

Students question government's grant plan

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The meeting began with a half hour of student statements. Setting the tone for the afternoon was lead-off questioner Leo Casey, President of the Graduate Student's Union at the University of Toronto (U of T).

He wondered why Parrott had not held his Toronto meeting at U of T, the largest campus in the province, conveniently located next door to Parrott's Queens Park office, and having half of Ontario's

graduate and professional students, the students most affected by the OSAP changes. Casey's few ironical sentences on the matter received the first sustained applause of the meeting.

He argued that cutting grants to graduate students was a move that would make university even more "the exclusive domain of the affluent". His speech received a standing ovation.

For the rest of the half hour student representatives hammered

away at the same theme attacking what they saw as a move away from accessibility.

Parrott's replies to the attacks came in a one and a half hour question and answer session. His answers were brief and did not cover many of the points students were upset about. He divided the subject matter into two sections: what had already been decided upon which he would not discuss, and the details yet to be finalized for which he wanted student suggestions.

The budget allotment to OSAP for next year and the new procedure of giving grants out first and then loans if needed, (but only for a student's first four years after which loans only would be available), Parrott would not discuss.

What could be discussed, he said, were suggestions that flexibility be used in cutting off grants to graduate and professional students in the form of a "grandfather clause"; essentially a phasing in of the program, but which would have to be at the expense of grants for non-graduate students.

However, almost all the student speakers during the meeting questioned the fundamentals of the new program and were not content to bargain about specifics of its implementation.

As one student said, to laughter and applause, Parrott "didn't really want public input, but public relations." This wish of Parrott's, he said, explained why the meeting was not held at U of T or Ryerson and why Parrott wanted to keep the discussion to areas which Parrott said "are not yet firm."

Parrott, picking up on such statements, said the students were "not taking the offer of dialogue seriously."

Instead of engaging in Parrott's hoped for "dialogue", the students

who spoke at the mikes and who shouted from the floor wanted to know exactly what they are getting from OSAP, and to oppose those parts of the proposals Parrott had unveiled which they felt would restrict accessibility.

Chris Alnutt, an OFS researcher, tried to find out what Parrott was planning. When asked by Alnutt if the parental contribution will be expected to be higher under the changed OSAP plan Parrott said he did not know.

Asked if regional price differences will be now considered

under OSAP criteria, Parrott said "If OFS has the figures, we will consider it." OFS said the figures are available and will be given to the Ministry.

To another question Parrott also reiterated that under the new program there will no longer be any minimum summer savings expected from the student. Rather the real summer savings of each student will be taken into account.

This was one of the few suggestions by Parrott with which no one took issue.

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News briefs

'Breakthrough' wants articles

Breakthrough, York's feminist magazine invites submissions for its next issue. Copy deadline is Friday, October 14. Please send your articles, poetry, illustrations and news items to Miki Mekler, Rm. 200A, Admin. Studies.

Ca vous interesse de parler francais?

Founders College announces the establishment of a French Table in its dining-hall at noon-time on Mondays and Wednesdays of every week.

The purpose of the table is to offer French-speaking members of the York Community, or any other persons interested in speaking French, the opportunity to do so in an English-speaking environment.

Bring or buy your lunch and join us at Founders for "un brin de causette." Pour plus de renseignements, priere de s'adresser à Micheline Trigiani, 663-1037.



Latin American festival coming

The Festival of Solidarity with Latin America, will take place Saturday, October 15 at 7:30. Folk dancing, songs, poetry, crafts. Bickford Park High School, 777 Bloor West (Christie Stations). Admission Free. Comunidad Solidaridad Latinoamericana.

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| HIGHWITNESS NEWS | THE LATEST ON WHAT YOU SMOKE, EAT OR FALL DOWN ON. | 11 PM. SATURDAY |
| BAROMETER | AN IN-DEPTH DETAILED LOOK AT LIFESTYLES. | 1 PM. MON.-FRI. |
| LOWDOWN | CONSUMER REPORTS RANGING FROM THE BEST BEER BUY TO NEGATIVE ION GENERATORS. | 5:55 PM. MON.-FRI. |
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| ZODIAC | HOROSCOPES OF PEOPLE IN THE NEWS WITH ASTROLOGER JOHN RODE. | 11:55 A.M. SATURDAY 9:15 A.M. SUNDAY |
| Q-JAZZ | AN HOUR OF JAZZ WITH KEITH ELSHAW. | 10:00 P.M. SUNDAY |
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