

Excalibur

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

Excalibur founded in 1966, is the York University weekly and is independent politically. Opinions expressed are the writer's and those unsigned are the responsibility of the editor. Excalibur is a member of Canadian University Press and attempts to be an agent of social change. Typography by Foto Set, printed at Newsweb, Excalibur is published by Excalibur Publications.

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Petition protest will help fight unjust fee hike

It finally happened. After National Student Day has safely passed and after the initial furor has died down and students are safely tied up with end of term work, the government has at last announced the tuition fee increase for next year.

We said it before, we oppose any increase in tuition fees. We believe education is a right and any move to further limit accessibility should be opposed.

Expenses for people wishing to attend university have been going up, even if tuition itself has not been increased. An increase also sets a dangerous precedent.

The statement that most clearly illustrates the implications of the current tuition increase and the government's real post-secondary education policy was quoted in last week's Excalibur.

In the government's response to the infamous McKeough-Henderson Report, it said it "shares the concern that the user absorb more of the costs of post-secondary education".

What this means is that the recent tuition increase is not a lone move but simply the first stage in a long term government policy of passing the bill for education on to the students. This year's increase is the first of many.

Referring to students as the

'user' of education is to mislead. Does not the society as whole and the cooperations in particular reap the benefits of Canadian post-secondary education? Are these students not plugged into the Canadian business machine upon graduation — if they are lucky?

Increasing accessibility to post-secondary education should be the goal of any decent society, just as primary and high school educations are priorities now.

This goal is clearly being threatened. Progressive sectors in society should unite to fight this move. The Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) is organizing a provincial petition campaign against the fee hike. York University is participating in this campaign through the Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF).

A petition — see below — will be circulating the campus opposing the increase. Council hopes to have 6,000 names on the petition when President Barry Edson, along with other student council presidents, meets with Minister of Colleges and Universities, Harry Parrott on Friday, December 10.

We urge all student to sign this petition immediately to show their opposition to the government's policy of limiting university accessibility by raising tuition. It's

easy and important.

Sign and tear of the petition, below on this page and drop it in the inter-campus mail. You can also sign the petition at the special booth to be set up in Central Square next week

or by dropping into the CYSF offices across from the Oasis.

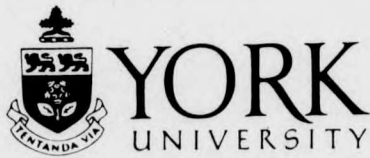
There will be a special organizational meeting of the anti-tuition fee increase committee, today at 2 pm in S171 Ross. You should attend.

If you can't be at the meeting, at least sign the petition. Our education and the education of students or prospective students to follow us is on the line. We must make our stand.

LET THEM
EAT BOOKS



PLEASE SEND TO:



The Council of The York Student Federation

4700 Keele Street, Downsview, Ontario M3J 1P3, 416-667-2515

We, the undersigned, support the "anti-tuition fee increase campaign". Tuition fees should not be raised for universities or community colleges. Inflation and summer unemployment have added to the problem of financial accessibility to post-secondary education. Federal and provincial cutbacks have caused the quality of education to deteriorate. A tuition fee hike of \$100 was announced November 25, 1976 effective September, 1977. This will make it impossible for many students to begin or continue post-secondary studies.

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