Excalibur

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

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Tuition increase could be stopped if protest grows

It looks like tuition will be going up next year. This is wrong. We think the trend towards making post-secondary education the exclusive right of the rich should be stopped, not encouraged. encouraged.

Some argue that because tuition hasn't increased in the last four years it is now overdue. What they forget is that tuition such as housing, transportation, food, books, and so on, have all been rising steadily the last four years. They've been rising at the same time as the number of jobs available to students has been on a steady decline. The government itself has eliminated many student employment programmes. Students' wages are also being affected by the federal government's controls.

All of these factors already serve to hinder university accessibility. And yet now the government is planning to make a university education even less accessible.

We believe education is a right, not a privilege, that accessibility should not be determined through financial but through intellectual means.

Taxes for working men and women have been steadily rising the last few years, at the same time as corporate taxes have been accounting for a decreasing percentage of government budgets. Yet it is also becoming more and more difficult for the children of working people to attend these same universities their parents help fund.

There should be no talk of tuition increases without discussion of a complete overhaul of the Ontario student awards programme (OSAP). Grants must be increased and student aid must be made available to a wider range of people to help counteract shrinking accessibility to post-secondary education.

Universal accessibility to post-secondary education is a worthwhile goal. It's one worth fighting for. Already the Davis government is starting to feel the pressure against their impending tuition increases. Apparently Davis himself is now pushing to have tuition raised by $100 rather than the $175 originally considered. Students and other members of society should continue to try and stop the planned regressive government actions.

Now more than ever students should make a point of attending National Student Day activities, next Tuesday, November. 9. There they will have a chance to hear representatives from the political parties, the administration and students. There will be speeches and workshops about different aspects of post-secondary education. The discussion that will take place is important. The future of post-secondary education in Ontario may be at stake. You should be there.

CYSF almost forgets democracy members try to ignore elections

CYSF came within a whisker of turning its back on democracy at its last meeting.

They almost voted to skip this year's by-elections. They almost voted to empower themselves to appoint members to council. They almost voted away any semblance of credibility and democracy CYSF has.

Fortunately saner head — President Edson, the ULC, etc. — prevailed and by-elections are on for November 23, students will have the opportunity to exercise their democratic right to vote.

Voting is a right and not something that can be negotiated or rationalized away. One would not think it necessary to explain the importance of elections but apparently some council members, including Paul Hayden, Andrew Madden and Al Dale don't understand. They think elections can be ignored in the interests of so called efficiency, economy and quality of candidate. They're wrong.

The only people who should decide who is going to represent them are, the people. Who is in a better position to determine who will act in their best interests? That's what elections are all about. It's a fair system and it's something that must not be tampered with.

Part of Hayden's ridiculous scheme included having college councils recommend candidates to CYSF. They can't even run their own elections so it's absurbd to have them meddling in others'. For example, the new members on the Founders College Council were not elected, they were acclaimed. Yet Hayden would have these same people, themselves not voted in, helping appoint people to CYSF.

The college councils don't have much credibility. Stong College doesn't even have a council.

Hayden, Dale and Madden, along with anyone else who supported them in their move are either very stupid or very devious. Either way they should be watched very carefully to see they do not again try and subvert the democratic process at York.

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