

Photo of the Week



Jason Schwartz

Neil Armstrong lands on mound, calls it "One small step for York, one giant leap for Vanier res."

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Leaked memo states federal government to cut student programme

by Ardith Finnegan

The federal government plans to cut over \$50 million from a summer employment programme for post-secondary students, says the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

"We have just received a leaked memo indicating that the funding for the student summer employment programme, Challenge '90, will be drastically cut from \$118.8 million to \$67 million," said Jane Arnold, chairperson of CFS.

"Students depend heavily on summer employment programmes to offset the high cost of their education," said Arnold.

A spokesperson at the Canadian Job Strategy Unit said the budget for the Challenge '90 programme has not been released yet. "We don't know as yet how much or if money will be cut," she said.

However, the acting manager of Ryerson's Placement Centre said she wasn't surprised to hear the programme might be cut. Last year Toronto's Challenge '89 budget was cut by 40 per cent, said Nancy Trefiak of Employment and Immigration Canada.

"The reason why Toronto was cut back last year was because the market is so good here in Toronto. That certainly has continued so I assume that Toronto will be hit by this cutback," said Trefiak.

The remaining funds will be concentrated on helping areas of the country where the economy is bad and students have difficulty finding summer employment, said Trefiak. "We've got to help out those students in places like Newfoundland where it's hard to get a job."

Last year, students in Ontario had the lowest summer unemployment rate in Canada at 6.8 per cent, according to Statistics Canada. Alberta was second lowest at 11.9 per cent while 17.9 per cent of Newfoundland's students could not find summer work.

"Is this government going to show some leadership in this matter and guarantee adequate funding levels for student summer employment programmes, or are students going to be asked to further mortgage their future in order to obtain a post-secondary education?" Arnold asked.

Average school costs of \$8,000 a year are forcing students to take out student loans. Some students graduate with debts to the government over \$15,000, the CFS stated in a press release. With Ottawa's recent cutbacks in funding of colleges and universities and the proposed three per cent student loan tax, the cuts to the summer employment programme are not good news for students.

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Our American cousins

compiled by the National On-Campus Report

STRESSED BY FINALS? PLAY IN THE LIBRARY. That's what some students at the University of Cincinnati Law School do during final exams. The law library stocked a room with games, puzzles and Play-Doh to encourage stressed out law students to take a break from studying. Despite pleas from students, the room is only open during exam periods.

ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS SCORED A VICTORY when the faculty assembly at the University of Colorado-Boulder voted to limit the use of animals for educational purposes. The proposal, which asked departments to evaluate alternative methods of teaching with animals, passed unanimously. Professors are also asked to announce in class schedules and catalogues whether animal use is required in a particular class.

UNDERGRADS PLAY THE STOCK MARKET: Undergraduates enrolled in a business finance course at Ohio State University have received \$5 million of the university's endowment to invest in stocks. Students will choose the investments and manage the money with the same restrictions that the professional firms who control the rest of the endowment do. Class participation and the bottom-line return at the end of the quarter will determine the grades for the course.

York prof makes discovery of the year

Dr. David Regan, York University psychology professor and co-director of the Institute for Space and Terrestrial Science Human Performance in the Space Laboratory, has discovered a new form of blindness which occurs in many people with otherwise normal sight. This is the inability to see the motion of an object approaching along specific trajectories.

The U.S. Air Force's Office of Scientific Research declared it the visual research "discovery of the year" for 1989. Regan said the discovery has relevance to research on air and highway safety. General Motors Corporation is studying the implications of his findings in explaining some automobile accidents.

Courtesy of the ISTS publication Waves.



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