

Professors comment on nature of things

Government cutbacks on grad grants affect York

By EDWIN ROTHSCHILD

In a letter dated January 7, 1971 sent to all university presidents in the Province of Ontario, Deputy Minister of University Affairs, E.E. Stewart, announced a reduction in the Province of Ontario Graduate Fellowship (POGF) programme by one third from \$5,000,000 to \$3,500,000. The POGF was originally proposed by now retiring Prime Minister Robarts, according to Michael Collie, Dean of Graduate Studies at York University, to improve the quantity of students committed to careers in the teaching professions.

It seems that Ontario Education Minister and candidate for the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party leadership, William Davis, believes that the original purpose of the POGF has been fulfilled. This is, however, contrary to the finding of the Preston Committee which, according to Jonathan Cloud, member of the Ad Hoc Committee for Student Support of the Graduate Student Association, "is sort of a research arm of the Committee of Presidents of the Universities of Ontario (CPUO) and the Ontario Council of Graduate Schools (OCGS)." They found that student support should be taken away from university operating funds and given into an expanded POGF programme.

The results of a meeting between the Committee for University Affairs (CUA) and the CPUO were the following according to Cloud: "that the CUA agreed not to recommend any increase in fees and would not completely freeze new graduate programmes. It would simply pass the ruling that the universities must show some particular need for new graduate programmes. But they did stick to the point that the amount of support for graduate students coming from operating funds had to be limited strictly to what they were being paid for being teaching assistants."

This left any graduate student who earned more than \$1,800 from the university no longer a full-time student. This means that the university would receive less money for that student in terms of the per capita grant. It is this problem which threatens York University graduate departments and graduate students.

According to Professor Spray, Director of the Sociology Graduate Programme, "The most depressing part about the reduction, outside the fact that it is inconceivable that anyone can live on \$1,800 a year in Toronto, and bear in mind that they are expected to pay roughly \$500 tuition, is that it is a clear indication of government control of university affairs."

Professor Solitar, Chairman of the Mathematics Department, stated, "To me it seems rather ridiculous to define a full-time student in terms of the amount of money he earns. A much more natural definition would be however many academic credits he is carrying."

Professor Jarvie, Director of the Graduate Programme in Philosophy, predicted that, "no new students of any calibre, that is, anyone whom we admit, will come, if they are only allowed to get \$1,800 the first year. Since the POG's are eaten up by continuing students, that means no new students."

Although there are no immediate problems in the Psychology Graduate Programme, which had by itself planned to reduce its number of graduates from 160 to 125, Professor Endler, Graduate Director, maintained that, "The cutdown in POG's is a retrograde step on the part of the government."

Professor Spray believes, "It is very obvious that the university is not autonomous, that, in fact, we are a government industry and that this act in large part means that things like admission policy

for any graduate programme in Ontario will be determined in large part by outside agencies, Canada Council, Central Housing and Mortgage and whoever else gives fellowships. . . It means that good students will quite likely be attracted to other provinces or the United States."

"All around it seems to me the weapon," Professor Jarvie stated, "is not related to the purposes they want. I'm sure that they're using financial instruments, because it's finance which is the political hot potato. I think the whole use of the financial weapon is a political matter."

Professor Solitar hates, "to think that the university is simply an employment mill, that is, I would think that in making commitments

to education things weren't just thought of in a professional way. It seems to me in Europe, for example, there are many cases where people went for an education because it increased the quality of their life."

Finally, according to Jonathan Cloud, "It's very clear that the decision was made by the CUA using some sort of labour market

analysis of graduate education. The assumption was that what we were really doing is just preparing people for jobs. They made the assumption that there were too many people on the job market and they arbitrarily, for some unknown reasons, hit upon the mechanism of reducing the number of people seeking jobs by reducing the level

of support."

York University stands to lose many qualified and capable potential first year graduate students in both the arts and humanities. The sciences, supported mainly by the National Research Council, remain unaffected by the cutback. The Graduate School of Business Administration with its 850 full-time and part-time students, administered by the farseeing financial hand of Dean Gilles, supports its students by a \$500,000 rotating loan through an Ontario bank.

PM's 'eat shit' comment not translated correctly

OTTAWA (CUP) — The carefully cultivated, supercool facade skipped a little February 2.

"Maudite traitre" shouted the LaPalme drivers, still manning the picket lines outside the parliament buildings, at Canada's prime minister, Pierre Elliott Trudeau. "Mangez de la merde" replied the elegant PM, thumbing his nose.

