

# U of T Brief Asks Increase In Fees To Ensure Autonomy

TORONTO (CUP)—Students' Council at the University of Toronto has presented a brief to the Commission on the Financing of Higher Education (Bladen Commission) recommending a 150 per cent increase in tuition and \$1,500 government grants to students as a means of meeting the rising costs of higher education in Canada.

Noting the increasing dependence of Canadian universities on financial grants from provincial governments, the brief recommended increased tuition as the best means of ensuring university autonomy.

In addition, the brief proposed that federal government give matching grants of \$1.50 for every \$1 earned by a student during the summer to a maximum of \$1,500. It also suggested special grants be given to top students to allow them to study during the summer months.

## DRAMATIC SHIFT

The Toronto brief marked a dramatic shift in student thought towards the rising costs of university education. Last fall the Canadian Union of Students (CUS) began a "freeze the fees" campaign in an effort to put a temporary halt to the rash of tuition increase in universities across the country. For the past two months, student governments at more than half a dozen universities have waged "freeze the fees" battles in the face of almost certain increases in the next academic year.

To ensure summer earnings for students who want to work, the brief recommended that the

government and industry co-operate to establish a guaranteed work program providing students with summer employment in fields related to their courses of study. It suggested the government establish a domestic peace corps with a system of social, educational and economic rehabilitation projects in areas of the country designated as deficient.

The brief suggested government grants to undergraduates for work as research assistants inside and outside the university would be another means of guaranteeing summer employment.

Tuition for different courses of study, it suggested, should be equalized "so that the choice of field of study should not be dependent upon economic considerations."

## OBSTRUCTIONS

In a preamble the brief noted that obstructions to higher education today are the relatively high costs to some courses such as medicine and dentistry, parents who threaten to withdraw financial support if their children do not pursue specific courses, and the higher costs of attending university away from home.

The brief attacked student loans on the ground they force "a student to invest in his future and tend to make education an economic proposition." It rejected the elimination of tuition fees as a solution to the rising costs of higher education because "it would still not meet the needs of the student whose financial problems are larger than paying tuition fees."

# Poli. Sci. Student Challenges Inter-Party Committee Rule

A 22-year-old political science special student this week challenged the responsibility of persons conducting Model Parliament.

Lorne Yacuk, past president of the Political Science Club and chairman of the inter-party committee set up to organize Model Parliament, says independent

candidates are forced to campaign at a disadvantage.

Yacuk campaigned this week as an independent candidate, after the inter-party committee ruled last Friday that independent candidates would not be allowed to participate in campaign forums.

"The four campus political parties claim to represent all responsible political thought on campus," Yacuk told The Gateway.

"I am convinced that there is a significant segment of independent political thought on campus that should be allowed expression."

As an independent candidate in today's balloting, Yacuk can win a seat in parliament only if he receives 1/65 or more of the total votes cast. But, any votes he does receive will be of the "write-in" variety.

Yacuk says he appealed to voters who have "just one common bond—those who believe the political

parties have made a mockery of Model Parliament."

"They have passed a rule which forces an individual to campaign at a disadvantage."

His specific aim is to rally sufficient votes to demonstrate that the parties don't represent "the total political thought."

"The inter-party committee thinks that by establishing strict rules they can prevent such a thing as last year's fiasco," Yacuk charges.

The political science student claims no matter how many votes an individual receives, he receives only one seat.

Meanwhile, a party member elected to Model Parliament might indirectly represent 40 people while the independent MP could conceivably represent ten times that number, according to Yacuk.

"It's a great democracy," he comments.

# Student Brief Opposed By Claude Bissel

TORONTO (CUP)—University of Toronto President Claude Bissel opposes a 150 per cent tuition fee increase proposed by the U of T students' council in a brief to the Bladen Commission.

In a letter to students' council, Dr. Bissel said, "I believe fees should not be increased at the present time. Any fees structure should be linked with a rational apportionment of university costs among federal and provincial governments."

His comments were made in response to a students' council brief to the Bladen Commission recommending a 150 per cent fees increase tied to increased student aid and government-sponsored summer jobs.

Dr. Bissel criticized the brief on the grounds that government placements of students in summer jobs "might lead to a degree of government direction that would be irksome."

He said if students paid the largest share of the cost of education they might get the idea that they have the "dominant voice in directing the educational process."

"I am sure that even the most radical student rights advocate would not be happy at the prospect of a university which was dominated by student opinion," he added.

Dr. Bissel recommends scholarships be converted to non-financial honor awards and scholarships funds be thus released for bursaries; that the bursary system be enlarged "with the terms of the award made more liberal and flexible and that the plans be concentrated in the final two years of a course."

# Fraser Smith New President Of Inter-Fraternity Council

Fraser Smith, Kappa Sigma president has been elected presi-

dent of the Inter-Fraternity Council.

Smith succeeds Tom Shields as IFC president.

Elections were held last week to fill next year's IFC executive.

Other positions filled were: Jeff Motherwell, vice-president; Colin Fraser, secretary-treasurer; Blaise Szekely, PRO.

IFC is designed to coordinate the fraternities on campus.

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FRASER SMITH  
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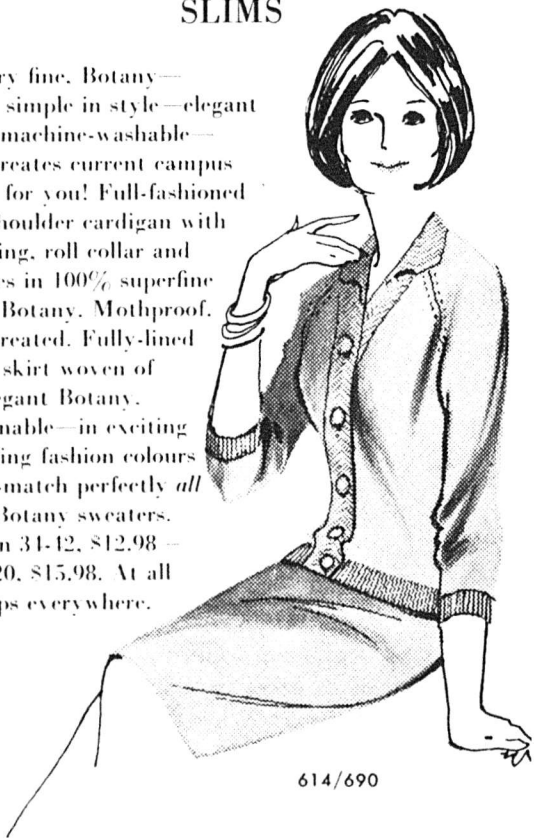
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