

Tuition jumps, students lie down

Leora Aisenberg

As tuition fees face an increase of at least 7.5 percent, most York students are taking the price hike lying down. In what one disgruntled student termed "a snowball of apathy", feeble, individual grumblings are much more evident than any unified, active opposition.

One reason for the apparent indifference is ignorance. Fourth year student Henry Wigoda claims that he is against any tuition increase, although he has not partaken in any formal declaration of protest. "There is a lack of information concerning what options are available," he explained.

Futility

Other students cited the futility of dealing with a "hard-nosed bureaucracy" as another deterrent. Many feel that petitions or public meetings won't influence the decision-makers of the university hierarchy. Admonished one frustrated student who requested to remain anonymous, "If they don't get you this way, this time, they'll do it the next. The administration is interested in statistics, not people. We won't be able to stonewall them." He maintains that his resigned attitude is the result of "past experience and personal wisdom," rather than apathy. He chooses to "fight back" against exorbitant fees by such methods as neglecting parking tickets. "They steal from me, why shouldn't I steal back?"

However, displaced feelings of anger will not resolve the situation. According to BOC student rep Peter Brickwood, the situation at York is indicative of a general societal problem; people are so used to "having things

dumped on them" that they may indeed feel powerless. Nevertheless, Brickwood insists that, in this case, pressure has to have some influence, involving both the university and the government. "It is not in the government of Ontario's interest to have an irate student population," he said.

How "irate" York students really are remains questionable. Attendance at information meetings has been sparse; although many people have picked up "Can you afford it" buttons, few have been in constant display. One format which has received considerable feedback is the petition. Over 2,000 signatures were presented at a meeting with Bette Stephenson on Friday.

Too busy to bother

Ironically, a large number of students contend that they are unable to become involved because they are too busy working part time trying to alleviate the already enormous financial burden of higher education. Statistics indicate a growing trend towards juggling employment and school part-time.

Rhonda Dick, a part-time student in third year, comes to school "because I enjoy it". Noting that a tuition fee increase would discourage prospective students from attending university, Dick exclaimed, "Classes are getting bigger, enrolment is down. We shouldn't have to pay for that." She also pointed out that a rise in tuition fees would necessitate an increase in student loans and grants. Peter Brickwood claims that a planned OSAP increase will not cover an additional 10 percent fee hike, which the Board of Governors

will decide upon at a meeting March 10. Observed Dick, "It's just one large vicious circle."

Foreign students will especially feel the financial crunch, as Katherine Chang explained. "We already pay double the school fee, and we are not allowed to work in Canada." When asked whether she had formally protested the increase, Chang replied that she had only recently noticed the poster.

Some support price hike

A surprising number of students support the tuition increase. These students maintain that education costs have risen relatively little compared to other costs, and the burden

should fall upon the students who attend university, rather than the average taxpayer.

Among those who did speak adamantly against a tuition increase, most admitted, in embarrassment, that they had taken little or no action. Explanations ranged from "I have no time" and "a button can't do any good" to "I guess I should, though, shouldn't I?"

As Peter Brickwood explains, there are a variety of ways in which students may express their protests: one can find buttons and petitions in Central Square, write letters to an MP, Bette Stephenson, or President MacDonald, or attend informational

and public speaking meetings. Buses will be sent from the main campus to the next BOC meeting at Glendon on Monday, March 10, when the final decision concerning an additional increase will be made.

Graduate assistant Leslie Timmins is one member of the York community who firmly advocates student action. "Education should be a right of all people," she contends. Most students agree, lamenting that a much sought after summer job barely provides enough to make ends meet.

However, the absence of a public voice suggests that a lot of people believe that what is unaffordable is also unavoidable.



Tuition skyrockets

York not alone

Staff

York is not the only university to be hit by skyrocketing tuition costs. Students at the University of Toronto, Western, Queen's, Carleton and Ryerson Polytechnical Institute will also pay more next year.

At the U of T the administration has recommended to the Board that fees be raised an

average of 14.6 per cent, prompting a score of students to stage a sit in in the office of President Ham. If the recommendation is accepted arts and science students will pay \$834 next year.

The University of Western Ontario, Queen's, Carleton and several others are expected to adopt the optional 10 per cent that the Ministry of

Colleges and Universities has given them the power to adopt. This would be on top of the 7.5 per cent already levied.

At Ryerson tuition will rise 20.6 per cent — from \$540 to \$646. This would raise them \$246 above the average community college tuition. The administration claims that the raise is necessary to offset their growing \$1.5 million debt.

J. A. W. S.

Jewish Awareness Week at York University

March 10-15, 1980

MONDAY MARCH 10

- Noon **Jewish Connections to the Land of Israel**, Rabbi Herbert Feder — S101 Ross
- 5:30 p.m. **Jewish Cooking Demonstrations** S101 Ross
- 8:30 p.m. **An Evening of song and learning with Schlomo Carelbach** — Scott Religious Centre

TUESDAY MARCH 11

- Noon **Assimilation** — Rabbi Meir Kahane — Curtis L
- 4:00 p.m. Phyllis Greenberg — **The Jewish Reconstruction Movement** — S123 Ross
- 5:30 p.m. **Jewish Cooking Demonstration**
- 8:00 p.m. Movie — **Madame Rosa** — Curtis D

WEDNESDAY MARCH 12

- 2:30 p.m. Rabbi Emanuel Shochet — **Jews For Jesus: Square Circles** — Bear Pit

- 4:00 p.m. **Ask the Rabbi** with Rabbi Dreben — S101 Ross
- 5:30 p.m. **Jewish Cooking Demonstration**
- 8:00 p.m. **Synagogue — Focal Point of Jewish Life?** — S869 Ross

THURSDAY MARCH 13

- Soviet Solidarity Day** — 11:00 - 5:00 in the Bear Pit
- 8:00 p.m. **Prosecution of Nazis in Canada** — Dr. Charles Kremer, Bob Kaplan, Eric Gertner — Curtis I

FRIDAY MARCH 14

- 11:00 a.m. Elliot Larman — **"Sex in Judaism"** — S101 Ross

SATURDAY MARCH 15

- 9:00 p.m. **Jewish Comedy Coffeehouse, with Yuk Yuk Comedians** — S869 Ross