

# Excalibur

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## 7,000 demonstrate against cutbacks

By Paul Kellogg

Last Thursday Queen's Park was the setting for the biggest demonstration ever staged by Canada's post-secondary community.

Over 7,000 students, faculty and staff, including over 1,000 (mostly students) from York, gathered at Convocation Hall at the University of Toronto and marched on the legislature, protesting the government's mounting cutbacks in funds for post-secondary education.

For several hours, the sedate, nineteenth-century calm of the legislature was shattered by the voices of thousands of angry demonstrators, shouting their disapproval of the government's post-secondary education policies.

The students were concerned with tuition increases and student aid decreases, the faculty and staff with the hundreds of layoffs in the works for next year. All were protesting government policies which they perceived as seriously threatening

the accessibility and quality of education in Ontario.

There were people from more than a dozen Ontario institutions at the demonstration. Close to 2,000 were from U of T, and well over 2,000 from Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, one of the institutions hardest hit by the cutbacks crisis. 125 faculty members at Ryerson may be laid off next year as the institution scrambles to balance its budget. At York, as many as 300 part-timers may be let go, as the administration tries to cut more than \$4-million.

The large militant gathering was so big, that the front of the march reached the steps of the legislature before many people had left the Hall.

The demonstration was called by the Toronto Area Anti-Cutbacks Coalition, and endorsed by the Ontario Federation of Students and the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations. At the steps of the legislature, the demonstrators presented the government with four demands:

- For "immediate emergency funding for post-secondary education to offset inflation for 1978-79."

- For "equal opportunity for the people of this province to attend colleges and universities ... not based on the ability to pay."

- For "an immediate, massive job creation program initiated by the province to meet the unemployment crisis".

- And a final demand that "the Ontario government should immediately undertake to state its goals and objectives for post-secondary education and the principles upon which these are based".

No representative of the Conservative administration appeared to listen to these demands. Harry Parrott, Minister of Colleges and Universities, had been invited, but

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## 20,000 Canadians stand up for education

OTTAWA (CUP) — The last few years of government negligence to post-secondary education came to a head this week as an estimated 20,000 students across Canada took to the streets to protest being squeezed out of an education.

Students demonstrated and occupied boards of governors' meetings and offices while others circulated petitions, challenged the government in the court and planned further action.

In British Columbia, students at Simon Fraser lost a bid to have a tuition increase blocked by a court injunction, claiming the government has usurped the power of the university to set tuition fees.

The students are also demanding that classes be cancelled March 30 so students, faculty and staff may participate in a province-wide demonstration against unemployment. The following day, students plan to hold a mass lobby or provincial legislatures on cutbacks in education funding.

In Alberta, 5,000 students participated in the largest student demonstration in the province's history in Edmonton, and booed down premier Peter Lougheed when he tried to justify cutbacks in university funding and the third year of tuition increases.

In Saskatchewan, students occupied board meetings and confronted premier Alan Blakeney and his education minister, protesting provincial policies which have made their universities the most expensive in Canada.

In Manitoba, whopping tuition increases of up to 27 per cent and budget cuts projected for universities have prompted students to plan protests for later this month

with the support of faculty and staff.

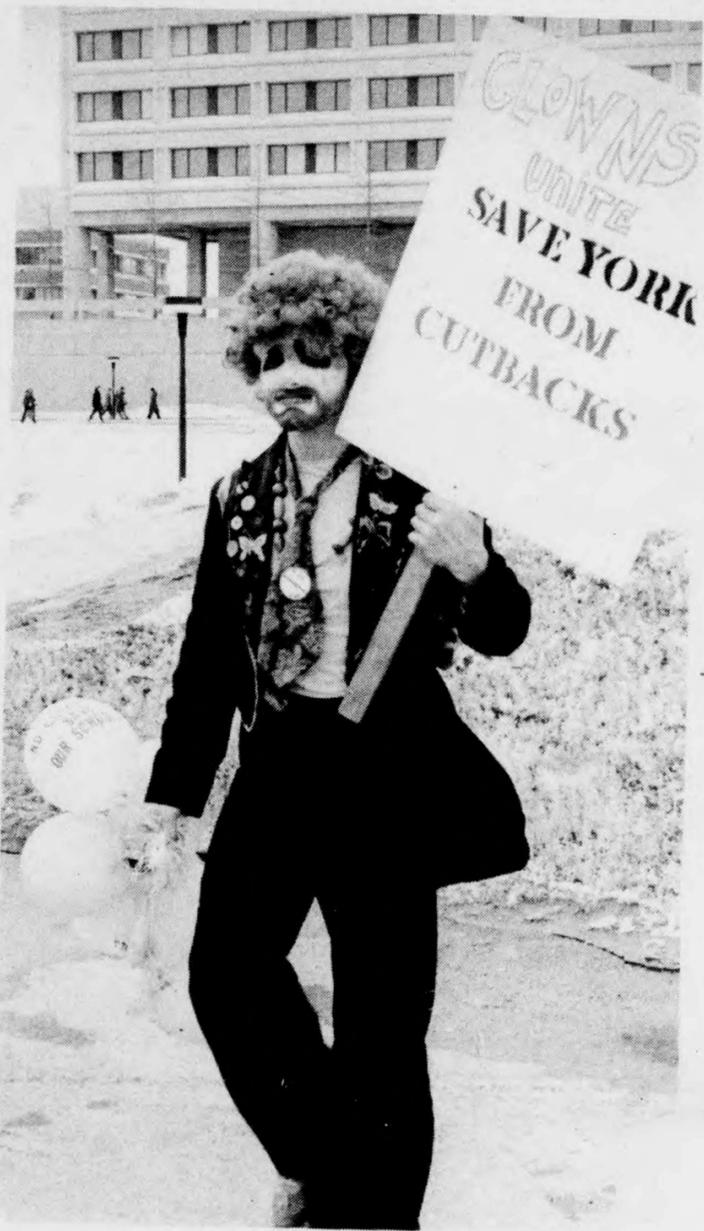
In Ontario, more than 7,000 students showed up at the provincial legislature, again the largest student demonstration in the province's history. Students at Guelph, Ryerson, Trent, of Toronto, Carleton and McMaster had been occupying administrative offices earlier to pressure the universities to cancel classes so that more students could participate in the protest against the government's decision to drop funding to universities by about \$26 million.

