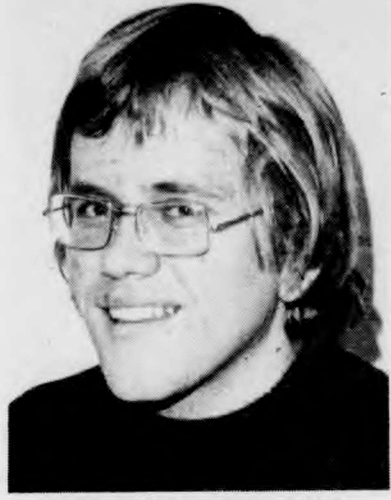


## VANIER

## [ATKINSON]



RAY VAN EENOOGHE ULS



TED KAPUSTA ULS



GWEN MAHONEY ULS



JEFFREY BABCOCK



RON ROSENTHAL ULS

I see the cutbacks in education as the most important political question facing students this year. Already they have had far reaching effects. Tuition fees have been increased \$100 and the loan portion of the OSAP has been raised from \$600 to \$800 with the probability of a further increase next year. Besides this any appeal comes back as a loan. For many students like myself who made an appeal and got \$190 extra loan the cutbacks have cost us far more than the \$300 which is the commonly mentioned figure.

To fight the cutbacks it is important that we unite all segments of the university community; students staff and faculty against the government. The cleaners union, CUPE Local 1356 has already supported the demonstration in November by contributing \$120 for buses. They also supported our demands for the release of the OSAP grant cheques during the occupation.

Two weeks ago nine staff members were laid off. Right now the workers are negotiating for a contract that would be comparable to the other workers in the same field in Toronto. It is important to unite with them in their struggle as they have supported us in our struggle. Only by building a strong united front against the administration and the government can the cutbacks be stopped and then reversed.

The faculty will be facing the possibility of firings, courses may be cut and the quality of education will decrease with larger classes. In the event of such a possibility we should respond in much the same way the Brock students did. When 16 faculty members were fired there they immediately called a mass meeting which 1,600 people attended, leading to an occupation and a strike successfully forcing the administration to rehire 5 professors.

It is also important that we move and get community support for the cause. Already the New Democratic Party and the Ontario Federation of Labor have supported us at the November Queen's Park demonstration.

In order to win, the student leadership will have to adopt an action orientated strategy. The present CYSF and the Ontario Federation of Students have only acted when they have been forced to do so by large numbers of students. A change in leadership is necessary. If elected, the ULS will pressure the OFS into calling a demonstration for sometime in February and would be willing to take any other action including a possible student strike (shutdown of the campus) to stop the cutbacks.

For further information contact the United Left Slate in room N109 Ross building, 667-3532.

On Feb. 12-15, the students of York will have an opportunity to vote for the candidate of their choice to serve on the Council of the York Student Federation. This statement is directed primarily at the students of Vanier College where I am running along with Ray Van Eenoooghe and Gwen Maloney on the United Left Slate for the post of College representative.

The United Left Slate is a coalition of left-wing student activists who feel that they can provide a viable alternative to the present politics prevalent on campus. The present administration has failed to provide effective leadership in the fight against the cutbacks. The same administration has failed to tackle any of the problems that faced them at the beginning of the current academic year let alone solve them. We feel that our opposition in this election will do no better. They call for reform of the educational process. However, they fail to mention how much this will be worth if the chief criteria for admission to this university becomes how well you can afford it. If present government policy continues unchecked, the cost of an education will definitely increase and more and more students will turn away from a post-secondary education because they will not be able to afford it. Those of you who feel that you are safe because your father runs a grocery store down in the inner city may be in for a surprise in a few years because you can't get that honours BA you've worked so hard for because your parents can't pay taxes, the food bill, keep the car running and pay for your education. (There's that poor oft-used word again. Anyone know a good synonym?) Besides we have the arts council to handle that — and they fit in more with the administration than CYSF.

Now we come to the good part — me! I am a first year student residing in Vanier residence. I first became interested in university politics last fall when I ran for CYSF where I placed second (in a field of two.) This I did because of a certain appeal that politics has for me. I seriously became involved with the beginning of the fight against cutbacks. It was then that I became disenchanted with the efficiency of the CYSF. I feel that the ULS can accomplish a lot more than the present office-holders.

I support the platform of the ULS and believe that this is the way to better the life of the university community. In addition, I feel that there is a very real need for a "university centre" that will provide a focal point for student activities. One need this centre would solve is the final resting place of the Green Bush Inn. Such a centre needn't be large. I propose that CYSF acquire control from the university or whoever the titleholder is, of the farm house at the corner of Keele and Steeles. This would make a wonderful locale for the Green Bush Inn. The location may not be the most convenient on campus but it would eliminate the annual fuss of who gets to host the noise.

In conclusion, I would like to ask you to support the United Left Slate and vote Dale Ritch for president and Ted Kapusta, Ray Van Eenoooghe and Gwen Maloney for Vanier College Representatives.

In the public's mind equal opportunity has always equated with equal education. Many people believe equality of education actually exists. Why, then, is there a lack of educational opportunity? The recent actions of the Ontario government have made it impossible for post-secondary students to remain passive. Their very existence has been threatened. The government once supported post-secondary education. We can all remember the "stay-in-school" propaganda of a few years ago. Now the Bill Davis government is making it increasingly difficult for us to stay in school.

