

# Excalibur

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## Majority of students may lose grant option in new aid scheme

By ANNA VAITIEKUNAS

A new programme of assistance for Ontario students, proposed Monday by a quasi government committee, will make post secondary education more accessible to students from the poorest families while it will virtually prevent students from obtaining grants if they or their parents make more than \$11,000 a year.

The report also recommends that all applicants pay interest on their loans while they are in school.

For the past two years, the interim committee on financial assistance for students developed an alternative student aid programme called the Optional Loan and Need - Tested Grant Programme (OLANG) that would offer guaranteed loans by the Ontario government and interest-bearing while the student is enrolled.

Under the existing Ontario Student Aid Programme (OSAP) the loan portion is guaranteed by the federal government and the grant portion provided by the Ontario government.

Under OSAP regulations, the applicant must borrow a minimum of \$1000 to become eligible for a grant, regardless of income. The applicant's grant portion is dependent, however upon his income or family's income.

The proposed OLANG programme report said that the applicant can borrow as much money as he needs to meet academic costs (tuition fees, books etc.) but "within the maximum loan limit", though the report does not say exactly what the limit will be.

According to Ontario Federation of Students' (OFS) sources, it is believed that the Ontario government would offer a maximum amount of \$3,000 in student aid loans.

The interest rate for the applicant on his loan would be calculated according to the rate of interest payable on the latest issue of Canada Savings Bonds. The report states "Since the interest on Canada Savings Bonds normally is set annually, this provision protects the interest rate on the loans from arbitrary shorter term changes, while ensuring that it remains related to current economic conditions". The current interest rate for 1977 Canada Savings Bonds is 8½%.

For every \$100 above \$1,000 an applicant may have in income, his grant portion is lessened at an accumulative rate of .25 per cent. According to the report, an applicant with an income of \$11,000 or more, is not eligible for a grant because the accumulated reduction factor has reached the \$3,000 mark.

Included in the proposals are several changes in criteria for independent status for the applicant. The report stipulates that the applicant must either have worked in the work force for three years, or be married to a spouse who is also a student or have a dependent child. Unlike the existing OSAP provisions, an applicant who has been a student for four years or more, can qualify for independent status.

• continued on page 2



Lauren Tunier photo

While some students took to their studies and others took to the slopes, York student Rob Austin took to the skies to pass away the mid-term break. Austin was one of an expedition of McLaughlin students who decided to "go fly a kite" at Centennial Park in Etobicoke.

## CYSF presidential race on, three candidates now declared

By PAUL KELLOGG

If you are reading this paper sometime after six o'clock this evening, then the first posters, leaflets and banners will be sprouting on campus as candidates for office in the student council, Board of Governors and Senate elections begin their campaigns.

The biggest of these is the annual general election to the Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF).

As we go to press, three York students have declared themselves as **CYSF presidential candidates**: Tom Diotte of McLaughlin College student council; Paul Hayden,

social affairs vice-president on the outgoing **CYSF**; and Alice Klein graduate student representative on council and presidential candidate of the **United Left Slate (ULS)**.

If one issue dominates the campaign, it's the \$100 hike in tuition fees announced last fall by the Conservative government at Queens Park. At issue are whether the student government should oppose the increase, what effective form (if any) such opposition could take, and the role the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) and the National Union of Students (NUS) should play in the process.

Neither Diotte nor Hayden oppose the tuition fee hike. "It's the first one in five years" said Diotte, "and everything else has been going up in the meantime. I don't like it, you don't like it, but we'll accept it this once. But we won't accept another increase for another five years, that's clear."

According to Hayden, "\$100 isn't that bad. I think we should accept the \$100 and put pressure on the government to at least get us some more summer jobs."

Klein, the only candidate to oppose the fee hike, said, "Nobody has to be convinced that it's a bad thing, that it makes it that much more difficult for us to attend and study at university, both the general increase and the earlier 200 per cent increase in fees for foreign visa students".

According to Klein, students can most effectively work to roll back the increase by working within OFS and NUS. A referendum on the ballot will ask York students whether or not they wish to continue membership in the organizations at \$2.50 a student.

"I really think that it's a common sense issue" said Klein. "As students we have something in common with other students in

Canada. We're all pursuing an education, we all want the best and most accessible education possible.

