

Students occupy president's office

Bette talks while campus rocks

Angela Christopoulos and Hugh Stuart
(The Varsity)

"We hate to inform you, but this is an occupation." Thus began the occupation of the office of U of T president Dr. James Ham by a

group of students, at times 60 strong, protesting the impending increase in tuition fees at the university.

Ham was not in his office but his secretaries collected their belongings and left quietly.

Students attending a forum with Minister of Colleges and Universities Bette Stephenson in U of T's Convocation Hall were informed of the sit in. The announcement was greeted with enthusiastic applause. Student

Administrative Council President David Jones read a list of purposes presented by the occupiers. They were:

- 1) To focus attention on the important Academic Affairs Committee meeting on Thursday to consider the tuition increase.
- 2) Demand that the governing council not implement the tuition increase.
- 3) Demand that the provincial government undertake a thorough study of accessibility to post-secondary education.
- 4) Demand that the U of T reject the principle of autonomous fee increases and urge provincial rejection of the policies.

The occupation was organized by a group of students who discussed and planned their strategy for three weeks. Students who were "in" gathered in the parking lot behind Simcoe Hall at 1 p.m.

Five students crept into the building to make sure all doors were open and that no police were present. The rest of the students then came up carrying

sleeping bags and supplies for the 48-hour sit in. By 2 p.m., more than 60 students were milling in the office.

Vice-President Harry Eastman was surprised by the sit in. He said, however, that the university would accommodate the demonstrators. "It's unfortunate that it's necessary to take measures of violence but the students appear to be well-behaved and have a timetable," added Eastman. His impression was that there was "less student concern about the tuition increase than we might expect because there were not that many people at the Stevenson forum."

Late Tuesday night Harvey Cooper, a sit in organizer, said he was pleased with the proceedings of the sit in. "Everybody's enthusiastic and we're getting great coverage," Cooper explained. "We're aiming to push a lot of percolate to Thursday's meeting and we think that academic affairs has no choice but to defeat the whole tuition proposal."



Bette defends her hairdo before mob of angry aesthetes.

Athletes let down

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The delay in the Clinic's opening has disappointed many. Alan Garber, a 21-year old student at George Brown Community College, tore a cartilage in his knee while playing hockey. "Instead of an operation," he told *Excalibur*, "my doctor suggested a program of physical therapy to build up the strength in the leg. I came up here in an optimistic mood. Now I might have to have the

operation." Lamented Garber, "York let me down."

The facility, including a \$45,000 X-ray unit and three new whirlpool baths, sits unused while negotiations continue. Athletes are now referred to the First-Aid room in Tait-McKenzie.

Neither Dr. Bull nor Vice-President for Employee and Student Relations Bill Farr, who is in charge of the university's negotiations, were available for comment.

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