

keep pushing those placards

On Saturday, *The Globe and Mail* reported that more than 1,500 students "stormed" the steps of the Quebec National Assembly on Friday in a protest against tuition increases. The *Globe* reported that the students broke down police barricades, causing 50 riot squad officers in full riot gear to be called in. They were armed with billy-clubs.

The *Globe* went on to report that when students hit police on their helmets with placards and began to throw snowballs, two students were arrested and 50 more riot squad police were called in.

The organizer of the protest told the *Globe* that if the police would have let student security onto the steps of the assembly to call for order, none of these problems would have occurred. He accused the police of provoking the violence and said the students never had any intention of entering the assembly.

The students were protesting the Quebec government's decision to end a 21-year tuition freeze, which will lead to a 130 per cent increase in tuition over the next two years.

We've had our fair share of protests at York over the past year, but nothing of this magnitude. Yet.

The anger of students is finally rising to the point where they are no longer just willing to lobby the government politely and ask for better funding. Both the provincial and federal governments have been ignoring students for so long that loud and vigorous protest is the only option left.

All that students are asking for is the quality of education they will need to lead Canada into the future.

By not funding universities, and by putting down a mildly rambunctious protest with riot squads, the government is ensuring that Canada will continue to be surpassed intellectually, scientifically and financially in the future.

Students should be encouraged by the success of the protest held at York a week ago against the proposed increase to the cost of food for residence students. The plan was not accepted, the students were listened to and a compromise was reached. If we can continue with this spirit and enthusiasm maybe we can make ourselves heard not only by the York administration but by the government.

Psst!! Hey you with the shoes . . . submit stuff for our joke issue.

EXCALIBUR

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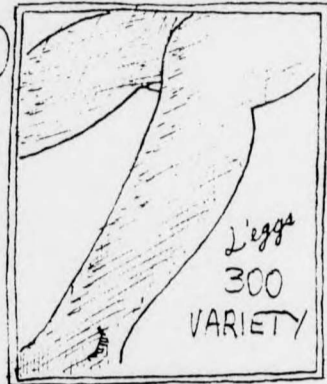
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OUR World...
 By: F.W. Cameron.

THE "NYLON MAN" DIALS THE WRONG NUMBER...

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF NYLONS WE HAVE!?!?



... AND HITS IT BIG!

letters

We will publish space permitting, letters up to 500 words. They MUST MUST be typed, double spaced, accompanied by the writer's name and phone number. Libelous material will be rejected. Deliver to 111 Central Square during business hours.

"Faceless peon" slams the York experience

Dear Editor:

It's only fitting that my shitty rience at York culminates in a letter from the faculty of education effectively ending my aspirations of becoming a teacher, stating, "Owing to the very large numbers of applicants involved, it is not possible to provide those not admitted with an individualized assessment of their particular strengths and weaknesses in relation to those admitted."

No wonder! The letter containing this statement was the first and only contact I've had with the faculty after my application, so what could these people possibly know about me?!

Of course, along with "many thousands of others" who applied to the consecutive pre-service programme, I have the satisfaction of knowing the \$30 processing fee I was charged did get 'individualized' attention: it was swallowed without delay by a branch-plant glutton (admissions, faculty of education) of the biggest bureaucracy of all: the York administration. (Note: the education faculty at UofT, which charges \$15 for this 'processing', sends very detailed letters of rejection most beneficial to applicants. Other places, such as Brock, charge nothing.)

Unfortunately, my experience at York has been that this type of

indifference and inattentiveness (if not downright negligence and rip-off) is hardly limited to the faculty of education.

In the fall of 1987, two weeks before school started, student programmes informed me that my advanced standing (I have a journalism BA from Ryerson) had been downgraded from honours to ordinary. The original standing was issued in April. The number of courses they awarded me for transfer credit dropped from 13 to 10. Put another \$1,200 + into the York coffers.

In February 1989, one full academic session into my studies here, I applied to student programmes for a change of programme major and upgrading to honours standing. My GPA was then 6.5. The petition was approved in September, three days before school started and about one month after all — there weren't many to start with — quality courses were filled.

Last October I dropped a course. Throughout December the phone number at student accounts yielded only a taped message stating that refunds would be forthcoming in the course of the month. In February, I received a \$96 cheque. The fee I originally paid was over \$400 (for six credits). Chalk another one up for the administration's business acumen.

This week I am to register, for what I pray to be my last course at York, through Atkinson College. It must be a 4000-level English major credit course. Two are being offered. I hope that of the 1,581 students in front of me, only a handful are looking for the same thing. Somehow I doubt it.

So what of MY 'York Experience'? The legacy will consist of a \$10,000 debt, a York honours BA in arts (to do with what only God knows), a GPA of about 7.0 and a great deal of bitterness associated with the knowledge that at York, I was a faceless peon in a business mechanism only concerned with maximizing

profit. Think I'm overstating things? Visit Ryerson's Placement Centres, both general and programme specific, to see how things can be.

By the way, the next person from the York Alumni Association that phones me soliciting money will be told to fuck him/herself.

Sincerely,
 Darivoj Jaksic
 English/History 4

Arthurs responds to CUEW letter

The following letter is York president Harry Arthurs' response to the letter "CUEW urges Arthurs to reconsider scholarship," published in the March 22 issue of *Excalibur*.

Dear Ms. Simmons:

Thank you for your letter of March 14 drawing my attention to a resolution passed at your last General Membership meeting.

Obviously, we share a commitment to fighting for adequate government funding and for accessible post-secondary education. Indeed, I have been working for some time very actively to promote the establishment of a coalition to press more aggressively for these objectives. I hope that that coalition will soon emerge, and that — regardless of our disagreements — we will be able to work together on these crucially important issues.

However, it is impossible to imagine that we will ever secure from the government funding which is sufficiently generous to

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