

OPINIONS

TTC discriminates against university students

by John A. Vink

University students are being discriminated against by the Toronto Transit Commission.

As things are now, high school students are entitled to a 50 per cent reduction in the TTC fare price, while university and college students are forced to pay the full adult fare. Hmm, are not university and college students students as well?

According to York Federation of Students VP External Mitchell Blass, York, along with other metropolitan universities and colleges, has been trying to get student passes for post-secondary students since 1985. Blass says the TTC estimates that it would lose about \$2.1 million in revenues (1986 dollars) if it were to allow post

secondary students to use student passes, and that the TTC would be willing to give them student passes if they could somehow make up for the loss.

One may question the reasons for giving high school students passes and not post-secondary students. It seems that in most respects, post-secondary students may be even more worthy of the discount.

First of all, post-secondary students are more responsible about their education. They pay for their education, while high school students don't.

Dan Maceluch, media relations coordinator for the TTC, says that post secondary students cannot get student passes because "they are adults." He also cited the fact that the TTC would lose revenue. When asked who makes up the lost revenue when



high school students use student passes, he was unable to comment. (i.e. "Uhhh . . ."). This suggests that high school students are getting a free ride (pun intended).

High school students generally live at home with parents who pay many of their expenses. On the other hand, post-secondary students tend to pay much of their own way. Although they may get some money from their parents, many still have to pay for their housing, food, tuition and other necessities of life, including transportation.

With their full-time studies, many post-secondary students do not have much time for a part-time job, as most high school students do.

Why are high school students granted this extra privilege? Why aren't university students granted the same? What can we do to change this?

With most other services, boycotting is an available solution. But in this case, many students rely on the TTC to get to school, so boycotting would be more detrimental to students than it would be to the TTC.

Persons interested in making noise at a TTC Public Commission meeting should go to 1900 Yonge Street (Young & Davisville) on April 9 at 2 p.m. People who wish to make a statement at the meeting must call Bruce Milsip beforehand at 393-3847.



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