Later Trudeau commented "If these guys come here to harass and insult me, they can expect to receive insults in return."

The Toronto dailies translated the PM's epithet as "Go to hell," but Brian McKenna of the Montreal Star was a little less fastidious in admitting that "literally the expression means 'eat Shit' — but has the force of the English expression 'Kiss my behind!'"

The LaPalme truck drivers have been out of work since they lost their jobs in a Montreal postal dispute last April.

Many of the 400 men were later offered jobs in the Post office but declined when they learned they would have to give up their union affiliation with the Montreal-based Confederation of National Trade Unions.

Frank Diterlizzi, spokesman for the men said 25 of the former drivers had been offered jobs by Jean-Pierre Cote, minister responsible for the post office, at \$3.25 per hour.

He called the offer "blackmail" and said it was refused, adding that the government "was trying to buy us drivers off one by one, like sheep or prostitutes."

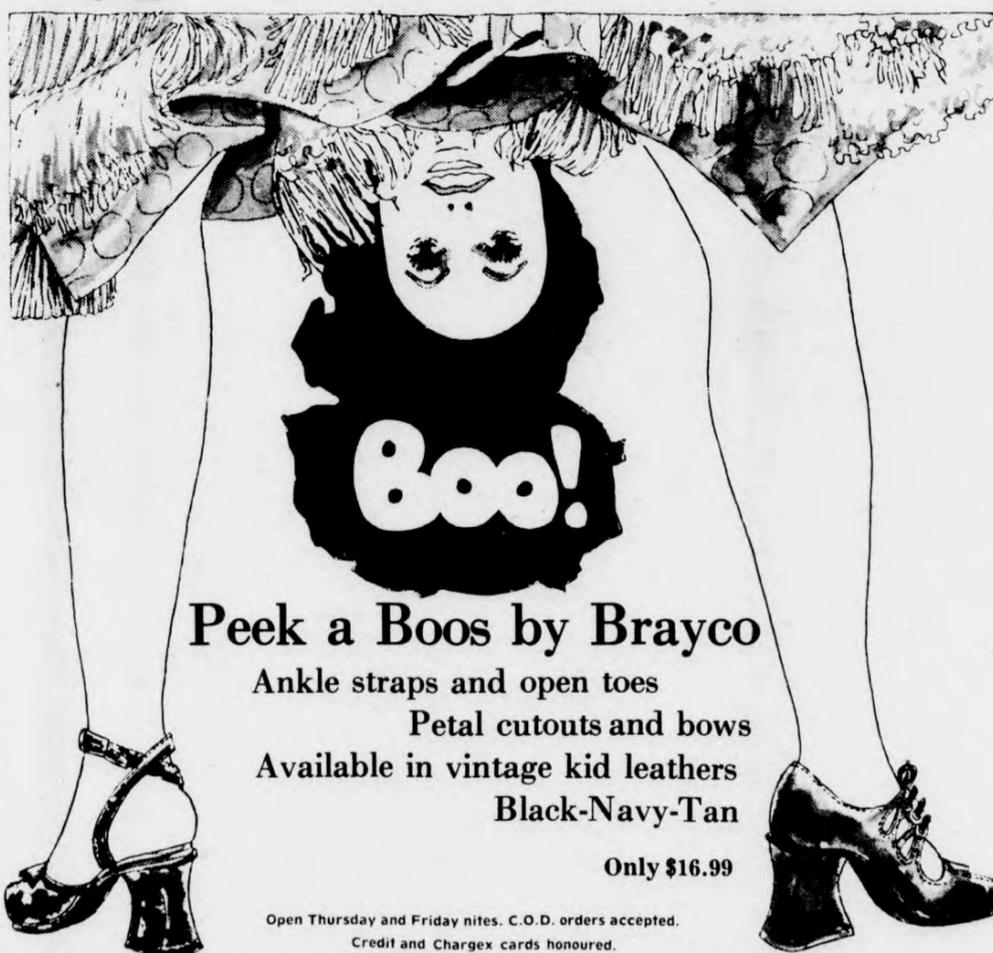
The men expect to be back to work in March when their unemployment insurance runs out. In the meantime, those who get their cheques put them in a pot and everyone gets an equal share.

They drive into Ottawa every day that Parliament meets, and return to Montreal the same day.



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