"Even if there were no cutbacks, there would be every reason to get together with other students to discuss common problems and make common cause.

And "it's precisely now with the increasing cutbacks that we need the co-ordination, organization and strength that OFS and NUS provide."

Hayden, on the other hand, thinks we could put the money to better use. "I'm not against the fundamentals of OFS and NUS" said Hayden, "I just think we need the money here on this campus. We have the lowest budget of any student council in Ontario.

"I would still attend meetings of the organizations and participate in the discussions. Maybe we could re-enter the organizations in two years time."

Diotte refused to state a position on the referendum. "It's up to the students to decide. If they think the money could be put to better use, then they can vote to pull out of the organizations. It's not for me to influence the electorate," he said.

Diotte outlined his platform to **Excalibur** in what he saw as the order of importance. First on the list was Radio York. "Radio York is an indispensable service as a communication outlet," he said. "It's done a good job this year of building a competent operation, and I fully support their application for a license from the CRTC to operate a FM station."

The second issue mentioned by Diotte was the York Social Co-op. "This year, primarily under the direction of Gord Travers, the co-op, although not realizing its full potential, has produced an excellent social program. The best

• continued on page 2

## York feminist magazine may fold Breakthrough about to go broke

By TED MUMFORD

York's two-year old feminist magazine, **Breakthrough**, is at the end of its financial tether for 1976-77. With their budget \$300 in the red, the magazine's seven-women editorial collective will not be able to send their April issue to the presses unless readers and campus groups come to the rescue with donations and grants.

**Breakthrough's** fiscal woes are the result of funding problems which have hindered production since the beginning of this academic year. The magazine has appealed to the York community to help it climb out of its debt and resurrect the year's final issue by making donations of any amount.

The publication's initial incarnation, the **York Women's Newsletter**, first appeared in January of 1975. After four issues the **Newsletter** shed its mimeograph format and became the magazine-style **Breakthrough** in September 1975. It has since published five times a year; 4,000 copies of each issue are distributed across campus free of charge.

Since its inception, **Breakthrough** has operated on a volunteer and non-profit basis, drawing its contributors and ever-changing editorial collective from student,

staff and faculty women at York.

The magazine has sought to provide York women with a creative outlet, an information clearing house and above all, a forum for feminist opinion. As it has grown, **Breakthrough** has focussed on themes such as "women in the arts" and "women in the work force" and featured interviews, capsuleizations of research work, photo essays and the "Women's Centre update".

With no umbrella organization to support it, **Breakthrough** has always depended on grants from groups within the university to cover production costs of approximately \$700 per issue. In 1975-76, The Council of the York Student Federation (CYSF) and all of the York campus college councils except McLaughlin's supported **Breakthrough**. In the course of this academic year the funding process has broken down, and **Breakthrough** is broke.

Through an alarming communications breakdown, **Breakthrough** has forfeited the support of their keystone funders, the colleges.

**Breakthrough** decided last fall to request \$200 from each college council. Editorial collective member Dvora Gavort asked the

councils by mail to meet with **Breakthrough** at council meetings to discuss the funding.

The response was far from enthusiastic. Dialogue developed between **Breakthrough** and only two college councils: Stong's, which was unable to make a contribution, and Calumet's, which granted \$150. With the exception of the Atkinson College Students Association, which lost track of the request and will vote on it in March, none of the other colleges responded.

While **Breakthrough** was dismayed at the college councils' seeming lack of interest, council chairmen including James Heferman of Bethune and Robin Eaglesham of Winters have told **Excalibur** that **Breakthrough** would have stood a good chance of receiving funding from their colleges, had its collective come to the councils in person instead of waiting for the councils to come to them.

The college funding drive also suffered from a late start. Collective member Janet Nakonecznyj told **Excalibur**, "We are not completely lacking in blame. We should really have gone to them (the college councils) in September."

• continued on page 4

## THIS WEEK

February 10 moratorium	page 3
Fiscal Arrangments Act	page 4
Roy McMurtry grows in bear pit	page 5
Migraines are a pain	page 9
Jimmy pardoned half of them	page 11
Little known Canadian magazines	page 13
Norman Penner interview	page 15