

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. Printed at Newsweb, Excalibur is published by Excalibur Publications under the auspices of the Council of the York Student Federation.

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Education—a capitalist democracy

Income distribution in Canada

TOTAL NUMBER OF TAXPAYERS	TOTAL INCOME CLASS BASED
7,641,731	\$49,265,300,000
TOTAL INCOME	INCOME — CLASS BASED
203 taxpayers — \$60,400,000 .12 of total revenue	over \$200,000 .0026% of taxpayers
15,214 taxpayers — \$1,098,300,000 2.22% of all revenue	\$50,000 to \$200,000 .19% of taxpayers
1,049,229 taxpayers — \$15,243,700,000 30.94% of all revenue	\$10,000 to \$50,000 13.73 of taxpayers
3,127,045 taxpayers — \$22,272,500,000 45.2% of all revenue	\$5,000 to \$10,000 40.92% of taxpayers
3,450,040 taxpayers — \$105,904,000,000 21.49% of all revenue	\$0 to \$5,000 45.14% of taxpayers

Taxation Statistics from:
Department of National Revenue Taxation 1970
Ottawa 1972 — Table 2 Page 12

— figures compiled by Mark Boekelman

Chances of entering university are dependent on your parents wages

Parent's Income	Percentage entering university
Richest 20%	36%
2nd " 20%	16%
3rd " 20%	10%
4th " 20%	7%
Poorest 20%	6%

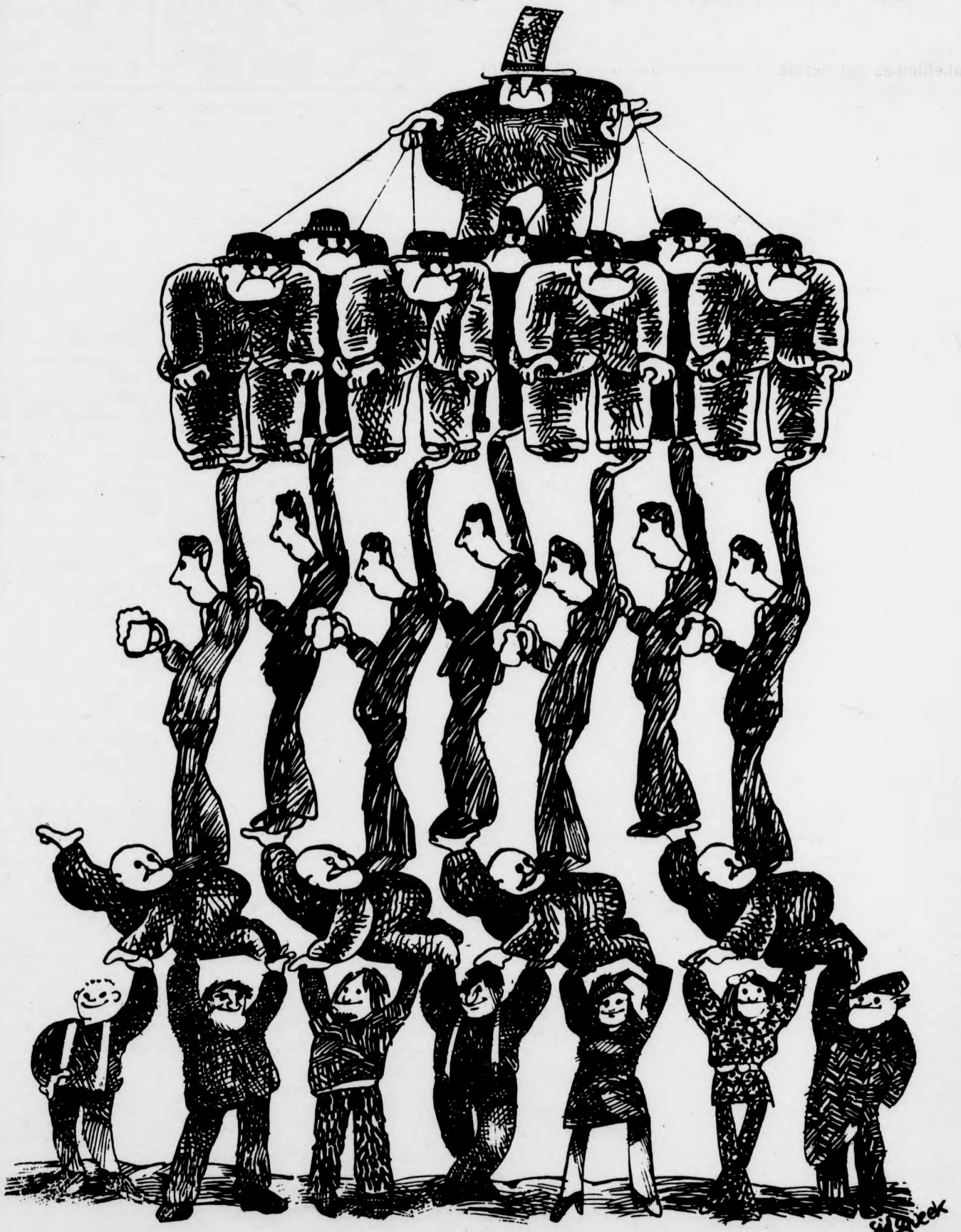
Estimates are for Ontario, 1969. The number in each cell shows the percentage of persons so described who were in the 19-24 year age group, and went to university.

Income was based on the 1961 census, adjusted for changes since that date in the size and

distribution of Ontario income, and in the pattern of student loans and grants.

Taken from a study by John Buttrick printed in the summer 1972 edition of This Magazine Is About Schools.

If the people at the bottom of the pile stopped grinning and let go, what would happen?



Access denied

"It's up to us to fight back," student representatives have been admonishing their constituents. And across the province last week, there raged a storm of occupations, sit-ins and lock-ups as students protested that their OSAP cheques were held back until they'd paid their tuition.

Now that students at York have won the release of their cheques, where to now? In a random survey last week, Excalibur found that York students were concerned with one thing: their tuition fees had been raised \$100. The term "universal accessibility" is being bandied about, but to many students, universal does not extend beyond their own little universe. The talk about universal accessibility is becoming a rallying point for middle-class students, but the rally doesn't last once they've gotten their degree and joined a high wage earning class.

The charts on this page show there's little universal accessibility to universities, even with the present OSAP plan. It'll get worse shortly. In the Wright report, the government speaks of universal accessibility on the one hand, and a 50-50 split of education costs on the other. The present trend in loan programs, with higher loan ceilings and further hints of loan cutbacks, show clearly that the government is closing the only other accessible route to university.

York students, just in being here, are already part of a privileged elite. So far, the fee strike hasn't reached beyond a selfish scope of maintaining that privilege. The talk of universal accessibility is hollow without researched proposals for massive aid programs, both financial and academic, so working-class people can get to university. York could begin with a catch-up year to prepare students for university academics, and York students can dig in to research the case and find what universal accessibility really means.