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It's not a sixties flashback, OFS is a seventies must

In Excalibur's February 3 issue, York Student Federation President Barry Edson accused the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) of operating "within the confines of the student movement of the 60's. That is an understandable comment from one who buries his head in the sand and operates within the confines of the student movement of the 1950's.

OFS is fully aware of the difference between the 1960's and the 1970's. In 1963 the Ontario Government's attitude towards education was made clear by William Davis, who was then minister of Education: "We must view these coming events in the proper perspective. Part of this requires that we put first the things of real and lasting worth, which to me means giving top priority to education in the next two decades. We must plan for continued and fairly rapid growth in education well beyond the year 2000."

In the 1960's Ontario's post-secondary education system went through a massive expansion and improvement. A large proportion of the province's resources was invested in new universities, new faculties, plus more and better graduate and undergraduate programmes. The government was committed to accessibility to education and developed a student aid programme for that purpose.

The number of students and quality of education increased greatly. More persons from low and middle income families went into university. We stopped losing our best scholars in the "brain drain" to the USA because we had developed high calibre facilities in Ontario. Considerable resources were put into developing a Community College system to provide practical and technical education.

In the 1960's a student with a BA

was a valuable commodity on the job market. The cost of student housing, transportation, food, and books was relatively low. Summer jobs were available to those who wanted them.

I could go on and on but I will not. I do not want to give the impression that the 1960's were a paradise because they were not. I am merely trying to say that things were different then than now.

The situation I described for the 1960's has been reversed in the 1970's. OFS is well aware of that and is working hard to deal with the problems students face today: unemployment, declining education quality, the high cost of living, inadequate student aid, and increasing tuition fees. We believe that most students today care about saving the things which the student movement of the 1960's took for granted.

In the 1960's there were two main foci for the student movement. One was having a role in decision-making and much was gained from the near zero input students were previously allowed. The second was problems of the world; because students themselves did not have to struggle to survive as students they could afford the time to fight the perceived evils of the decade.

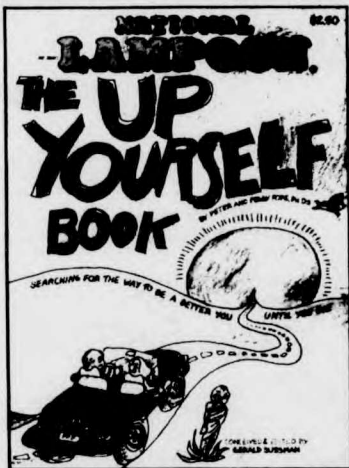
Now we have some student representation and we must try to make the most of it, given the current government-led attack on education. Student organizations can no longer afford to devote much energy to world problems because the problems of students here in Ontario are so great. That is unfortunate, but such is the reality of the 1970's. OFS-FEO (founded in 1972), is part of that reality.

Murray H. Misikin
OFS-FEO executive chairperson

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Mac. council member snaps at snips 'n snipes

As the McLaughlin Student Council member directly responsible for the new McLaughlin student typing services, I feel compelled to address a few remarks to an item which appeared in your Snips 'n Snipes (sic) column last week (Excalibur, February 3, '77). That item created the erroneous impression that our service is available only to McLaughlin students. I cannot stress too strongly that we service the entire York student community.

Having dispensed with that preliminary matter, let me respond to the general tenor of your article; namely, that our service is to be avoided because our prices are

"more expensive than 80 percent of the offers found on the private market." Our price is 85 cents per page, and I cannot deny that typists can be found who charge less; however, consider the following points.

- 1) We have an answering service so that clients can reach us anytime between 9-5 weekdays. As a result, we're never "out for the day" but always as close as your phone.
- 2) We are on campus. If the classified advertisements in Excalibur are representative, private typists are located in "the Jane-Sheppard area", "in North York", "in their homes", and in short, everywhere except on campus. Our service is uniquely convenient.
- 3) We have a large staff of professional typists. Consequently we have greater flexibility in handling rush jobs and in accommodating special requests.
- 4) We offer all the enticements of which the advertisements boast: professional workmanship, all supplies provided, a tissue copy at no extra charge, an IBM selectric machine and fast, efficient, reliable service. It should be noted that some typists who offer less attractive services actually charge \$1 per page or higher.
- 5) Our prices were not established arbitrarily but rather in consultation with York Secretarial Services, the McLaughlin secretarial staff, and our own personnel. Our objective is not to make a ripoff profit but to provide a necessary service at a break-even level. We are operating as a business and must meet overhead expenses to survive as a going concern.

It is evident that I consider your flippant, ill-considered, and uninformed article a gross injustice to McLaughlin College Council and the individuals who have worked hard on what we feel is an excellent and potentially invaluable public service. We challenge you to find equivalent service at a better price.

Stuart Myron
McLaughlin student council

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