

INTERVIEW: THE MASTER
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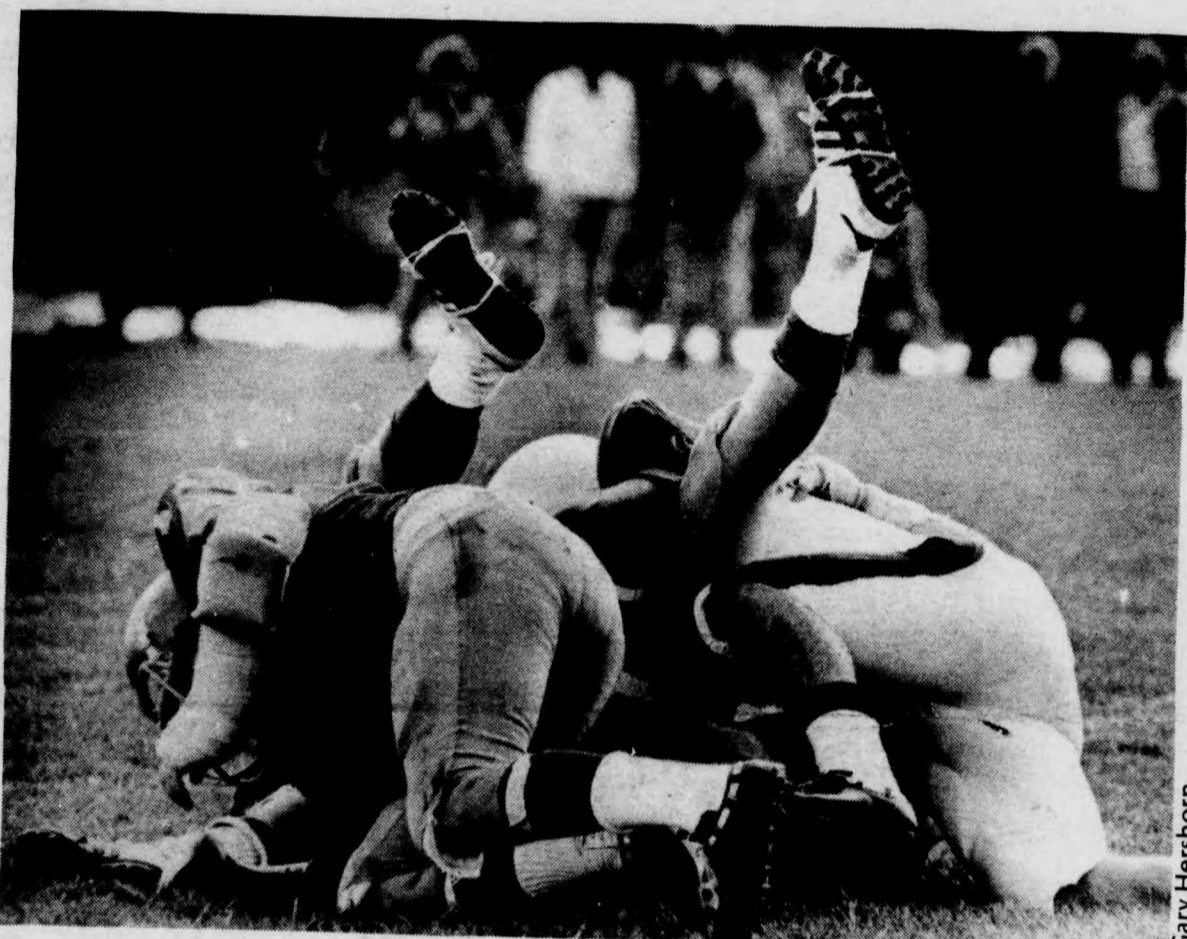
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ROCK 'N ROLL

Excalibur

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The June Taylor Dancers seen flaunting gorgeous gams at last weekends football game

Gary Hershorn

York students react

Loans cut for single parents

Doug Allen

A new ruling by the Provincial Government on student loans to single parents is the cause of the latest anti-cutback uproar on campus.

The problem arose at the close of the last school year. The Ontario Student Assistance Program, which administers both federal and provincial loans to students, decreased the maximum amount of loans available to single parents receiving family benefits from \$3,600 to \$1,000.

In the ensuing uproar the province was forced to increase the maximum to \$1,800—the amount contributed by the federal government. At the same time they created an avenue of appeal for funds over \$1,800.

J. M. Grisdale, of O.S.A.P., says that the lowering of the maximum amount of loans

available to single parents is a working out of the "nitty gritty" of the new method of assessment for loans initiated in the 1978/79 school year.

