

He also said, "This tuition increase has generated more tension in the general media than the last one did." The last tuition increase was in 1972.

NDP member Jim Faulds said of the OFS decision, "I think that the public will meet the walk out with a big ho-hum."

He also said the general public has become disenchanted with the post-secondary school education system as a whole. Liberal party representative John Sweeney supported the OFS decision to launch an information campaign. "The bulk of the public is not aware of the facts, said Sweeney. But with regard to the February 10 walkout Sweeney said, "These kind of tactics merely get the public's back up. The bulk of the public is simply fed up to the teeth with people walking out to protest."

Minister of Colleges and Universities, Harry Parrott was unavailable for comment.

University of Toronto student council (SAC) representative John Doherty said, "We have to show Parrott that the students are behind us." He added that the moratorium will only be the beginning of a continuing campaign to protest against the tuition fee increase.

Attending the OFS meeting from York were CYSF president Barry Edson and vice-president of external affairs, Stan White.

Edson said the CYSF is supporting the moratorium. "We feel that students should show disdain for the government by staying away from classes and if this action is successful across the province the government will be forced by political necessity to reconsider at least its commitment to creating summer jobs," said Edson.

"We feel that the government is not doing anything about the poor summer job outlook. There's been no announcement from the ministry of labour or the Youth Secretariat of the province announcing an increase of job creation programmes." Edson also said that in making the decision to raise the tuition fees next year the government is not taking into account the masses of students that will be unemployed this summer.

A meeting will be held on Monday at York January 24 in S105 at 12 p.m. to organize further protest strategies.



Step right up, everybody's a winner, as Norm Dicemen spins the wheel of fortune at York daycare's second annual casino night last Friday. Gamblers' losses were kiddies gains as proceeds from the event went to cover the centre's expenses. (See story on page 17).

Court rejects last-ditch appeal, faculty union regains status

By AGNES KRUCHIO

An application to have the interim certificate of York University Faculty Association (YUFA), quashed, was defeated in court yesterday.

Contrary to usual court practices where court adjourns for a month while judges contemplate arguments presented from all parties, judges from the divisional court of the Supreme court of Ontario delivered an unanimous oral judgement. This was done because, said supreme court judge Reid "no new ground was broken on this case and there was an urgent need to have the case resolved."

The interim certificate of the York University Faculty

Association was suspended in December only 11 days after the faculty union signed its first agreement with the board of governors.

The 'stay' came in response to a group of six professors, acting on their personal behalf and on behalf of others among faculty who objected to unionization. They have requested that the agreement not be signed by the board of governors until their request for judicial review into the certification process had been heard.

While the stay was in effect, the university contract was held in abeyance for more than a month. no planning, hiring or hearing of grievances could take place in the interim.

The hearing, scheduled for two days, but then prolonged to three, and then three and a half, then to four full court days, included arguments presented by the objectors' lawyer, then the faculty association lawyer, the counsel for the university to be followed by arguments presented by the lawyer from the Ontario Labour Relations Board and summations.

There were several crucial issues discussed in the hearing. Did the labour board consider the implications of the York University Act? Did they have any bearing on the labour board's decision? Did the objecting professors apply in time to the labour board to have their objections heard? Did the board hear them? If not, why not? Does the board have an obligation to review a case?

Counsel for the independent faculty members argued that the board refused to hear the

arguments on the implications of the York University Act, which does not treat faculty as employees of the university. J.K. Sopinka, lawyer for the IFM argued that the board refused to hear evidence that professors are not employees.

"The unionization of faculty will mean a fundamental change in the university which is a public institution, financed by public funds. There is more than just the issues of the majority of faculty at stake.

"The unionization of faculty is inconsistent with the spirit of the university and of academic freedom", Sopinka said.

Jeffrey Sack, lawyer for the union argued that the objectors 'just wanted to delay certification for as long as possible.' Relevance of the York University Act was not raised by the objectors in time to be considered by the board, he said. He argued that the board is not obliged to consider arguments unless they are raised by applicants to the board.

The crucial change came with arguments from the university and the Ontario Labour Relation Board.

A. Francis, arguing on behalf of the university, said that York had examined both the Ontario Labour Relations Act and the York University Act and had concluded that the OLRA does indeed apply to York.

The board of governors of York, Francis said, considers itself management and the faculty to be employees.

Ian Scott, lawyer for the labour board argued that the board deals with each case in discreet stages and it cannot roll back a decision to hear objectors.

CYSF approves new budget, Excalibur funds cutback \$7,000

By DEBBIE PEKILIS

The Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF) voted overwhelmingly at its budget meeting January 12 to cut Excalibur's grant for the current academic year 1976-77 from \$23,000 to \$16,000.

Under a three-year agreement with CYSF that expires in May of 1977, Excalibur had been receiving 27 per cent of CYSF's operating budget, or approximately \$23,000 per year. This arrangement was established in March of 1974 in order to stabilize Excalibur's funding.

Since the agreement reached between Excalibur and CYSF in 1974, Excalibur's financial position has become one of financial stability. CYSF vice-president of finances Jon Wheatcroft and Bob Freeman, Environmental Studies rep. said at the meeting they felt the time has come to stop giving Excalibur so much money and to give it instead to campus groups.

The original budget proposal was to allow Excalibur \$8,800 and Excalibur Advertising \$5,000, a total of \$13,800 to the paper for this year. This proposal was later

amended to be increased to \$16,000 which was felt would represent buying one copy of the paper for each of the 9,368 students represented by CYSF, at the rate of \$0.63 per copy, representing a total of \$15,344.78. The remainder of the \$16,000 would, according to the amendment, be considered as a free grant to enable it to maintain its tax-exempt status as a non-profit organization.

Abie Weisfeld graduate representative put forth a sub-amendment, which would guarantee an additional \$7,000 to Excalibur on the occasion that "part or all that Excalibur requests is not met by other student organizations."

Weisfeld objected strongly to the budget cut as "a serious, unprecedented move that took place without prior consultation with the editorial collective of Excalibur or with the Board of Publications." He further argued that "Excalibur has allowed \$23,000 for this year's operations and we can't break the agreement with Excalibur in midstream."

Proponents of the budget cut

cited Excalibur's bank account of over \$10,000 as a reason for the move but, said Excalibur editor-in-chief Michael Hollett, "We still have thousands of dollars of bills unpaid for this year and there are places where we have been paring the budget to the bone. There has been no Board of Publications meeting to discuss this proposal and they should discuss before any action is taken. As editor, I have not been approached by CYSF about the paper's needs".

CYSF president Barry Edson opposed Weisfeld's \$7,000 guarantee of additional money for the paper. "I don't know where we will get the money. It would mean taking \$1,000 away from Harbinger and \$2,000 from the clubs. We won't have money to fight the government with on, for example, student aid. We can't pull money from a stone."

Weisfeld's amendment was defeated.

Another graduate representative, Alice Klein then moved that discussion of reducing Excalibur's grant, along with other com-

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