

Cutbacks across Canada

Trouble at Ryerson

TORONTO (CUP)—Ryerson Polytechnical Institute could become Ontario's 23rd community college unless the provincial government bails the institute out of its financial dilemma, according to Ryerson President Walter Pitman.

"If there is no change in the amount of money allotted to Ryerson next year, massive dismantling of this institution will take place," Pitman said.

In the recently-released draft budget for Ryerson, provisions were made for cutting 52 full-time instructors.

"This year, they (the provincial government) have to make a decision whether they want a polytechnic or not, if not they better tell us what they want," he said.

Pitman will present a brief to the Ontario Council on University Affairs (OCUA) asking it to pressure the government for more money per student for the institute.

The funding level is measured in basic income units (BIU). Ryerson's BIU is \$2,990 per student per year, but Pitman said this level should be raised immediately to \$3,450 as an interim solution and raised again soon afterward.

"There isn't a polytechnic in the world that can operate" at Ryerson's present level of funding, he said.

In previous years, Ryerson had been able to cut back in areas like telephones and heating, Pitman said, but "now we're really into people and absolute machinery".

He noted that Ryerson is below standards in nearly all areas compared to any university, including library facilities

and floor space.

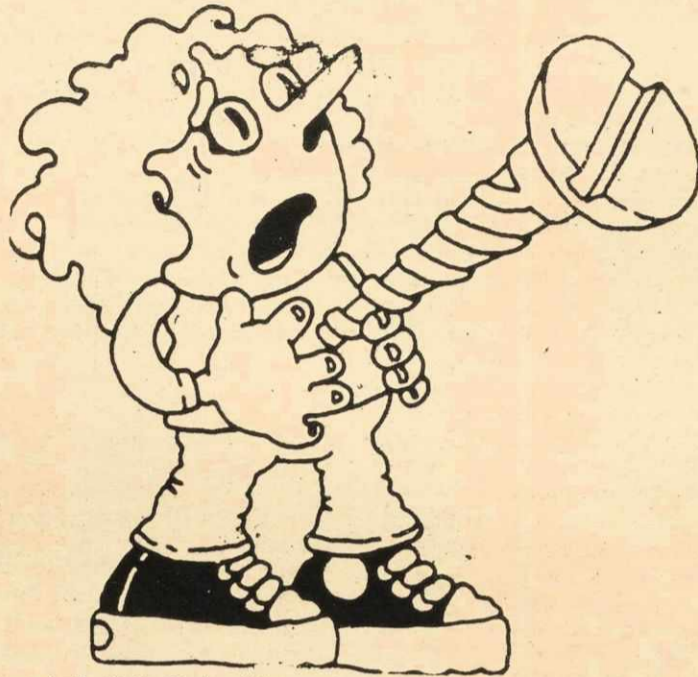
The budget committee of Ryerson's academic council rejected the budget and returned it to the institute's Vice-Presidents because it said the \$4.2 million was "inadequate, destructive and divisive."

B.C..

VANCOUVER (CUP)—Budgetary cutbacks at the Univer-

sity of British Columbia are hurting areas as diverse as drug and alcohol abuse research and student housing.

The university's housing department has proposed eliminating laundry and maid services, and toilet paper, in residences, as well as cutting out student assistants in one of the residence buildings. Housing director Mike Davis contends the proposal would save \$112,000 next year.



Ken Andrews, president of

the Canadian Union of Public Employees local at UBC, said the proposal will mean laying off six university workers.

"The union will take a strong position against any cutbacks even if they only affect one employee," said Andrews.

In January, the university also had the federal government slash funding for alcohol and drug abuse research by a third, according to UBC research administrator Richard

Sprately.

"There is a drastic cut in the amount of money that's available," he said. "What it means is there is a big drop in one corner of medical research."

Sprately said although funding is guaranteed for health services projects now under way, grants for new research into drug abuse have been eliminated entirely.

Student loans

OTTAWA (CUP)—The federal government so badly over-estimated the amount it needed for interest payments on Canada Student Loans this year that it plans to reduce its budget for the payments by 27 per cent.

That's what Canada Student Loans Plenary official Madeleine Kelly said Mar. 2 was the reason for a \$26.6 million cut in the budget.

But the National Union of Students (NUS) has termed that explanation "implausible".

In supplementary estimates tabled that day in the House of Commons, the amount allocated for payments under the Canada Student Loans Act was reduced from \$97.8 million to \$71.2 million, with only one month to go in this fiscal year.

According to Kelly, "all that's happened is an over-estimation concerning interest rates. Apparently, we thought that interest rates might go up more than they did."

However, she said there may be "a few other small statutory items"—also included in the cut.

Kelly emphasized that, since the interest payments are a statutory item—they are called for within the Canada Student Loans Act—the budget could be increased again if more had to be spent.

She said the cut would not affect next year's estimates,

which were set at this year's original figure of \$97.8 million. The two are unrelated; she said.

However, according to NUS executive secretary Pat Gibson, the CSL explanation is "highly implausible", considering that the cut is more than 25 per cent of the program's total budget.

She urged that, instead, the money cut be directed to emergency grants for students in need, until a new federal student aid plan is devised.

Concordia

MONTREAL (CUP)—Health services and day care may become victims at Concordia University within two years if student service budget recommendations are accepted.

Because of the projected drop in enrolment over the next fifteen years, combined with inflation and government austerity, the budget committee of the Concordia Council on Student Life (CCSL) is recommending a policy of cutting services before raising student service fees, according to committee chairperson Joe Macaluso.

Among some of the committee's major decisions were discontinuing financing of the child care centre by 1981-82, discontinuing the financing of ethnic clubs and cultural associations by 1980-1, and searching out alternate ways of providing health care services, with a recommendation to be made to the council by next spring.

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