Why the sudden change? The government has found that a university education does not insure jobs. With many PhD's out of work it feels that post-secondary education is a waste. Hence the increases in tuition fees and higher loan ceilings. This affects not only the university but also nursing schools and teachers' colleges. At one point we had a shortage of teachers and nurses. Now there are too many. The government's solution is to make it more difficult for people to attend these institutions. This is a blatant example of the government's attitude towards education. Education is job-training and if there are no jobs to be gained from having a university education then there should be less stress on it. There are too many people graduating and not enough positions for them to fill. The government is, therefore, trying to make university less attractive.

Higher tuition and the raised loan ceiling make post-secondary education unavailable to many students from lower income groups. Financially, access to post-secondary education is prevented in two ways. First, some families cannot save the money to send a child to university. Second, other families do not value education enough to sacrifice for it. Lower classes often expect their children to bring money into the family. They do not expect to give continued support to the student. The government ignores earnings foregone in its student loan plan. Also it ignores grades twelve and thirteen — a time when many students are forced to leave school. The loan system does not work well, especially at lower class level. One accumulates more debt the longer one stays in school. This makes students unwilling to do graduate work as they will be incurring more debt. Nor are loans an incentive for volunteer work such as CUSO.

We must make our position known. To allow the government to continue in this manner will lead to an intellectual elite. Equal opportunity for education must become a reality not a myth. It is necessary for the students to oppose this system.

Jeffrey Babcock, chairman of the history student's association and a member of Vanier college council, is a candidate for the Council of the York Student Federation, representing Vanier college. He is a member of the department of history council and the curriculum committee of the department of history. He is chairman of the contracts and the constitution committees of the Vanier college council.

Excalibur Publications has asked every candidate to respond to a set of three questions. The third of these questions is: what would you do to implement democratization of York? The implication of the question is that York is something other than democratic. I do not believe this to be the case. If anything, there is an overabundance of government at York. Students govern the colleges through their councils, and in the case of the department of history have parity on all department committees. Student representation on the faculty of arts council is up this year from last, by a substantive margin. York university has acceded to considerable student representation. Certainly one might further consider increasing student representation on the senate of the university, or gaining representation on the board of governors; however, while this might provide greater representation, it does not necessarily imply greater democracy. A democratic state or institution is, after all, a state in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them, rather than by elected representatives.

The York Student Federation has directed and participated in a feeble campaign to protest the increase in student fees in Ontario. The federation has wasted our money and their term of office in this pursuit. The government of Ontario is committed to an increase in the percentage of the cost of post-secondary education which the student shall bear. If the mood of the press in any indication of the public will, and I believe it is, the government's thinking is not out of line with that of the general public as regards the increase in fees.

What I suggest the student federation should have done, and can do, is to negotiate with the government of Ontario as regards the increase in the loan portion of the Ontario Student Awards Program. I do not believe that the government is intransigent or intractable. But, to effectively deal with the government, York and other Ontario universities need leaders in student government who are familiar with the governing institutions of the university and the province of Ontario, students who have had experience in curriculum and administrative planning. My capability in both these areas is proven.

I support Michael Mouritsen in his candidacy for the presidency of the York student federation. I believe that Mouritsen, chairman of the faculty of arts council for the past two years, has the experience and the stamina to effectively work for students at York as regards the quality of education, an area of primary concern to any student, which has been subject to total neglect on the part of the previous federations.

A student running for Atkinson college rep. faces the unique problem of serving the needs of two communities; day and part-time students. The ULS platform is aimed primarily at full time students oriented towards the university. Atkinson people are working people only casually attached to their courses. Political struggle around the university has little appeal to a wage-earner understandably. As a full-time Atkinson student with four courses, I'm committed to York activities and to defending the interests of the college. As one of the elected ULS candidates I will be pushing for a greater awareness of Atkinson. The struggle to eliminate financial barriers to intellectual training is crucial to turning our college into a working-class university. This theme is central to the ULS platform and we'll be actively organizing the student body in mass efforts and mass decision-making around the cutbacks issue — the only truly democratic method of working.

A special interest of mine is the boycott of Kraft products. The increasing impoverishment of the Canadian farmer by rising costs and falling prices for their products is driving them off the land completely. At the same time we, the consumers, are unable to control rising food costs and a steady deterioration in quality (chemicals are cheaper). CYSF has already pledged itself to this cause and I'll continue to propagandize and support the efforts of the National Farmers' Union.

Every effort is made to popularize the faculty and students as the legitimate members of York. The staff; janitors, cleaners, security etc. are pushed aside — the untouchables. This is an unconscious attempt by the administration to divide the students from their natural allies, the staff. I feel strongly about the firing of the nine CUPE workers — clearly an attempt to intimidate the union in their present negotiations. If they are forced to go on strike, I will personally organize a support group to help win them a just and equitable wage.

As in all levels of labor, discrimination denies the better paid, more interesting jobs to women. The sexism of our society is not only reflected in the hiring practices of York but also in the left. I will continue to encourage more women to run for CYSF and to become politically involved.

In a mass society, individuals have very little ability to influence broad trends. That is why I support the ULS. Our platform is a broad left statement by activists from many areas of struggle at York. By voting ULS you are voting not for 1 to 3 members but for a large group who are in general agreement and have already demonstrated their willingness to put their bodies where their mouths are. As a left group we are very sensitive to the mood of our leaders — you. To vote is the minimum of political acts but it means much. After you've studied the ULS carefully and considered what our position offers — vote! In times of crises every absent vote is a vote for the status quo, a continuation of all the problems that plague us. Use your suffrage and vote ULS!