

# York reacts unfavourably, to government report

By ANNA VAITIEKUNAS  
The report on the Special Programme Review does not "attack the real issue" concerning

post-secondary education, York president H. Ian Macdonald told Excalibur, Tuesday. The real question is "equality of

opportunity and the government should reconsider the recommendations in terms of increasing accessibility for students from low-income families," he stated.

Macdonald was commenting on the controversial Ontario government report tabled in the legislature late last week, which recommended that tuitions be increased by 65 per cent over the next three years and that student aid be decreased.

"Public financing in this province is set up in such a way to draw on taxfields that affect low income brackets. The increase in tuition fees will be very harsh on students," he said.

YUFA president Jack Granatstein called the report "appalling", adding that the "recom-

mendations are based on a concept of government alien to the government that I perceive." Granatstein said that the report will make a "good Tory" platform, because it will "make the poor people pay".

"I don't believe that a reduction in faculty staff or increasing tuition fees are the only choices to increase the efficiency of universities," he said.

CYSF president Dale Ritch feels that the recommendations are politically too dangerous to implement such a programme, in view of the fact that Premier Davis has said that there will be no tuition increase next year.

"I don't think that there will be an increase in fees next Sep-

tember," he said, "but I'll bet that there will be one the following year. Just as dangerous," he added, "is the implication of increasing student loans and decreasing grants."

"This doesn't do anything to increase accessibility to post secondary institutions.

"If the recommendations of the report are implemented," said Ritch, "then the universities will once again become the preserve of the rich."

Ritch believes that a massive political response by students will be an effective measure to take in protest to the government report.

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## College system questioned

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competition," he said.

He cited an example of the day-to-day ways the colleges co-operate: "if two colleges are both trying to get a band for a dance and one succeeds, then the other will drop it."

"The only competition between the colleges takes place in sports and in the sense that we're all looking for new ideas."

Ritch, a strong believer in a central student government, told the college council leaders that only

a central council is capable of providing an effective student voice on social issues.

He cited the November 5 pub-nights, held both at Founders and Bethune on the same night, as an example of the competition that exists between the colleges.

"The college councils promote a rah-rah spirit, each claiming superiority to the other," said Ritch, after the meeting.

"They're united now around a common goal, but the trappings of that unity would soon fall apart if they tried to form an alternate student government."

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## ERRATUM

Last week on this page Excalibur printed a picture of Casino Night, with a cutline which attempted to be humorous.

It has come to our attention that the cutline could be interpreted as a put-down of the event. We would like to apologize for any embarrassment the cutline might have caused the organizers of the event, or any others involved in it.

Casino Night was a legitimate activity which collected \$3,000 for the Daycare Centre at York. Aside from this worthwhile charitable purpose, Casino Night was enjoyed by hundreds of York students.

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