

# Students told to avoid scholarship companies

by G. Bruce Rolston  
Canadian University Press

TORONTO — Students looking for financial assistance are being warned by university officials to avoid scholarship companies offering easy solutions.

Ads offering help to financially strapped students to find scholarships or to maximize their return from the Ontario Students Assistance Plan have appeared in some Toronto newspapers.

K&G Scholarship Services guarantees applicants "American university scholarships," for a small application fee.

Another Toronto company, Professional Edge, is being closely monitored by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

The company advertised assess-

ments of student's eligibility for OSAP for a \$50 fee, but ministry officials say there is nothing the company can do to increase or alter a student's return from OSAP.

"We just don't know why any student would want to spend \$50 for a service which any financial aid office would provide for nothing," said ministry spokesperson Doug Anderson.

"There's nothing they're going to be able to do to change it if the information is accurate and truthful," he said.

But Anderson also conceded that Professional Edge was not breaking any law by charging students.

Recently several companies in the United States have been sued for advertising scholarship services in a misleading manner. Judgments have been won against at least two companies.



photo by Junior Ramjattan

## Queer activism explained

Lesbian history instructor Becki Ross answers questions from York students last week. Ross traced the development of gay and lesbian activist movements and ways their differences could be reconciled.

## Security may revise service

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point on schedule.

The federation office has received complaints about delayed services and the lack of safety on campus at night. An advisor for the university's sexual harassment centre has also received numerous queries from persons concerned about the escort service.

Jeff Zoeller, internal vice-president of the federation, said he was told by security that they have not advertised the dual escort system this year because they wanted to make changes to it first.

"We were told by the security advisory committee that a subcommittee will be set up to look at the problems of the service in

depth and hopefully revise it," said Zoeller.

An informal inquiry done on students who are on campus at night showed mixed feelings about the efficiency of the escort service. More than 75 per cent of the students polled heard about the service through literature or word of mouth.

Most of the women travel in groups or depend on male colleagues to escort them to the bus stop or to their cars, the results suggested.

The greatest complaint about the bus service was the frequent delays. Overall the students said the "call-in" escort system was still the best one.

## Corrections

Gus Thais is chair of York's anthropology department. In an article two weeks ago, *Excalibur* incorrectly reported that Malcolm Blincow was chair.

Student Centre cleaning staff were reduced from nine to six. In an article two weeks ago, *Excalibur* incorrectly reported there were a total of ten cleaners during the last academic year.

*Excalibur* regrets both of these errors.

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