

# Fifty per cent fee hike proposed for Ontario schools

**Toronto(CUP)**—A report for a 50 per cent increase in tuition fees at Ontario universities over the next few years has sparked immediate criticism.

Monika Turner, Ontario Federation of Students chair, said she was shocked when she heard the long-awaited recommendations of the Bovey Commission report, which also suggested that between 6,000 and 10,000 qualified students not be accepted into Ontario universities as a cost saving measure.

"(Students are going to be) upset...at this helter-skelter plan of 'let's make the students pay for everything'."

Turner said the call for a six per cent drop in enrolment will seriously compromise students' right to an accessible education, if the decrease is implemented by university boards of governors.

"The recommendations mean 6,500 fewer places a year, but where is the base for this percentage?"

The Bovey Commission, set up last year to plan the restructuring of Ontario's universities, said in its 64-page report released Jan. 15 that accessibility must be reduced to ensure the quality of education, instruction and research remains

high. The report says "certain urgent needs" must be met through a "small increase in provincial government funding, increased tuition fees backed by a contingent loan repayment plan and federal and provincial funding of the overhead costs of research."

Along with province-wide entrance exams in at least English or French and mathematics, the report calls on students to pay for 25 per cent of universities' operating expenses, and the government to set-up a \$200 million fund to hire younger faculty members, allow older members to retire and reshuffle university grants to ensure libraries, research and buildings on campuses are upgraded.

The commission — headed by entrepreneur Edmund Bovey — recommends two phases for the implementation of tuition increases. In the first phase, tuition fees would rise seven per cent, resulting in about \$154 million in extra revenue. The commission says \$5 million should go toward student grants and \$10 to the upkeep and renovation of university buildings.

In the second phase, tuition fees would increase eight per cent a

year for three years, resulting in about \$150 million. Tuition fees would make up 25 per cent of all operating expenses, an increase from the current 16 per cent.

The report suggests \$60 million of this extra revenue could be funnelled into a new loan programme with the remainder going straight to universities.

Opposition and NDP MPPs also expressed shock at the report, echoing Turner's concerns.

"I frankly am appalled," said NDP leader Bob Rae. "The commission admitted that the quality of education is in jeopardy. What is the response? Not to fund the system adequately? The response is to tax

the students and reduce access. They're not going to tackle the real problem (which is) government underfunding...it's gutlessness on the part of the commission."

Liberal leader David Peterson agreed. "The commission creates the clear impression that the system is underfunded. Yet Ontario is being told that it must live with less, and the universities should become places for the very wealthy and well-to-do," he said.

But the commission did not come up with a comprehensive plan to restructure Ontario's university system as was called for in its mandate. It recommends that no universities or faculties be closed and that uni-

versities maintain their autonomy from governments as well as their undergraduate arts and science programmes.

According to Bovey, universities and colleges minister Bette Stephenson was pleased with the report when the commissioners presented her with it in early January.

Though she did not attend the press conference where the report was made public, Stephenson said in a press release that the government will not try to implement the recommendations for the upcoming school year.

"The government is giving the report careful consideration," the release said.

## Gumby, SU execs come to senses

by Suzette C. Chan

Gumby scratched at the last minute, but everyone else is running for executive office in this year's SU general elections — everyone but this year's executive.

Of twenty-six candidates running for executive positions, including five for president, there are no incumbents.

President Floyd Hodgins feels he has the energy to serve as next year's Board of Governors rep, but the other members of the present executive claim they are close to wit's end.

VP Internal Gord Stamp was favored to run for president (as he had once before), but he decided to take a rest.

"I feel I have put in a lot of work and I'm coming close to burn-out,"

said Stamp. "I have no new ideas left. The new people should be gung-ho (about the job)."

VP External Paul Alpern says he "also like(s) the idea of people coming in with enthusiasm."

His reasons for not running are mainly academic. "I've been involved in student affairs for three years now and this is my third year at university."

Alpern was the Housing and Transport commissioner in 1983-84 and served on that commission as a student-at-large the previous year.

"I'd like to concentrate on my marks," adds the budding commerce graduate. "At one time, I was considering running, but that's gone now. That put a lot of stress on me and now I can relax."

Fellow commerce student and

VP Finance Christine Ens also considered re-election but thought better of it. "I thought one year was plenty. I will have been at university five years and I will be graduating next year."

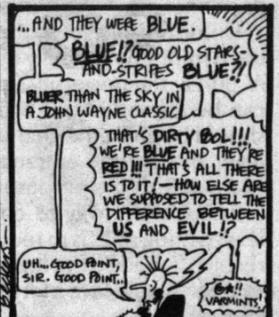
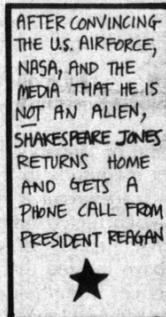
"You have a certain capacity for it and people burn out. This job was not made for me to do forever."

VP Academic Donna Kassian graduates this summer and believes the executive is for students. "I feel that the positions should be a learning experience for students. If they (the present executive) don't run, they'll give more people a chance to do it."

However, none of the executive members interviewed would admit they were daunted by the prospects of having to run against Skip Lauren.

by Hans Beckers

Yard Apes



## Funds for Ethiopia

by Ken Shipka

Christian Awareness Week, sponsored by the Campus Crusade for Christ, is doing something about the famine in Africa.

In CAB and SUB this week, booths are set up to collect money from those students wishing to help Mike Woodward, coordinator for the program, says the effort hopes to raise \$25,000 by tomorrow.

"While some people seem overwhelmed by the immensity of the situation, people should be aware that only a little effort can go a long way," said Woodward. "If each university student gave only one dollar, thousands of lives could be saved."

"Just three dollars can keep a

child alive for one week," and all donations will be matched by the government, he said.

The funds raised will be counted by the students' union and forwarded to World Vision, the agency which administers the food distribution.

Woodward points out that while the situation has reached crisis proportions, World Vision is also involved in long-term development projects.

Woodward acknowledges the many reports that Ethiopia's government policies have largely worsened the situation. However, he emphasizes that it is the innocent who suffer if some Canadians refuse to help for political reasons.

## Candidates debate

ITV will broadcast a Students' Union Presidential Debate Sunday at 12:30 p.m..

The debate was taped Wednesday.

Represented are Murray Ballas of the Ballas Slate, Don Millar of the Progressive Alternatives, Mike Nickel of Initiatives '85 and Peter Sesek

of the Sesek Slate.

Unfortunately, Skip Lauren had been previously booked for the David Letterman Show and was unable to attend.

However, Lauren is a good bet to put in an appearance at the All Candidates forum in SUB Theatre Feb. 6 at noon.



### Gold Medal Award

Each year the Students' Union awards a student with a Gold Medal for excellence in curricular and non-curricular activities at the University of Alberta during the previous academic year.

**Criteria:**

- candidates must be in the graduating year of their most recent degree program
- candidates must have a Grade Point Average of at least 7.5 in courses taken two years previous to the graduating year and in the first term of the graduating year
- extra-curricular involvement in University and/or community activities.

**Deadline for Applications: Monday, 25 February, 1985**

Contact the Students' Union Executive Offices for application or nomination forms, and/or for more information (259 Students' Union Building, 432-4236).

# S.O.S.

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