NEWS Cont'd

Grad award increased

By PAULA ZARNETT

The value of this year's Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) will be increased by approximately 20 percent, but the majority of graduate students can expect little benefit from the Liberal government's latest offering, according to Bill Mantin, president of the Graduate Students Association (GSA).

The award will increase from \$2,435 to \$2,920 per four month term of study, but with about only one out of seven applicants receiving the scholarship, "the students who do receive the awards will have more financial support, but those who are not chosen are really left out," Mantin said. "Rather than focusing on the amount (value) of the awards, they (the government) should have focused on the number of awards so that a larger number of students would be able to get financial support," Mantin added.

Mantin believes that because fulltime graduate students are allowed to work no more than 270 hours during the academic year, the award is an important budgetary supplement. "Without this award it is extremely difficult for a graduate student to be able to afford the costly expenses of being a student." Mantin said.

The OGS program is open to all graduate students with a minimum B+ average," but those who usually win the award have an A for A+ average," explained Bill Clarkson, Director of Student Affairs for the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

"There are a lot of highly qualified applicants," Clarkson said, "and it's rewarding to be able to have the value of the scholarship recognize the academic superiority of the winners."

Mantin, however, disagrees. "It is not fair for those students who (have) the minimum requirements (in grades), but are not chosen due to the small number of awards," Mantin said. "The scholarship award does not correct the situation brought about by continuous underfunding of the scholarship programme."

Students delight Peter Lougheed

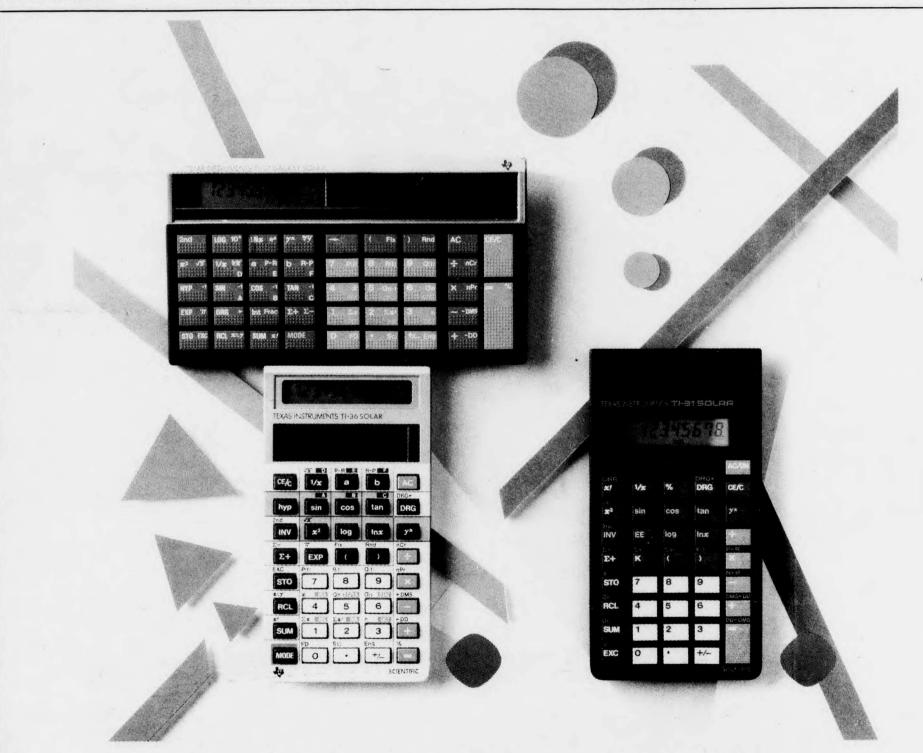
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Lougheed's view on the Heritage fund issue is most similar to his philosophy about how a country should be strengthened: providing Alberta with a loan will not only strengthen Alberta, but it will strengthen the entire country.

Former premier Lougheed was delighted by the variety of questions asked by the students. "I'm quite impressed by how knowledgeable these students are about current and past political issues, it's very refreshing, and it's about time," he concluded.



PETER LOUGHEED: The former premier of Alberta spoke to political science and business students during his two-day visit earlier this week to York University.



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