

"University sitting on a goldmine"

by Kim St. Clair

Accusations were levelled against both the university administration and government during debate in a council meeting over a motion opposing the proposed tuition fee increase here.

Support for the motion came from an unexpected source - Morris Fisher, president of men's athletics, who said that "the university, instead of standing up to the government and saying that education is a right, instead of meeting the

challenge of the 11% restriction to university funding, has turned to the poor consumer - the student. The Students' Union should oppose the tuition fee increase because once they stick it to you, they're going to keep on pushing, and that's the

godawful truth."

SU President Graeme Leadbeater said that because of the fee increase, accessibility to the university is in jeopardy and that he can foresee regular increases. His fears were that "once again the university may become an institution for the very elite, and that's a very scary thought."

While the administration is convinced a 25% increase is quite essential, Leadbeater denounced it as unjust.

"We have come to the conclusion that the university is sitting on a goldmine," he stated. "I'm talking about some of their investments - some 36 million dollars worth. The university also has a considerable amount of capital invested in land ... these are just examples of the kind of discretionary gaps

in the budget. We wish to organize a campaign against the 25% increase on the basis that the university has other places to turn."

According to Leadbeater, the 36 million dollars on reserve are simply there to generate money through collecting interest. He stressed revenue derived from the fee increase would amount to only 2.5 million dollars, which he says is an insubstantial amount of money.

Considering that the university normally over-budgets for 2 - 2.5%, and considering that revenue from tuition increases is not committed in the budget, he suspects students will merely end up adding to the

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Ken Wenman, back to the Fieldhouse ceiling, cleaned up in four events at the indoor track meet last weekend. In the pole vault, nobody came within six feet of him. Story page 11.

Photo by Brian Gavriloff

Student issues raised

OTTAWA (CUP) - Canada's national and provincial student organizations are one step closer to possible amalgamation and will draw up a common program as a result of a two-day meeting here January 3 and 4.

A target date for the creation of "one student organization" has been set for May 1977. Included are the National Union of Students (NUS/UNE), The British Columbia Student Federation (BCSF), the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS), the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS), L'Association Nationale des Etudiants du Quebec (ANEQ), and the Atlantic Federation of Students (AFS).

NUS represents 150,000 of Canada's 591,000 students, while the remaining organizations represent 240,000. Next year they expect to

have a combined income of \$.5 million.

The delegates agreed the common program should centre around the issue of universal accessibility, as it applies to such questions as student aid, unemployment, tuition, spending cutbacks and student housing.

The meeting was the second in a series to discuss improved cooperation among Canada's provincial, regional, and national student organizations. NUS executive secretary Dan O'Connor said the organizations hold varying opinions on the nature of a unified student movement, ranging from ANEQ's concept of a "very loose confederation to mobilize students," to AFS's idea of provincial extensions of a strong centralized national body.

Boycott planned to protest flagging aid

OTTAWA (CUP) - Carleton University students are planning to boycott classes and join a province wide march on Toronto January 21 to protest what they call "massive and regressive revisions" to the student aid programs and the dropping of the federally-

sponsored opportunities for youth program.

At a Carleton university students association (CUSA) open meeting January 9 President Dave Dunn said "it appears both governments are taking aim at post-secondary education."

Dunn sent a telegram to Prime Minister Trudeau criticizing the federal government's dropping of the OFY program which created 24,000 jobs for students last summer.

"The direction of wage and price controls and government expenditure cuts seems aimed at placing the burden of your war against inflation on those who can least afford it," stated the Dunn telegram. "We find this totally unacceptable."

"The end of OFY means the end of many students' opportunities to continue their education," the telegram said.

The telegram also attacked
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Future bleak for poor students

by Tom Baker

Residents of the Michener Park married students' residence complex are among the first tenants of the city to have their rents increased beyond the new guidelines of the provincial government.

On Friday, the Board of Governors accepted the recommendations of their Finance Committee, and boosted the rents by as much as 18.5%, effective April Fools' Day. Rent increased for suites in the complex (located at 122

Street and 48 Avenue) averaged about 13.5%, whereas rent control measures adopted in December by the legislature allows only a maximum of 10% this year.

The Board of Governors expects approval by the rent control board. However in a telephone discussion Mildred Coutts, a spokesperson of the Board, said, "As far as we know, there will be no exceptions made to the strict guidelines set down by the government. There have been no exceptions made

to this point."

The Board of Governors considers the increase justifiable in the light of the general policy of the University, that housing and food services should operate on a break-even basis. Although the rent increases have been announced, at this time the rent control board has not even been consulted.

Ms. Coutts explained: "The U of A Hospital has made the only formal application for an exemption to increase its

residence fees above 10% - we have heard nothing about Michener Park complex."

The Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Board of Governors could not be reached for comment. The Michener Park Residents' Association, however, has given its endorsement to the increase.

Some residents have stated that the provincial government's 11% ceiling on university expenditures is the basis of this announced rent increase.