

UNIVERSITY NEWSBEAT

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OSAP DETAILS RELEASED

Despite substantial debate with students and their representatives over proposed changes to the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP), the Minister of Colleges and Universities has announced that virtually all of the proposals will be instituted.

Details of financial assistance available to students were released by the Minister, Harry C. Parrott, last week. The accompanying press release warns students to consult the Ministry's handbook (available by the end of March) and "not to judge the program on the basis of speculative reports by the news media but to compute their own potential levels of assistance from the detailed tables included in the OSAP literature."

This may be a response to an Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) press release which took issue with the policies and rationales offered by the Ministry. "We estimate that 15,000 students will be cut from grants by the changes", said Chris Allnutt, an OFS researcher.

Comparing the new system with last year's OSAP rules, which used approximately the same standards of eligibility as the Canada Student Loans Plan, reveals a number of increases in the contributions ex-

pected from parents and students, Allnutt said. He pointed to the drop of \$1,000 in terms of the minimum net income of parents expected to contribute (from \$7,600 to \$6,600), to the larger proportion of "penalty" applied to parents of students who live away from home, in terms of the allowable deduction; and the fact that, for students who take at least a year off from school to work, 20 per cent of their last eight month's gross income is expected as a contribution to education costs, whether the student made \$1,000 a month or \$500 a month.

The grants and loans are intended for students from "low- and middle-income families", but any of the approximately 80,000 college and university students in Ontario may apply.

Eligibility for a grant, loan or combination of the two is then determined by a complicated financial calculation which takes into account the income of the student (and spouse, if any), the income of the parents, the number and age of dependents in both families, and many other factors.

Students are divided into two categories: Type A, the majority of applicants, whose assistance is determined on the basis of income

and parents' income; and Type B, which includes married students, students who have worked full-time for three periods of 12 consecutive months, or those who have cared for their children for a similar period. The groupings determine who is expected to contribute to education costs (tuition, books, and travel).

The emphasis of the new rules is on making the student responsible for a larger portion of these costs. "OSAP's basic purpose is to supplement, not replace, the financial resources of the student and the student's immediate family," Dr. Parrott said in his press release. He argued that without OSAP, the taxpayer already pays 85 per cent of the education costs of Ontario post-secondary students.

"Basically, given the details outlined the new scheme, the adjustments in no way offset the major negative aspect of the plan, the change in grant eligibility," Allnutt said.

One of the most-disputed proposals, that students would only be eligible for eight terms of grant assistance, has been instituted. This means that students proceeding to graduate studies will be eligible only for loans under the OSAP program.

A so-called "grandfather clause" has been instituted to help students

who have already completed eight terms of eligibility for grant assistance. Although they can now only apply for loans, a loan remission scheme will pay off part of their loan at the end of the year. The sum of \$15 million has been set aside for this purpose over the next year.

The amount remitted will be a percentage of the principal over \$1,000. The exact amount will be determined by the number of students who apply for remission.

A similar program is planned for 1979-80. After that, students in this category will be expected to repay all of their loans.

Allnutt's comment on the loan remission plan was: "We don't see any way that they would spend the whole \$15 million. They've set it aside - but it's virtually impossible for enough students to get loans over \$1,000."

Rules of eligibility have been tightened for the Ontario Study Grant program. Only students enrolled in degree programs with terms of between 10 and 19 weeks length may apply.

However, for the first time, students at approved private vocational schools will be eligible for partial grants as well as Canada Student Loan assistance.

Students at colleges of applied arts and technology, taking courses of short duration which are closely related to the job market, will also be eligible.

Included in OSAP are four financing programs: the Ontario Study Grant Plan, the Ontario Student Loans Plan, the Ontario Special Bursary Plan, and the federally funded Canada Student Loans Plan. The annual cost of the four programs is about \$92.3 million, of which Ontario gives \$77.7 million.

Almost twice as much money is available in subsidized loans as in grants under OSAP: \$140 million compared to \$76 million in grants. A "subsidized loan" means that the government guarantees payment of the interest on student loans until six months after graduation, when the student is required to begin repayment of the loan.

OSAP booklets and application forms should be available from the Student Awards office by the end of March. For further information, or to appeal your assessed contribution or status, contact the Inquiry Section, Student Awards Branch, Ministry of Colleges and Universities, Mowat Block, Queen's Park, Toronto M7A 2B4, telephone (416)965-5241.

