

Visa students to get financial aid

By GRAHAM THOMPSON

Two temporary financial assistance programs have been set up to assist visa students. This comes in the aftermath of a month-long student sit-in outside the office of the President this past summer.

The students, who first enrolled during the 1982-83 school year, were shaken by a 40% increase in their 1983-84 tuition fees. As a result of province-wide protests this summer, the Ministry of Education announced that these students will be eligible for rebates of \$190 per full course to a maximum of 2.5 courses—a total rebate of \$475.

This rebate would be subtracted from the hefty \$4,192.50 fee levied on non-B. Ed. visa undergraduates and the \$6,592.50 charged to B. Ed. students.

In contrast, pre 1982-83 visa students are charged only \$2,430 for a standard 30-credit course load. In addition these students will only be subject to annual increases paralleling those borne by Canadian students and landed immigrants, until they either complete their current programs or until May 6, 1986, at which time they will be subject to their higher rates.

For its part, York initially announced that an emergency bursary fund of \$50,000 would be set aside for needy visa students. More recently this ceiling has been lifted until the university is in a position to assess the scope and urgency of requests for financial assistance. Foreign Student Advisor Brenda Williams—now accepting applications for the assistance—stated that the size of the fund should be established by early to mid-October.

The sit-in originally grew out of a contention by the 1982-83 visa students that they were inadequately forewarned about the extent of the eventual 40% fee hike. The University insisted that the students were inadequately advised.

According to a York Communication department special bulletin dated May 25, visa students were given "a clear indication of the scope of the changes about to be made... it was clear (that) if the government carried out its funding formula as we had been forewarned that 50% of the educational cost—as defined by the government—would be charged to visa students in 1982-83 and 67% in 1983-84."

Speaking for the Committee Against Differential Fees (CADF),

involved in the sit-in protest, Oma Surujdeen, an Administrative Studies student, says that visa students received a vague warning about "substantial" future fee increases but that since specific percentages were not mentioned at registration time it was not clear that a 40% hike was in the works.

CADF noted that the initial misunderstandings were essentially due to a lack of communication between students and administration. As a result, the CADF maintains they wrote to Administration requesting that a student representative be appointed to voice visa student concerns and receive information from the University.

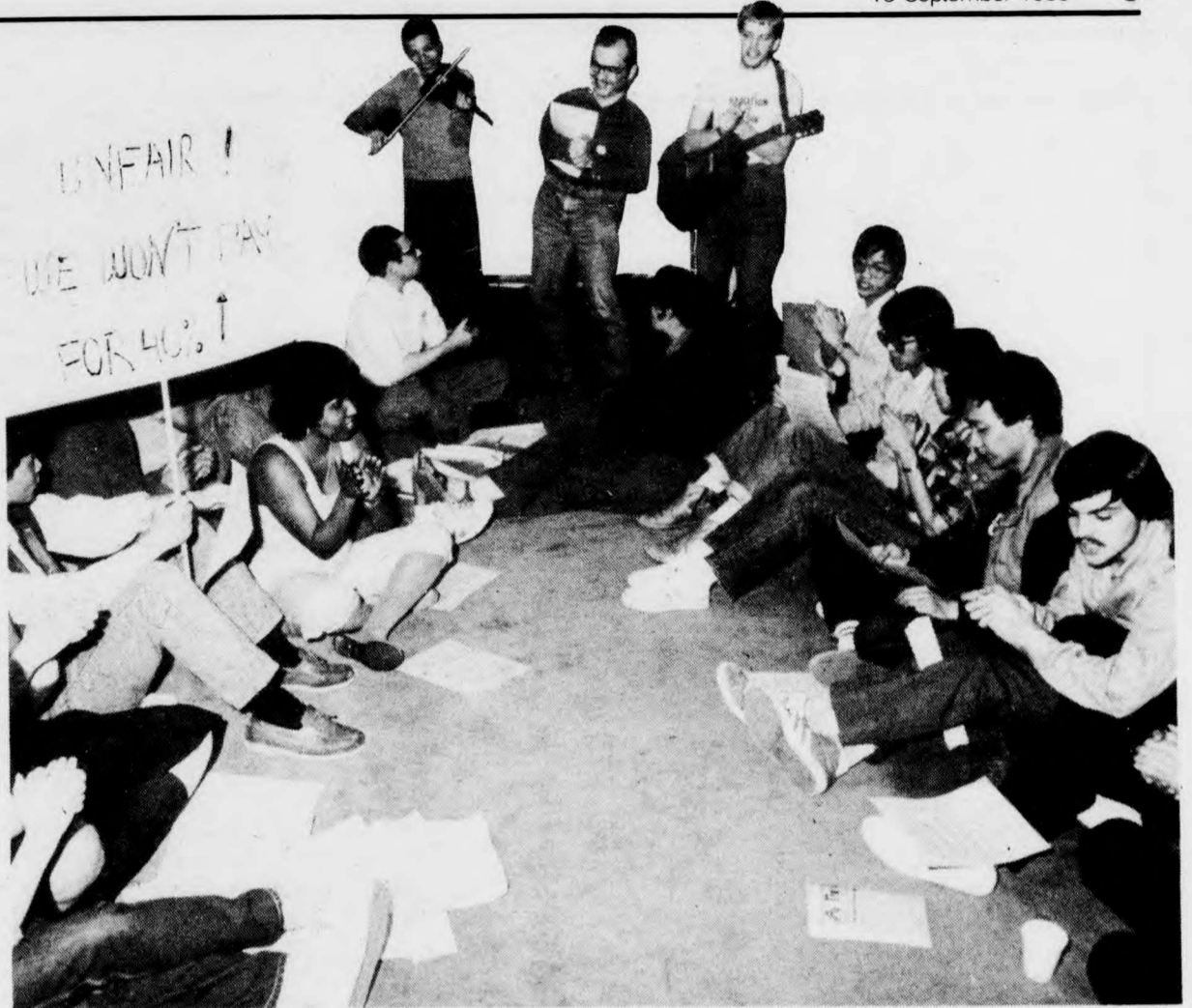
Surujdeen says no response has yet been received and that they had not been made aware of the temporary lifting of the ceiling off the emergency bursary fund.

