

# "gut-level reactions"

Using terms like "Reaction level: very hot" and "Gut-level reaction: no way," representatives of Catalyst presented student views on the Worth Commission report Thursday to the Cabinet Committee on Education.

Jim Head and Ken Chapman, representatives of the government-sponsored project to solicit student opinion on the report, presented the results of their summer's research.

Student reaction to the abolition of tenure was intense, Catalyst said, but more or less unanimously favourable when first questioned.

It was felt, however, that the implementation of this recommendation would be a slow process and that in the interim students must be allowed direct voice in the determination of cases involving teaching, and that a two-channel tenure system with provision for those primarily interests (and talented) in research be in effect.

Reaction to an increase in tuition fees varied from a "gut-level" reaction of "no way" to a considered reaction stressing the inevitability of such an increase the report noted.

At the same time, this was considered barely favourable only if coupled with a "meaningful implementation of the student finance plan outlined in the report", or a sliding scale grant scheme ensuring that an inability to pay kept no one out of university.

The brief indicated that from its findings, more research is necessary on Worth Report recommendations insofar as student finance. While the

majority of students favored a pure grant system to aid poorer students, it was agreed that a combination loan/grant plan was inevitable.

A strong reaction to changes in the length of degree programs came primarily from Law and Medicine students Catalyst spokesmen said. There was concern over the vagueness of this proposal (as to whom it would apply), and it was felt that each program rated individual study in respect to their reduction.

Generally, the report speculated that shortened programs would indeed lighten costs, but at the sacrifice of quality and "necessary perspective."

Transferability was found "universally favorable" and it was agreed that its actualization would come far more expediently with a little "push" from the government.

Reaction to the abolition of commissions was limited. Held

generally favorable, the brief noted strong feelings that its primary purpose to date has been as a bulwark behind which could hide the government and/or the university.

"Motherhood and apple pie" was how the Catalyst brief catalogued reaction to the concepts of Life Experience, Further Education, Work Experience, ACCESS, and the Alberta Academy.

However, concern was expressed for the cost of these lovelies, and in true humanitarian fashion, it was argued that what was of immediate concern was the solving of basic educational problems such as equal schooling for native students, better classroom instruction, lower student/teacher ratios, and better provision for the handicapped.

lw,tj

## fee payment reviewed

Pursuant to the concern regarding fees voiced in last Thursday's letters column, our hero clumb the massive stairs of the Administration building and prepared to do battle with the almighty forces of the (capital B) Bureaucracy. It was all over in minutes.

According to the 72-73 calendar of University Regulations, payment of fees may be made in two installments, with an additional five dollars tacked on to the second. Not so for people receiving financial assistance under the Canada Student

Loans Act, and some people are apparently being caught short. The Comptroller's office, in the person of M.A. Rousell, relinquished the following:

"It is our understanding that the Student Finance Board has included the full amount of fees in the first installment of loans. We are simply honouring their intention in taking full fee in the first installment."

However, that is not the final word. The Comptroller's office is now in the process of reviewing their position, and a statement is expected Wednesday. It really wasn't much of a battle.

gb

## rapid transit support sought

Hearings on the future of Edmonton's transportation system will be held from Nov. 20 to Nov. 22 in City Hall. Basically the conflict is between freeways and rapid transit. Some advocates of the latter have begun circulation of a petition supporting the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) proposal developed by the University Practicum study group.

LRT is a transit system becoming popular in many cities in Europe and North America. In Edmonton

the plan would involve integrated bus and train lines, with people either catching a bus to one of the 37 LRT stations or going there directly. All the stations would be enclosed for protection from the weather, and the downtown ones would be underground. The trains themselves would be large, fast and pollution-free, running on electricity. Some examples of the proposed running times are (to a McCauley Plaza station) 12 minutes from Northgate, 15 minutes from Jasper Place, and 8 minutes from the University. The longest crosstown

trip, would take only 35 minutes. (These figures could vary somewhat depending on the quality of the equipment used.)

The petition is being sponsored by the Ad Hoc Committee on Rapid Transit for Edmonton. Its co-ordinator, Harry Strynadke, hopes that they will get at least 25,000 names, and feels that the petition will be a powerful weapon to back up the other briefs which will be presented in favor of rapid transit.

kc

## books

The Little Prairie Metis Colony, located some 350 miles north of Edmonton, needs a little help from some friends. The school in the colony needs books and the budget doesn't stretch quite far enough to cover. The books required are high-interest, low-level, picture type books, preferably bright and cheerful, which would appeal to the delicate sensibilities of grades one, two, and three metis children. If you have books you wish to contribute, they can be dropped off in the box in the Gateway office in SUB. If this is inconvenient, call 435-8009 after 5 p.m. or on weekends. The books will be picked up at your convenience.

vj

## students

## brace

## for strike

Ontario students have voted overwhelmingly in favour of withholding the second installment of their tuition fees in protest against this fall's increases. Of the just under 40% of eligible students who voted in the Ontario Federation of Students referendum, 75% support the January boycott and 74% are in favour of withholding fees next year if tuition is raised again.

Eighty-nine per cent of voters also support "OFS demands to lower the loan portion of student awards to the original \$600" and the principle that fee increases should be deferred.

Despite the referendum, Eric Miglin, the secretary-treasurer of OFS and president of the University of Toronto students' council, says that the final decision on the boycott will be left to individual students' unions.

The fee increases implemented this fall ranged from \$100 for undergrads to as much as \$392.50 for graduates. The maximum loan portion of financial assistance was increased to \$800.

U of T president John Evans has attacked the fee hikes as "real deterrents to attendance at post-secondary institutions. The groups affected already have the lowest rates of participation."

cs



"how crass, how joyless, how antediluvian the grubbing of money"

for more on the Catalyst submission, see Lisa Wilson's Counterpoint on page 5