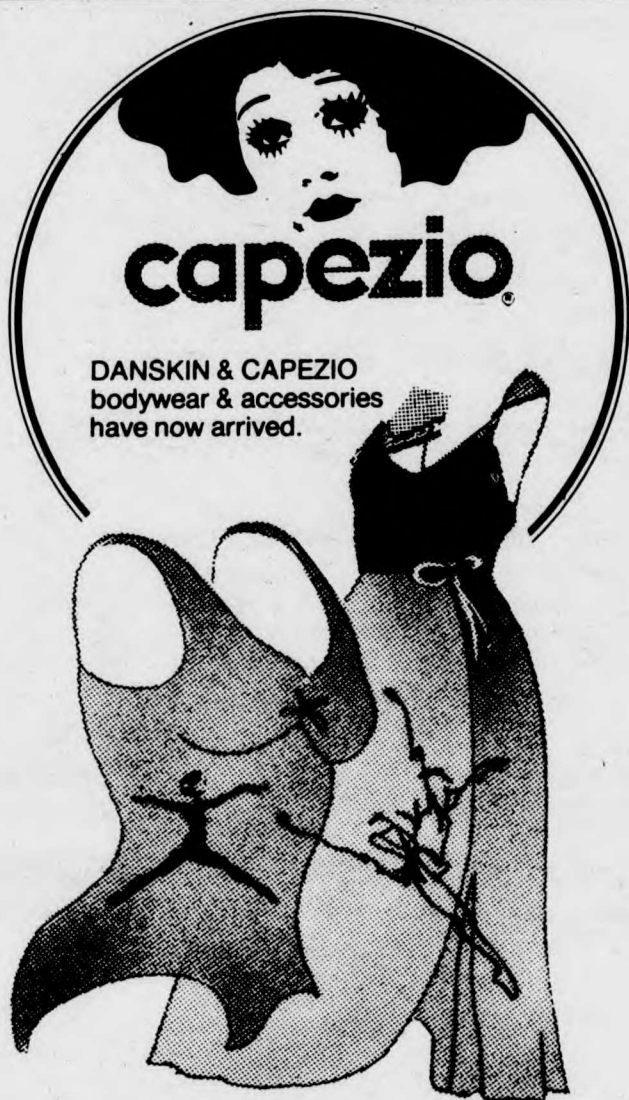


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Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity
—Lord Acton

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OSAP is bogged down (despite OFS's efforts) and students pay the the price

"Now we know where the bugs are."

The words are Bette Stephenson's, Tory minister of colleges and universities, spoken during a Monday meeting with representatives of the Ontario Federation of Students, including chairperson Miriam Edelson.

The major topic of discussion was the bureaucratic bungling in Stephenson's ministry which has left thousands of students without their loans and grants from the Ontario Student Awards program, as the mid-year break approaches.

The school year is half over and Stephenson is working the bugs out. Splendid. We hope this is a consolation to the 800 York students who've been left hanging by the OSAP delays. (OFS information officer Al Golombek was, by the way, shocked to hear that 800 York students were affected — it looks like we may be one of the hardest hit campuses, since the ministry's delay compounds the one caused by the YUSA strike.)

The result of the OSAP mess— apparently caused by former minister Harry Parot's procrastination — is that students will pay for governmental incompetence. The point of OSAP is to allow students free time for their studies, the time to be paid for later. Obviously people living on tight budgets are



having trouble making ends meet; hopefully no one's academic year will be ruined by a lack of student assistance.

To go from bad to worse, OFS has learned that in order to clear up OSAP's technical problems, the ministry will not make some needed policy changes, which would entail further tinkering with the computer program.

Golombek summed the situation up neatly when he pointed out to Excalibur that, rather than helping students, Stephenson & Co. are "trying to shore up their beleaguered bureaucratic ship."

A large number of those short-changed by this situation are Ontario's part-time students; OFS has been unable to locate a single part-time grant recipient in all Ontario. Stephenson admitted Monday that changes in OSAP which were designed to help part timers have "not borne fruit."

But she won't do anything to improve the situation. Clearly, OSAP deserves to be the renewed object of student protest.

Perhaps our newly elected student governors, Shawn Brayman and Paul Hayden can do a little work in this area.