Responding to queries about fee increases slated for 1984-85 visa student, President Ian Macdonald indicated that they would move in step with fee increases for Canadian students. Macdonald also stated that he sees little hope that the province will alter its policy of differential fees in the face of perceived public support for such a policy.

Macdonald and Surujdeen both agree that a non-differential fee policy could only benefit Ontario in its International Relations. Surujdeen said that not only do other nations benefit but that foreign students are often the first sought by multinational corporations doing business abroad.

Surujdeen was also concerned that visa students might find it necessary to transfer to institutions in provinces such as British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Newfoundland, all of which offer the same fee rates to foreign and domestic students (fees range from \$800 to \$1,000), or to the other Maritime provinces where the average fee is \$2,400 per year.

With the well-publicized rejection of the 1,400 York applicants this year, Macdonald has stated that he would not welcome any proposals seeking to establish visa student quotas to make room for more domestic students. Macdonald maintains that academic standards would remain the main entrance criteria for all students and that the Senate and Admissions Department would be reviewing this matter during the school year.



Visa students participating in a month-long sit-in outside the office of the President earlier this summer.

CYSF sells typing room

By JOHN WRIGHT

The Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF) is expected to ratify the sale of Dawn's CYSF Typing Service to businesswoman Leslie Vogan at its next regular meeting. Included in the proposed agreement is the transfer of the space, Room 112 Central Square, from student control to the University's department of ancillary services.

According to CYSF president Chris Summerhayes, Vogan has been operating independently under the terms of the proposal since early summer. Summerhayes expects the ratification vote to pass quickly. He feels that consensus of council clearly indicated overwhelming support for the idea; the delay in ratification is to allow all members to return from the summer break.

The space in question was originally the office of *Excalibur*. In

the summer of 1979 *Excalibur* found itself heavily in debt to the university. As part of the repayment agreement negotiated by then CYSF president Keith Smockum, and *Excalibur* Publications Board chair Lisa McCabe-Boyer, Room 112 was turned over to CYSF to mount an entrepreneurial activity. The rent of the space (\$166/month) was to be paid directly to Ancillary Services and applied to the *Excalibur* debt.

CYSF opened the Lyceum Used Bookstore later that year. Operating heavily in the red, the operation was closed, and Soundproof Records opened in the summer of 1981. Faced with continued losses, council elected to close the record store just one year later.

Some months later Room 112 became Dawn's with the signing of a franchise agreement between Vogan's sister, Dawn Morrisette, and CYSF allowing Morrisette to operate the typing service moved from its three-year-old location in

Founders College. Summerhayes reports that even under this guaranteed revenue arrangement CYSF was faced with a \$4,500 loss last year.

Terms of the new agreement, made in the first few days of Summerhayes' presidency, include a \$5,000 payment by Vogan to CYSF for all fixed assets (valued at \$3,610 in an appendix), a promise to retain the operating name with the CYSF acronym, and terms of a loan by the university to Vogan, to be paid directly to CYSF. Terms of the rental payments were not specified in the three year contract.

Summerhayes points out that CYSF has retained some control over the pricing policy of the service. He believes that in addition to stemming the high cash losses traditionally associated with the typing service, council will ensure the continuation of the important service it provides when it ratifies the proposal.

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