Footnotes

Jews & Arabs

Four outstanding scholars in the field of Judaic Studies will speak at a conference entitled "Jews and the Arab World", the second annual Conference on Jewish Life and Education at York.

The conference is sponsored by the Faculty of Arts Program in Religious Studies and the Faculty of Education Judaic Studies Program, in cooperation with the Toronto Board of Jewish Education and the Toronto Jewish Congress. The conference will take place on both York and Glendon campuses from March 26 to March 29.

Featured are four scholars: Naim Kattan, head of the Writing and Publication Section of the Canada Council, author and playwright; Howard M. Sachar, Professor of History and International Affairs at George Washington University, an internationale consultant and lecturer, and author of six books; Solomon Gaon, Chief Rabbi of the Sephardic Congregations of the British Commonwealth, president of the Union of Sephardic Congregations of the U.S. and Canada, and Director of Yeshiva University's Sephardic study program; and Jane Gerber, an assistant Professor of the Graduate School and the Department of Classical and Oriental Languages at the City University of New York.

The lectures are being coordinated by Professor Michael Brown of Hebrew Studies at York and Rabbi Irwin E. Witty, director, Board of Jewish Education. All events are free. For schedules and further information call 667-3189 or 781-4687.

Women & Law

Three lectures on the subject of "Women and the Law" will be given

by Professor Mary Jane Mossman of Osgoode Hall Law School.

Sponsored by the Centre for Continuing Education, the lectures will concentrate on the legal aspects of employment for women, the position of women with respect to Family property, and the proposed Family Law Reform Act.

Prof. Mossman teaches Women and the Law, and Property and Real Estate Transactions at Osgoode. Before her appointment at York, she was senior lecturer at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.

The lectures take place the Tuesdays of March 21, 28 and April 4. To register for them, please contact the Centre for Continuing Education at 667-2526.

York winds wind up

The final concert given by York's resident wind quintet, the York Winds, will take place Wednesday, March 29, at 8:30 p.m.

The musicians recently completed a successful tour of British Columbia and the Northwest Territories. For the Burton Auditorium concert they offer works by Danzi, Bach, Francaix and Haydn.

Making their Toronto debuts will be Edward Warren, bassoon, and Marcus Hannigar, French horn. Admission is free.

Prime cuts caught

In the case of two University of Prince Edward Island students caught stealing steaks and bacon in Charlottetown, crime paid off... each won an essay assignment as his sentence.

The judge condemned one student to write an essay on punish-

ments for theft in England from the time of the Norman conquest, the other to examine the cost of shoplifting to Charlottetown merchants. As the proverb says, one man's meat is another man's term paper.

Thyagaraja festival

Wrapping up the York Music week will be the Saint Thyagaraja Festival, a day long celebration of the master composer of South Indian music. A Festival Concert again featuring Sankaran and Higgins, is planned for 7:30 p.m., in McLaughlin Hall, free of admission.

Pedantic polysyllables

For higher marks on a paper, try cloaking your arguments in otiose orotundity. Two University of Chicago English professors, Joseph Williams and Rosemary Hake, took a good term paper and prepared two versions with the same content; one written in straightforward language, the other phrased in pedantic polysyllables.

They then submitted the papers to 100 high school and university teachers, who generally gave higher marks to the more pompous example. Three out of four school teachers went for the overwording, and two out of three university professors.

Try a brief test yourself. Which of these statements sounds more intelligent: Aristotle's wife Xanthippe hen-pecked him so much over daily problems that he was driven to a love of philosophy and abstraction.... or, Aristotle's conubial conflicts with his excessively hindering helpmate Xanthippe produced a domestic dialectic

arising from the primeval mud of the mundane which evolved into a phenomenological flight into the embrace of the Emyrean enigmas posed by existence and language?

Incidentally, both are wrong. Xanthippe was Socrate's wife.

Theatre award

A \$2,000 award for present or potential theatre administrators is offered in the third William T. Wylie Theatre Administration Award.

The award commemorates Mr. Wylie, General Manager of the Stratford Shakespearean Festival from 1968 until his death in 1973. The Award is sponsored by the Festival and the Ontario Arts Council.

Its purpose is to help a talented person seriously interested in a career in theatre administration, although preference is given to those with present or past experience in the field.

The deadline for applications is March 31. Forms may be obtained by writing to: William T. Wylie Award, Ontario Arts Council, 151 Bloor St. West, Toronto M5S 1T6.

WHOLE MAN



The whole man at Glendon and the Shadow.