In conclusion, we'd like to commend the Ontario Federation of Students for their response to the situation. They got the word to the press across Ontario, that David Butler, chairman of the Ontario Association of Student Awards Officers, had criticized the government's bungling.

Way back in August, the federation sent a letter to the ministry urging that it make available a publicly advertised fund for emergency loans to cover precisely this contingency.

This was finally done — last week.

And OFS was quick to pressure Stephenson at Monday's meeting. To those who ask where the \$11,000-\$12,000 that York annually allocates OFS is going—here is one answer.

The plight of our libraries requires executive action

Amidst the turmoil caused by the Ontario government's decline in funding of universities, our libraries are going through their own additional financial crisis. Unable to keep up with a galloping inflation rate in the price of printed material, which far exceeds the national rate, libraries have begun to reduce periodical subscription lists and have had to upset the budgetary balance between books and periodicals.

That the standard of education and research rests on the type of book collection to which professors and students have access, is obvious. What is less evident is that during the past eight years, our library's share of the university budget has decreased by 33 per cent. During that same time period, our student population increased by 100 per cent. Can York's libraries take much more trimming? It appears that the time has come when further budget cuts will go beyond removing the purchase of unused volumes of esoterica, and begin to cut into the amount of valuable resource material.

York needs a solid base in journals and books, otherwise it becomes questionable why a student would come here for an education in the first place. In "hard times" the circularity of the situation becomes more apparent: An impaired book service is less attractive to the student whose decision to go elsewhere, or not go at all, results in a lower attendance rate and a decline in government grants.

York's library has responded to the province's cuts by reducing staff and services. In the face of their own crisis, they're seeking cooperation with academic departments and are searching out alternative methods of book access. It's questionable whether such programs as regional sharing will be less costly than the present system, or whether they'll be suitably efficient, but the library has shown more than a willingness to confront the problems of restraint.

President Macdonald said this fall that "we must continue the

fight and we must never give up the struggle for the university in general, and York in particular. Macdonald must demonstrate a serious concern for York before Queen's Park, and the library's dilemma is one more reason for doing so.

A major contribution to the problems of the library, which relies heavily on foreign publications, is the decline in the consumer price index. How much should we be asked to sacrifice by a government whose hand was in the policies that led to our devalued dollar?

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FALL 78 EXAMINATION TIMETABLE FACULTY OF ARTS, FACULTY OF FINE ARTS, FACULTY OF SCIENCE CHANGE # 1 TO TIMETABLE DATED NOVEMBER 21

DELETE

Humanities As 373.6
Visual Arts FA 434.6
Visual Arts FA 480.3(F)

CHANGE

Applied Computational/Mathematical Science -

SC 303.6 to read: 12:30pm-3:30pm

Interdisciplinary Science -

SC 102.8 to read: Curtis A,B,C,D,K

Natural Science -

SC 177.6C to read: 4:00pm-7:00pm

Physics -

SC 306.3(F) to read: 1:00pm-4:00pm Tuesday, December 12

SC 405.3(F) 9:00am-12:00 noon Monday, December 18 Ross N.142

Theatre -

FA 120.6 A,B,C,D to read: 9:00am-12:00noon Thursday, December 14

Visual Arts

FA 111.6 to read: 1:00pm- 3:00pm Tuesday, December 12 Ross N.201

FA 262.6 to read: 10:00am-11:30am Wednesday, December 13 FAIL 312

FA 352.3(F) to read: Monday, December 18 Fine Arts 308

FA 356.3(F) to read: 9:30am-11:30am Thursday, December 14 Fine Arts 308

FA 380.3(F) to read: 10:00am-12:00 noon Wednesday, December 13 Fine Arts 322

ADD

History

AS 260.6 4:00pm-6pm Tuesday, December 19 Winters D.Hall

Philosophy

AS 101.6 9:00am-11:00am Thursday, December 14 Stedman E

Psychology

AS/SC328.3A(F) 6:00pm- 8:00pm Wednesday, December 13 Winters D.Hall

AS/SC 341.3A(F) 7:00pm- 9:00pm Wednesday, December 13 Stedman F

Visual Arts

FA 120.6 4:00pm- 6:00pm Wednesday, December 13 Stedman E

FA 254.6 10:00am-12:00noon Monday, December 11 Adm.Studies B02