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"One should not be misled by the announcement made by the federal government," says Peter Dueck, financial aid officer for the University of Manitoba. "Just because they say, 'We're increasing our loan limits by 57 per cent,' doesn't mean anything."

Aid officers point to a new loan assessment system that allows the federal government to give less than the maximum loan amount to students.

Before, students asking for federal loans got the full \$105 per week, if they got anything at all. Now they can be refused assistance, or receive up to \$165 a week. For the majority of students, that means federal aid to them is actually decreasing.

Cutting back on aid to moderate and low-need students means the provinces have to pick up the slack, according to Dueck. He says Manitoba students would lose \$4 million in loans per year if the province didn't intervene. But that means the provinces have to cut back on their aid to high-need students. And so the maximums go down.

Federal aid officials deny that they knew what the provinces would do in advance. But they do concede that they widely-publicized 57 per cent increase in student loans doesn't exist. The actual budget for student loans in 1994-5 is the same as last year's: \$479 million nation-wide.

This shuffling of loan responsibilities would be esoteric, if it were not for two things, says Guy Caron, Canadian Federation of Students chairperson.

First, tuition for students has soared without any increase in aid levels. Second, he says, the so-called changes to student loans were the keystone of the Liberal government's youth employment strategy, but no real change has been made.

"They say they want a better system, better programs for students, but what they mean for 'better' could better be translated as 'lessexpensive.'

"One of every two Canadian university students is on some form of student assistance, and that number is expected to go up. University of Toronto student aid administrator David Sidebottom says applications for student aid at his university are up 25 per cent from last year.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

This is in regards to the parking lots. To complain about the parking situation would be senseless as everyone does every year, no, this is about the lights in

the parking lot. Why are they a fluorescent orange? Is that a regulation requirement? The lights are terrible, especially in the lots in front of the library. This is especially a concern since the emergency poles are situated too far from or too far within the lots,

and this adds to the level of paranoia one faces when going to their car at night. Could you please find out why are they orange and not a brilliant yellow or white light street lights?

Kathryn Nass

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