In Quebec, students have not had time to respond to reports leaked March 16 that the government there will give the universities \$13 million less than they need to maintain services. But opposition is organizing to protest differential fees for international students, announced last month.

In the Atlantic, the Atlantic Federation of Students is considering a mass demonstration to repeat last year's protest of tuition fee increases.



A scene from the sea of faces at Queen's Park. More photos, pages 8 and 9.



The lighter side of an anti-cutbacks protest

## Voters stay away on election day

By Mark Boudreau

Last Wednesday, March 15, David Chodikoff was elected president of CYSF in the lowest voter turnout in the past five years.

Chodikoff received 535 votes to runner up Mary Marrone's 500 and Arnie Bell's 91.

Only 1126 students (14 percent) registered a vote compared to the 1592 total in the 1976-77 election. This represents a 29 percent drop in voter turnout. A total of 7900 students were eligible to vote in the recent election.

All three presidential candidates expressed concern and disappointment over the low turnout.

Pinder stated that "regardless of who won, all the students lost

because of the low turnout and lack of participation. Everyone has to criticize an election with such a poor turnout."

The reasons for the lack of voter participation stated Pinder, "rest with the ineptitude of the way the election was organized and run". He pointed out that there were only six school days to campaign compared to eight last year and nine the year before.

Another factor, said Pinder, "was that there was only one issue of *Excalibur*. This might be the direct result of the vendetta that Hayden and Chodikoff are carrying through on *Excalibur*. This means that students were denied access to sufficient information on which to base their ballot decision."

Bell too stressed that the low turnout was due to "the lack of information regarding the election."

Bell was quick to add that "students are apathetic because they don't believe in the representative system."

President-elect, Chodikoff analyzed the low turnout in terms of student dissatisfaction. "People were disturbed by the fact that both candidates didn't stick to the issues. Too much time was spent talking about democracy and Pinder's disqualification."

"There is a general trend of students getting away from student politics" added Chodikoff. "They are much more concerned

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## There's a \$100 scrip hike in store for '79

By Laura Brown

Residence students face a possible \$100 food plan increase next year - but they should be warned beforehand that this will not guarantee greater purchasing value than this year's \$600 scrip plan.

Norman Crandles, the university's food and beverage manager, sent out a letter at the end of February to York's food services committee recommending a \$700 scrip plan for 1978-79. The committee is comprised of students from various constituencies across the campus who have volunteered to work with Crandles, and the catering services.

According to Crandles, the committee sees the increase as "a necessary step."

"The meal plan has been at one level for two years and we know it can't buy next year what it bought two years ago," he said.

Barb Maika, chairperson of the "food-users" committee for Complex II confirmed that the committee supports Crandles' recommendation. Maika said student fees must meet accelerating labour, operating and supply costs which the catering services expect next year.

If residence students can find any place on campus which will supply a filling and nutritious breakfast for 75 cents then they will have no trouble getting by with the increased scrip allotment for next year.

Crandles' letter estimated how far the scrip can

go. Assuming that students will only be eating in residence cafeterias during 200 of the 240 residence days, the \$700.00 scrip plan will allow 75 cents for breakfast, \$1.00 for lunch and \$1.75 for dinner. This will be noted in next year's residence brochures.

The recommendation must first be accepted by several groups. "I'm a little unclear on who has to approve it, but this recommendation will be seen by the master's residence committee, the council of masters and various senior administrators," said Crandles.

Crandles was uncertain when the recommendation will be cleared but said, "something will come out shortly"