

# Excalibur

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## Mob marches on Queen's Park

(CUP) More than 2,000 angry students roasted the Ontario government March 27 in a protest on the steps of the legislature against tuition fee increases.

Chanting "Tories Out" and "Save Us From Davis", the students heard speaker after speaker condemn the Conservative government for increasing tuition by up to 17.5 per cent.

"It is not the students against society," said Toronto Mayor John Sewell, "it's the government. Education is a right and a necessity. We have to have a system we can afford."

"I'm with you and I support you."

Student leaders also attacked the Tories for increasing tuition, failing to give the universities and colleges enough money to keep pace with inflation and for not improving the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP), despite fee hikes and inflation.

up twice the rate of inflation like education minister Bette Stephenson wants."

Liberal education critic Dave Sweeney told the students that in response to a question he asked that day in the legislature, Stephenson had said that Ontario students still aren't paying enough tuition.

Stephenson also appeared before the vocal rally, which was sponsored by the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS).

She said taxpayers are being "very generous" to students and added that she thinks many students are unaware that an accessibility study by the government until the study results are in.

Stephenson did say that OSAP changes will be introduced in the near future but gave no indication that the rally had done anything to change the government's mind on the fee hike.

OFS chairperson Chris McKillop vowed at the rally's end that the student organization will continue to fight the increase and pressure the government for improved funding for post-secondary education and OSAP. OFS is also encouraging fee hike strikes being planned for September on several campuses.



An angry mob of York students marches on Queen's Park.

Mary Doll



Gary Hershorn

The most volatile exchange of the two-hour protest came when premier Davis addressed the crowd.

"There are others who will promise you more support. I firmly believe the university community in this province is being supplied with an equitable and fair share of funds," Davis told the students.

They responded with cries of "bullshit" for more than a minute.

"I don't think the public is going to be too impressed," the premier replied.

"We are the public," the students shouted back.

"I understand that but there are a lot of other people in this province who have legitimate needs. Our job is to do it as equitably as we can and I can't promise you any more," Davis concluded. "That is what you expected me to say and I hope I haven't disappointed you."

Provincial Liberal leader Stuart Smith, who has attempted to topple the minority government on a non-confidence motion and force an election, also addressed the crowd.

"It's not unreasonable if tuition fees go up with inflation," Smith said, to heavy booing. "But it is unreasonable when fees go

## False alarms plague firemen

**Mark Monfette**

If you've seen an awful lot of fire trucks racing around campus lately, it's not because York is slowly burning down—it's due to the high incidence of false fire alarms occurring in residence this term.

Although some students apparently find this quite a hoot, the Fire Department of North York is definitely not amused.

According to Greg Alexander, Fire Safety Co-ordinator with the department, York campus is one of the major trouble spots in the entire city. He claims that since Jan. 1 of this year, there have been 16 "malicious reports of fire" and that last year's rate was "astronomical."

"This is unbelievable coming from a university," he stated. "Most of our trouble comes from children in public housing projects or in the Jane-Finch corridor area."

What is of particular concern to the fire department is that each false alarm ties up five of their vehicles and prohibits them from responding to other emergencies, such as resuscitator calls.

According to Alexander, the department answered 1,536 resuscitator calls last year and "a delay of a few minutes can result in brain damage or death." He stated that one death has occurred already as a result of a false alarm when a fire

truck on the way to the scene was involved in a collision.

The York administration is also concerned with the growing problem and is in the process of implementing new policies to deal with the matter.

Already this year, five McLaughlin students have been fined for misusing fire fighting equipment and one student was charged under the Criminal Code with setting off a false alarm. He was convicted and given probation.

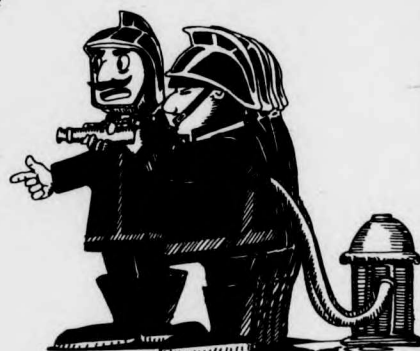
Under the Criminal Code of Canada, anyone convicted of ringing a false alarm is liable to imprisonment for two years. Tampering with fire fighting

equipment is also an offense under the Code.

Under York's revised policy, a guilty student would face a minimum fine of \$100 and possible eviction from the residence and even the university.



To deter false alarms, protective devices have been placed on the alarms themselves. Ink powder is also being used in an attempt to catch the guilty students "red-handed."



## OISE and York discuss merger

**Neil Wiberg**

Talks have been held at an informal level regarding a possible affiliation of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) with York University.

OISE is currently affiliated with the University of Toronto. However, this relationship now appears in jeopardy following a vote by the council of the U of T's school of graduate studies. The council voted 27 to 7 to end the 14-year partnership with OISE as of June 30, 1981.

York vice-President of Academic Affairs William Found confirmed that he had been involved in the informal talks

with OISE. He told *Excalibur* that the discussions had not progressed to a stage where actual details were being discussed.

OISE does not have degree-granting status. It needs an affiliation with a university beginning in the 1981-82 academic year.

Clifford Pitt, OISE director, was enthusiastic in his assessment of York. "York is an outstanding institution which offers an enormous range of faculties. It would be a fine university to be affiliated with."

Pitt suggested that OISE might affiliate with more than one

university. However, he admitted that York was the only institution "where we have talked to several people."

Found pointed out that there has been a history of co-operation between the two bodies. Professors in York's education department have been involved in joint projects with academics from OISE.

There is a possibility that OISE might negotiate a new agreement with the University of Toronto, although OISE would probably enjoy less dependence under any renegotiation.