

Does democracy = bureaucracy?

TORONTO (CUP)—The impact of the "student revolt" of the late sixties and the democratization of universities were discussed at the second conference of the international council for the future of the university held at York University in Toronto in September.

More than 100 academics voiced their concern for what was termed the "immense bureaucratization" of universities in Europe and the lowering of academic standards brought on by rapid expansion and threats to academic freedom and autonomy both from outside and inside the universities.

The group is primarily dedicated to the traditional concept and value of the university and strongly opposed to many of the changes that had taken place in European universities since 1968.

Members heard a preview of a report by the group's coordinator

Dr. Hans Daalder, of the European University Institute in Florence. "What started out as a process of democratization has ended up as a process of immense bureaucratization. What started out as democracy has ended up as straight control," Daalder maintained. He explained that "reforms" imposed on European universities in the late sixties by governments anxious to forestall the demands of radical students had taken the academic control of universities out of the hands of the academics. In many cases control went to government officials or to a combined majority of students and non-academic university staff.

These reforms, according to Daalder, have not made universities any more responsive to urgent social questions than they had been under the old system of dominance by professors.



Gary Hershorn photo

Gwynneth Collishaw (right) and two other tree planters gently position young maple at Stong Lake last Thursday as part of Arboretum Week.

Parrott accepts York's extra fee increase

By Murray H. Miskin

Ontario's Minister of Colleges and Universities, Dr. Harry Parrott, has accepted the York University administration's five dollar per student extra increase in tuition fees.

This year the Ontario Government required universities to raise tuition fees by \$100. Objections were raised by the Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF) and the Osgoode Legal & Literary Society when fees at York were raised by \$105 for most York students and \$112 for law students.

The York administration's executive vice-president George Bell said that the \$5 increase was "necessary under the credit system to establish a full-time tuition fee that could be easily divided by 30 so that the various fee collecting points could assess fees or make refunds on a per-credit or per course basis with a minimum of change-making."

ONE CREDIT

Each full year course is considered to be six credits towards a degree and thus a student taking five courses would be earning 30 credits in a year. With tuition fees at \$760 (a \$100 increase from last year) one credit would cost a student \$25.3333. For ease in change-making the York administration has rounded the cost per credit upward to the nearest twenty-five cents to make it \$25.50, for a 30 credit total fee of \$765.

The Osgoode Legal & Literary Society last month asked the Onta-

rio Federation of Students (OFS-FEO) to ask Parrott how the York administration is able to raise tuition fees above the government levels without losing a corresponding sum in operating grants.

The provincial government has been able to control tuition fee levels for the past several years through its university grants system. Under the formula, government automatically deducts extra university revenue derived by fee increases from the total operating grant given to the university.

He called the extra fee increase a "minor adjustment" to assist in administering the credit system. In response to an OFS-FEO query, Parrott said, "I am satisfied with the university's explanation and no action will be taken to adjust their operating grant."

The effect of the administration's "minor adjustment" is an increase in revenue for York of about \$75,000.

GOVERNMENT FIRST

Parrott also said that at the time the government first took control of tuition fees some institutions charged below the median level of fees. Parrott said that "in order that these institutions are not penalized in perpetuity, we have allowed those that were below the median to move to the median without penalty." Parrott declined to say whether or not York tuition fees were below the "median level".

In explaining an additional seven

dollar increase in fees for law students above the \$105, Parrott said "I am advised the increase dealt with non-academic fees which, as you may know, are not considered in determining the operating grant."

Osgoode Legal & Literary Society President, Carol Beckman, told a meeting of her executive on October 19 that the Parrott statement "raises more questions than it answers" and that "Parrott's explanation of the Osgoode increase

being for non-academic fees contradicts what we were told by the administrators."

The Legal & Literary Society Executive, still hoping to get all of the extra fee revenue refunded to students, is requesting a meeting with Parrott to obtain clarification of his letter.

In the light of Parrott's statement that the additional fees collected from law students are non-academic fees, and that their collection was never authorized by students, the

Legal & Literary Society is considering demanding that the approximately \$6,500 in such fees be turned over to the society to refund or spend according to the wishes of Osgoode students.



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