Grisdale stated that the Family Benefits Program had complained that O.S.A.P. was duplicating services by providing \$3,600 in loans and had threatened to turn off the tap on the single parents. OSAP denies that this is a cutback but rather sees this as the working out of an equitable student loan plan.

In answer to the decrease in provincial loans, a group of student single parents in Ontario have formed the Family Benefit Student Group. A founding member of the group, Christine McGill, a social services student at Centennial College, cannot understand the government's actions.

"That business about double funding is garbage," she claimed. "The family benefits are not enough to live on."

McGill points to recent statistics by the Metro Toronto Planning Council which state that a working mother with one child needs \$11,000 to live for one year. McGill, who has two children and lives in subsidized housing, received \$4,800 in family benefits including \$500.00 in a baby bonus.

At York, life has been made considerably harder for at least two single parents. Natasha Maletzoff has been forced to take two part-time jobs, as well as handle a full time course load.

Maletzoff can only see the government's move as a cutback. She suggested that the university is losing enrolment because of the situation.

Janice Traimer, another York student affected by the cutback, laments that the "Ministry of Colleges and Universities doesn't seem to want us." When Traimer first received the news she says "I felt I would probably have to quit and get a job."

Asked how she was able to live on the previous year's funds she said: "I found that together with the mother's allowance we could maintain not a frivolous standard of living but we managed to get by without having to beg, borrow or steal."

Sandinists name prof ambassador

Lydia Pawlenko

A York linguistics professor has been unofficially designated the new Nicaraguan ambassador to Canada. The appointment of Pastor Valle-Garay was made by the new Sandinista regime following the overthrow of Dictator Anastasio Somoza.

As protocol goes, Valle-Garay claims he is "driving Ottawa people nuts" by staying at York. To become an official ambassador and live in Ottawa is beyond the financial means of his government at the present time.

"We have a country that is totally bankrupt," he said. "We can't afford to rent and entertain in an embassy—we haven't got the cash for it."

After 18 months of popular rebellion the Sandinistas toppled Somoza's 46-year-old dynasty in July. Somoza, exiled to Paraguay, left the country severely in debt. Upon nationalizing Somoza's heavily mortgaged properties, the new socialist regime must now make repayments.

The Sandinists refuse to honor debts to Israel, the United States or Argentina. "As far as we're concerned, it's blood money," Valle-Garay said bitterly, holding these countries responsible for the destruction of Nicaragua through the supply of arms to the Somoza regime.

Valle-Garay stressed that the U.S. was essential in the destruction of Nicaragua, by maintaining Somoza's national guard. "Somoza was the very last of the U.S. marines, in our view."

Professor Valle-Garay made a commitment to the Nicaraguan revolution 15 years ago. The self-professed "diplomat without a passport" played a key role in obtaining funds from various Canadian committees (which he would not name).

The "revolutionary" professor finds his dual roles take up 18 hours of his day. He claims his

present duties of establishing contacts and representing the Nicaraguan government in Canada, should actually be "a piece of cake."

However, the Nicaraguan situation remains desperate. Virtually devastated by past earthquakes and war, its overwhelmingly young citizens starve. The civil war has claimed an estimated 40,000 lives. With a 60-70 per cent illiterate population earning wages averaging \$85-\$150 a year, the recovery will be a slow process.

As a member of the Non-

aligned Nations, Nicaragua has had considerable help from Cuba. "They were the first ones over to set up hospitals. We had been left without syringes," Valle-Garay said.

Pastor Valle-Garay is currently seeking relief funding from Canada, and has found the Canadian Labor Congress instrumental in the cause.

The Sandinista government has demanded aid from the U.S. but Valle-Garay stresses, "We will not accept any aid with strings attached. All we want is to be totally independent."

Dear Bette

Next week, York students will have the opportunity of dropping Bette Stephenson, Minister of Colleges and Universities, a line, courtesy of the Ontario Federation of Students.

The Federation is organizing a province wide postcard campaign to petition the Ministry for improved access to higher education, increased funding and better long-term planning. Specifically, OFS is calling for a freeze on tuition fees, more realistic methods of assessing OSAP loans, funding increased to the level of inflation and a select committee of the

legislature to be formed to study long-term planning and trends.

The York Student Council is organizing the campaign on campus and, besides having a table in Central Square, they will be making a door-to-door tour of the residences.

Barb Taylor, Vice President for external affairs, says that the York Student Federation is hoping for approximately 2,000 signature on campus. OFS is hoping to collect 100,000 cards, out of a membership of 160,000.

Anyone interested in helping organize the campaign should meet Barb Taylor in her office at 105 Central Square, today at 2pm

