

Ross report

Recommends higher tuition

OTTAWA (CUP)—A consultants' report which surveyed mostly administrators may lead to tuition fees at Ontario universities being based on 20 per cent of universities' costs. The P.S. Ross report, released Jan. 20, suggested basing tuition on 20 per cent of costs as one option for a new fee structure. Currently, tuition is about 15 per cent of costs.

Although the report made no explicit recommendations, the 20 per cent figure was the most favoured and a "tacit recommendation", according to University of Toronto student vice-president Mike Hornick.

If tuition had been based on 20 per cent of costs in 1977-78, tuition for Ontario medical students would have been \$3800 per year, and an average of \$1622 for grad students. If the formula were applied to next year's undergraduate fees, they would be \$876 per year, \$150 more than next year's projected figure.

The Ontario Federation of Students condemned the report, saying it was a "trial balloon for regular yearly tuition increases at the discretion of universities that could put higher education out of the reach of those of moderate means."

"We are concerned about the tendency to move towards tuition fees that are set by the universities and geared to program costs. Such a program would nickel-and-dime lower-income students right out of school."

The report said there was "no consensus" among the students, faculty and administrators it surveyed on levels of

tuition fees, although no one wanted fees to be more than 25 per cent of costs.

However, the "most typical" answer said 20 per cent of costs would be acceptable, it said.

Nearly half of the respondents wanted greater differentiation in tuition among programs, although 44 per cent of students (22 per cent overall) wanted less differentiation.

The Ontario government commissioned the report last fall to determine attitudes towards the current fee structure and suggest options for a new structure. It is expected to use the results when it

considers the tuition structure for 1980-81 next fall.

The report was based on interviews with 39 students, 33 faculty, and 220 administrators at 16 colleges and universities. Three-quarters of those surveyed were administrators.

It is also noted that "in many cases, faculty and lower-level administrators were ill-informed about the circumstances surrounding tuition fee policy and practice."

The report effectively rejected no tuition as an option, saying that only 18 per cent of those surveyed favoured it, although 52 per cent of students were in favour.

In Ontario

Support staff strike

TORONTO (CUP)—Support staff at Ontario's 22 colleges walked out Wednesday, after a number of rotating strikes, and an unsuccessful attempt to mediate by the Ontario government.

The decision to strike was made after a six-hour meeting between the two parties January 10, according to Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) press officer Peter Slee.

The union has been without a contract since the end of August.

Earlier this month, the union voted 3-1 in favour of taking strike action to back their demands if negotiations failed. They are asking for a 2.7 per cent wage increase from the time their last contract expired on December 31, 1978, and an additional 7.7 per cent from January 1 to the

end of August.

The colleges have offered 2.7 per cent to March 31 and six per cent for the remainder.

The high strike vote is indicative of worker dissatisfaction with the colleges' wage offer, according to OPSEU officials.

Meanwhile, support from student and faculty groups is growing. Representatives of five student councils who met January 7 agreed to send letters to Ontario education minister Bette Stephenson urging her to accept the union's position.

Teacher associations at Algonquin and Centennial colleges have also formally expressed support with OPSEU, and the teachers' union at Lampton College will donate a percentage of their salaries to the union's strike fund.

false identification

Press prosecuted

TORONTO (CUP)—An article exposing the poor controls on Ontario's age of majority cards has left two Ontario student journalists facing charges.

Janice Bell and Cathy Perry, editor and news editor of the *Oblique Times* at Seneca College, have been charged by the Liquor Licensing Board of Ontario with obtaining government documents by fraudulent means.

In December, Perry (18) obtained an age of majority card using Bell's identification. The cards, which show that the bearer is at least 19, are the only legal identification in Ontario to prove a person can be served alcohol.

Perry immediately returned the card, and wrote a news story on the incident for the December 7 issue of the paper.

"It was an experiment for the paper. We wanted to see how easy it was to get them, and show that the system wasn't working as it should be."

On December 15, the police informed Perry she was charged under a section of the Ontario Liquor Licence Act which states "no person shall use false identification to obtain government documents". Bell was charged with supplying false identification.

The maximum penalty for each conviction is \$10,000 or one year in jail.

According to police constable Frank Peck, the LLBO had wanted to press 14 different charges, starting with fraud.

A reliable source informed the *Oblique Times* that the two staffers were being used as "examples". They are the first to be charged under the section, and brought to court.

It was also revealed that, if the LLBO is successful in its case against Bell and Perry, two more student journalists—from *The Press* at Brock University in St. Catherine's—could be charged.

The two *Press* staffers used the same identification to obtain two age of majority cards December 8, and then turned the cards over to a Liberal MPP. On December 11, the MPP confronted Ontario Consumer and Corporate Affairs Minister Frank Drea with the cards in the Ontario legislature.

Drea then turned the matter over to the police. *Press* editor Joe Ferri said he expected the results of Bell's and Perry's case will decide whether the two *Press* staffers will be charged.

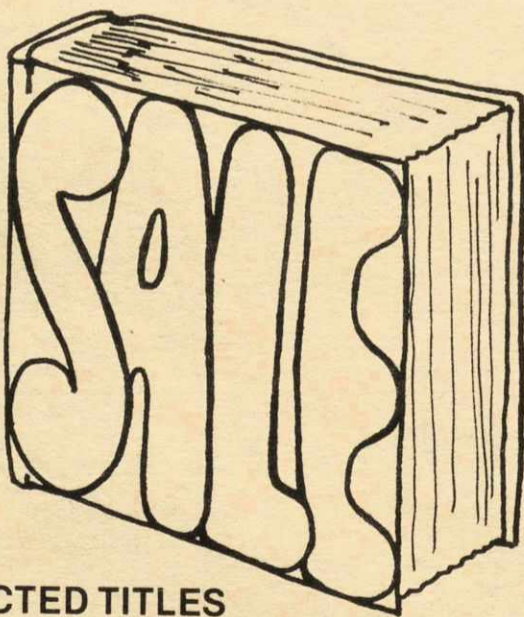
According to Bell, she and Perry were told when they returned the card that the police would not be involved, although they were urged to contact an official in the Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. They did not contact the official because the length of time necessary would not have allowed them to run the story before Christmas.

Perry said she thought the two probably would not have been charged if the paper had not run the story.

She expected they would receive a summons shortly.

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