

Varsity/high school gap discussed in Ont. study

TORONTO (CUP) — Inflated high school and university marks and variations in high school marking systems are wide enough to prevent some students from entering some university programs according to a provincial government study.

Released at the provincial legislature Jan. 18, the study examined the transition between secondary and post-secondary education and found there are both gaps and duplications in

what is being taught in the two systems.

Commissioned by the ministries of education and of colleges and universities, the one-year, \$619,000 research study found:

—higher marks in grade 13 are the result of easy marking rather than improved academic achievement.

—failure rates declined with the abolition of province-wide departmental exams 10 years ago

and have stabilized in recent years.

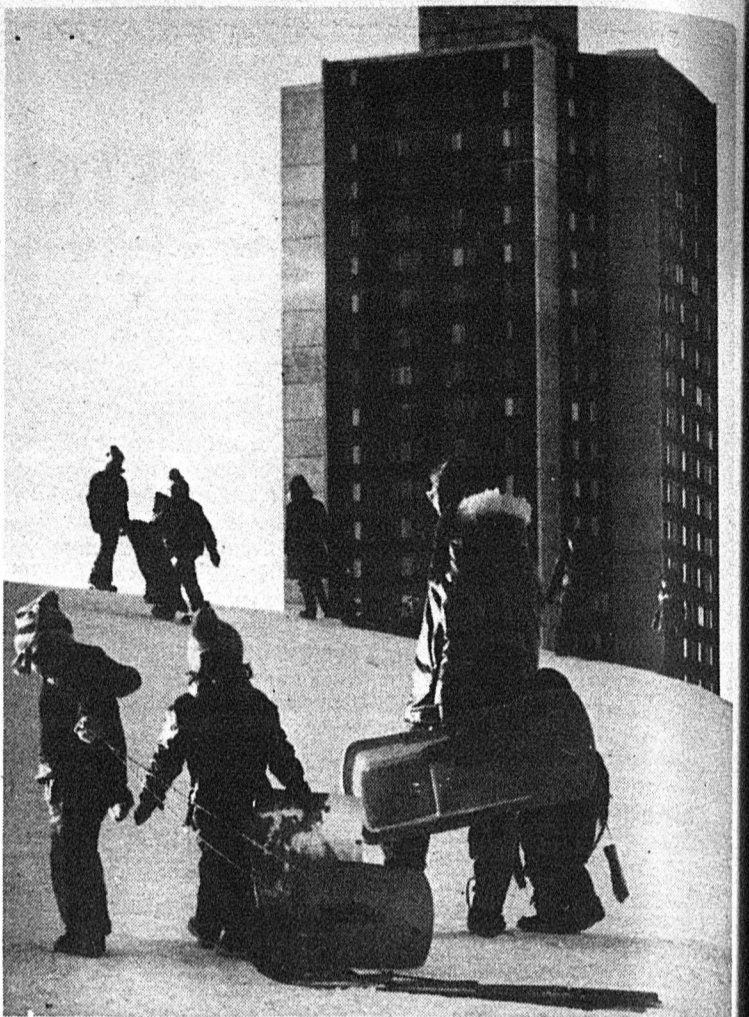
—inflation of marks has occurred in some universities and there have been wide variations in grade distribution within universities.

—varying high school standards can significantly affect students' overall ranking in the provinces and chances of entry to highly competitive programs like pharmacy and nursing.

—there is almost no co-ordination of subject matter and course content between high schools and post-secondary institutions.

—while enrolment in high school mathematics and science has remained stable there have been declines in the numbers taking English, French and history, which are considered "high risk of failure" courses.

—"low-risk" subjects, such as home economics and theatre arts, have shown enrolment increases.



Mitchener Park snowslide
Moms and dads take a break from studying and join the kids on the toboggan slope near Galbraith house at the U of A married students' residence.

photo Gary Van Overloop

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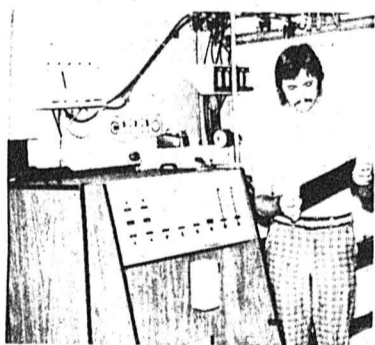
Protest set

TORONTO (CUP) - Ontario student leaders have called a province-wide half day moratorium on classes for Feb. 10 to protest against recently-increased tuition fees.

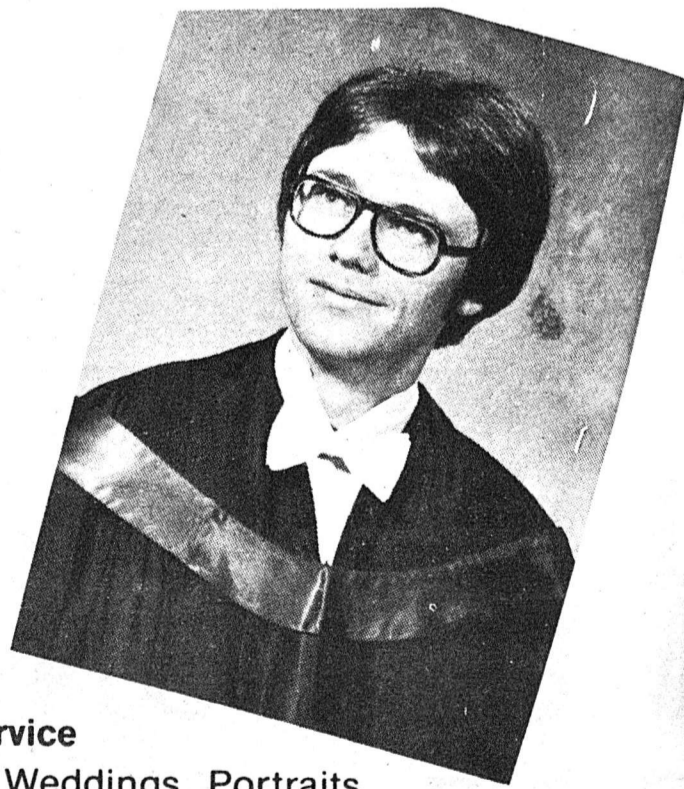
The action was approved Jan. 15 at an emergency meeting of the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) at the University of Toronto.

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