

Ontario students organize week of action

Toronto (CUP) - Student councils across Ontario participated in a week of action March 19 to 23 to protest provincial government plans to radically restructure the university system.

Public rallies and forums were held at many institutions, and 75 came out to hear speakers at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute March 22.

The week was organized jointly by the Ontario Federation of Students, the Ontario Faculty Association, and Canadian Union of Educational Workers, and the Ontario University Staff Association.

In a statement to explain their opposition to government plans, the four groups said they reject the government's restructuring because it is "an inadequate response to the funding crisis that the government itself has

engendered.

"Overcrowded classrooms, obsolete research facilities and equipment, overworked faculty and staff, deterioration of the physical plant and the erosion of access for many potential students are all manifestations of government neglect and underinvestment in higher education."

The Canadian Federation of Students' Ontario component suggested students boycott classes to attend protest events but no boycotts took place because students are preparing for exams.

But CFSO chairperson Ian Nelmes said student protest is having an impact.

"Things are moving right along," he said, noting that education minister Bette Stephenson has already changed the commission's timetable to allow public

hearings, because of public criticism.

CFSO is circulating a petition in opposition to education underfunding, and criticizing the

government's approach to solving the situation through the Bovey commission.

The commission was struck in January and given a mandate by

Stephenson to propose substantial restructuring to the Ontario post-secondary education system. The commission is expected to report next Nov. 15.

Edmonton Transit offers tickets

University students preoccupied with term papers and final examinations are reminded to take care of transportation for April.

Edmonton Transit launched a new method of paying fares in April: adult and child editions of Ticket Books.

These ticket books are available for \$9.00 for 10 adult rides, or \$5.00 for 10 child rides. In the vicinity of the U of A ticket books are available at SUB Bookstore, Campus Drugs, and Johnson Drugs. The same outlets are selling the April 1984 monthly

pass for \$32.00, which allows the purchaser unlimited rides.

TicketBooks were introduced without discount as a convenience for patrons who ride infrequently and use coins. Both tickets and passes are transferrable to other individuals in the household, and both are usable on busses and LRT vehicles.

During April, students are entitled to purchase the spring and summer "Student Pak" - a four month package of ET's Monthly Passes which is further discounted by being bought in advance.

This pak, for May through August, is available only at the Bookstore in the SUB, or at ET's downtown pass sales outlets, for \$115.00. The Student Pak represents a saving over the 18 weeks of summer of \$40.00 for anyone travelling to and from campus five days a week.


ET expects that casual riders, who occasionally use other means of reaching their destinations, will be the greatest users of Ticket Books. Regular riders will continue to take advantage of savings with Monthly passes.





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