

# Excalibur

*Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity*

—Lord Acton

## Majority ignored, Tories continue cutbacks policy

Truth is indeed stranger than fiction.

There is a fiction told to we folks in university who are upset about tuition increases, over-crowded classrooms, cutbacks, etc. We're told it's understandable we're upset. Since we're the receiving end of the cutbacks. However, we're also told the general public is behind the government, recognizing the necessity of these "cost-cutting" measures.

The truth, as we discovered this month, is that over half of the general public is opposed to any tuition hike. What makes it strange is that it was a government sponsored study, the Interface reports that disproved their own fiction.

Colleges and University minister Harry Parrott pooh-poohed the results warning us to be careful "not to ask a loaded question and get a loaded reply."

Parrott has no plans to deviate from his cutbacks timetable for post-secondary education as outlined in the "Special Program Review," despite the lack of support for any further increase in tuition.

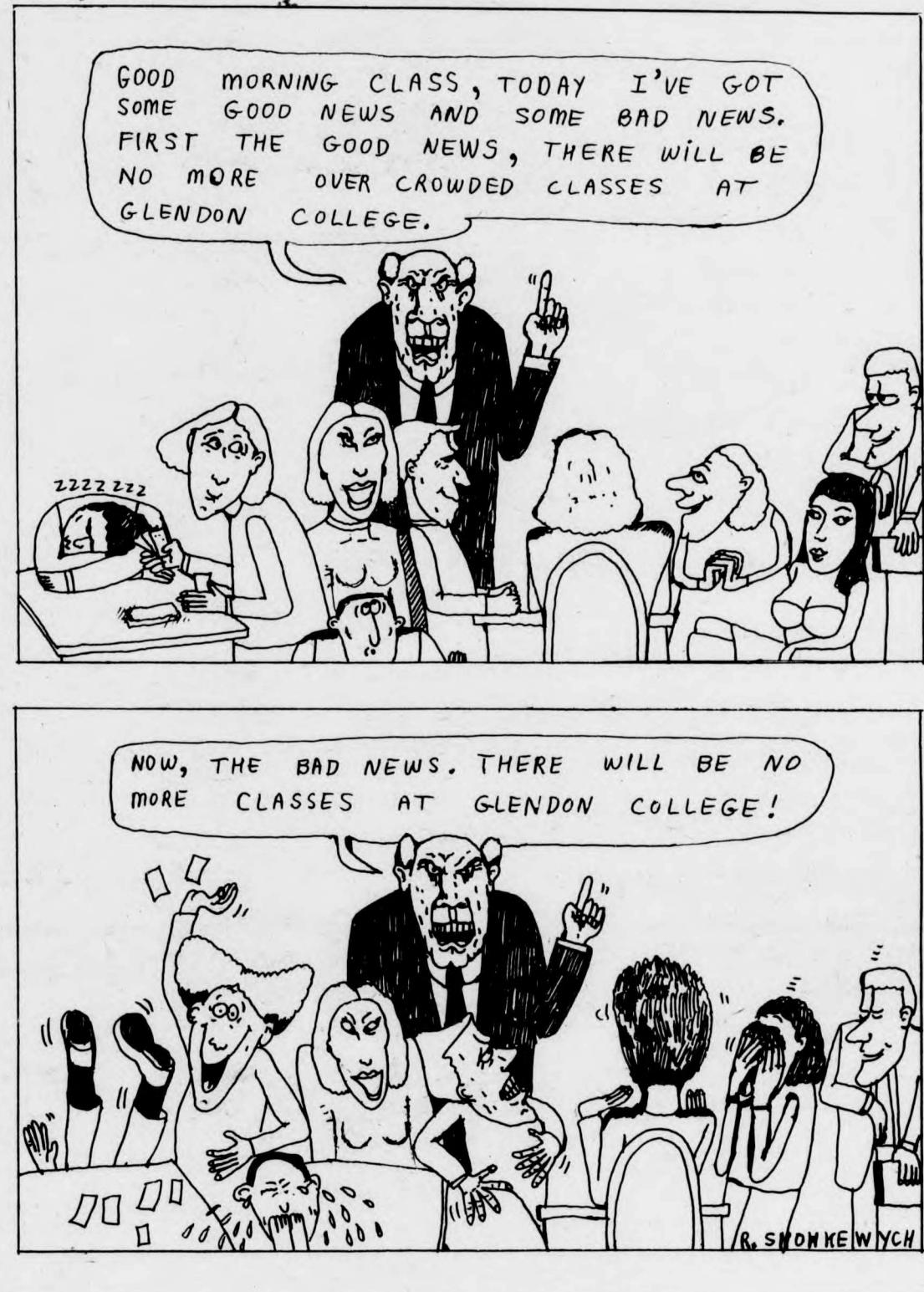
Not only has he no plans, he doesn't even seem to be taking the Interface report seriously. According to Parrot, the most pressing problem pinpointed by the study is not the opinion of the people of Ontario that tuition should not be raised and that university funding should not be cut back. In his mind, the most pressing problem is the need for better co-ordination between high school guidance counsellors and post-secondary admissions officers.

That's good, Harry. The counsellors can better co-ordinate their efforts to explain to this year's high school graduates why they can't afford a university education.

Even if things are still a bit confusing for our friend Parrott, for we in university, the Interfase report makes things a little clearer.

It's clear that simple statistics won't change the mind of the Tory government in Queens Park, even when the statistics represent the majority of the electorate. We've learned from past experience that petitions don't work with them either. The 37,000 signatures of students opposing the \$100 fee hike are collecting dust in some forgotten office.

Something more is needed. The February 10 action called by the Ontario Federation of Students to demonstrate our opposition to the government's post-secondary education policies is a step in the right direction.



Add your name to the staff box.  
Come to the Excalibur staff meeting  
Today, 1 pm, room 111, Central Square

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## Snips 'n snipes

The government has been wielding the cutback axe with surprising vigour these days and post-secondary education is being attacked like never before in this province. The OFS February 10 moratorium is the first step in a renewed fight to say no to cutbacks. Not an isolated event, the February 10 action must be a day of discussion and planning in this new stage of the anti-cutbacks campaign.

The second meeting of those interested in planning events for February 10 will be held Monday, January 31 at 12 noon in S105 Ross. Why wait for spring as they say.

The dream of a lifetime could come true next year if a proposed direct bus line from the Wilson subway station on the new Spadina line to the York campus is implemented.

Think of it, no more impatient half-hours on Steeles Avenue waiting, it would seem, for Godot. No more 20 minute walks through sleet and hail to catch the Finch bus. Never again would there be any need to wait all day for a Keele bus. You could put off buying that first car one more year.

To that end, we urge every York student to go to the York Woods Library, 1785 Finch Avenue West next Wednesday at 8 p.m. when we will have an opportunity to prod TTC officials into implementing the proposed bus.

One wonders where it will all end, the government imposed cutbacks in university education. Rumour has it that the next victim will be Glendon College, once all there was of York University. It's interesting to speculate what use they'll put the treed wonderland at Lawrence and Bayview. We've heard there's a shortage of parking lots...