

March 1978 seems a lifetime ago

Same old complaints aren't working

Analysis by Peter Michalyszyn

March 15 marked the third anniversary of the last vestige of student activism at the University of Alberta: 5,000 students and faculty took advantage of a university-approved half day off classes in 1978 to march on the Legislature and tell Peter Lougheed his government's attitude toward university funding stank.

Some months later the government's grant came through - an increase of 8.25 percent, well below the inflation rate; a year later the increase was 8 per cent; in 1980, 9.5 percent. This year the university is asking for 15 percent - enough, says president Myer Horowitz, to maintain present services and not have staff layoffs.

But in anticipation of a smaller grant, Horowitz said in February that he would recommend a student tuition fee increase to make up for any government inadequacies. And as far as employees are concerned, both the

non-academic and academic staff associations were unable to bargain meaningfully with the administration, and have instead opted for arbitration.

The group most responsible for securing adequate government funding is the government-appointed university Board of Governors. Myer Horowitz assures us that the Board and the administration behind it are doing their best to lobby the government, to show Jim Horsman, Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower, that the U of A is fast becoming a fourth-rate institution because of funding cutbacks.

But the Board's record, at least, is suspect. It was the Board in March 1978 that did its best to suppress the student march on the Legislature: Board members question General Faculties Council's wisdom in cancelling classes for an afternoon, and they quite frankly told then-U of A president Harry Gunning not to march with

the students, as he had previously pledged to do.

Gunning did address the students before the march and during the rally at the legislature, saying that "nothing but good" could come of their massive display of anger and concern for woeful government funding.

The Board countered, saying "The only place to make legislation is on the floor of the Legislature"; then-Board vice-chairman and now Board chairman John Schlosser proposed the motion that Gunning not march.

In a last minute press conference two days before the march in 1978, Board Chairman Eric Geddes admitted to not including in the annual budget submission letters from Deans detailing how inadequate funding was adversely affecting their faculties. Geddes admitted the information would have been valuable proof to present the government, but for no obvious reason he didn't forward it to the government.

Lately the Board and the university administration have been under scrutiny for their seeming inability to convince the Conservative government that a modest increase can indeed mean a cutback.

Students' Union president Nolan Astley has said "there's room for improvement" in the administration's lobbying of the government. The two university staff associations have appealed to the university to settle its differences with the government and do its job of securing adequate funding; to stop penalizing employees with up to 25 percent smaller salaries compared to the



The King and I: but who's who? In 1978, John Schlosser (right) suggested then-U of A president Harry Gunning not march with 5000 students on the provincial legislature.

rest of the public sector.

But if the Board's conduct in 1978 was lamentable, perhaps in 1981 their conservatism more accurately reflects the students' sentiments. This year there is no student organization campaigning against an impending tuition fee increase or against funding cutbacks. Last year's Student Awareness Week - aimed at making the Board of Governors admit its hands were tied by government intransigence - was an unqualified disaster.

The epitome of the Week was a forum in Dinwoodie Lounge that never happened: no one but the organizers, the guest speakers, and a few dozen drama students showed up. In the same week the Board of Governors announced that tuition would rise 10 percent in the 1980/81 year.

So now we have a conservative Board of Governors serving an apathetic student body, which

in turn is represented by a government whose actions have become, for the most part, indescribable.

Though he represents very little power in the Alberta government, MLA Rollie Cook did admit last year that the U of A is underfunded, but steered around the issue by saying a corrupt tenure system was turning the U of A into a "fourth rate institution."

At the other end of the stick, Premier Peter Lougheed won't believe cutbacks exist at all. He is widely quoted as saying, "How can you have a cutback when you have an increase?" and yes, for as long as anyone could remember there had been budget increases; but few could understand Mr. Lougheed's grasp of inflationary economics.

In fact, 5,000 people went to Lougheed's front step three years ago to tell him his rationale was "bullshit, bullshit."

Research grinds to a halt

OTTAWA (CUP) — Most Canadian research will come to a grinding halt if federal funding to research councils and universities is not increased, according to the president of the Canadian Federation of Biological Sciences.

John Cowan said Friday the expected research funding increases would be insufficient to maintain the current level of research.

"I think that we're in much more serious trouble than anyone realizes, yet," he said.

The federal government

provides funding for research through three granting councils, who in turn finance individual researchers and universities. The Medical Research Council is expected to receive a 9 percent increase in funding, the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council will likely receive 11.5 percent and the Social Science and Humanities Research Council may get 8 percent.

Cowan said these increases are insufficient because the rate of inflation for scientific research is higher than the regular inflation

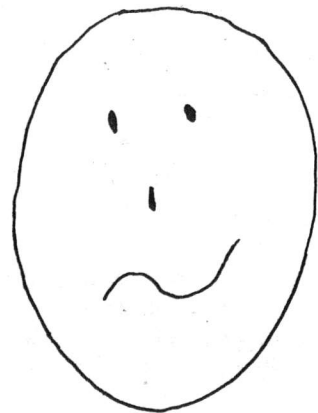
rate as a result of the cost of importing supplies and equipment. Also, he said, there is a backlog of equipment replacement requests, which have built up over years in inadequate funding, that cannot be answered under the proposed budgets.

Cowan dismissed the statement John Roberts, minister for Science and Technology, made January 19 which suggested there would be "real growth" in research and development funding for next year.

"We in the scientific community are not fooled," he said. "Of course, I would be delighted if the minister's claim is true."

At a press conference February 9 at the University of Toronto, John Leyerle, dean of the school of graduate studies, said the inadequate funding has left research in a state of "demoralization, disarray and inability to fulfill goals."

Leyerle noted that only 0.9 percent of Canada's Gross National Product is spent on research, as compared to 2.4 percent in the United States and 2.2 percent in West Germany.



THE
fashion wheel

"Bar None Specials"
March 16 - 21, 1981

fashion wheel

HUB MALL
8908-112 St
433-5226

THE INN MALL
Sherwood Park
464-7988

PORTRAITS
of
DISTINCTION

Goertz
STUDIOS

OFFICIAL CAMPUS PHOTOGRAPHER

Care Enough

To Get the Finest...

9012 HUB Mall 433-8244

SPECIAL STUDENT PRICES

WANTED:

ONE DAY COORDINATOR
STUDENTS' ORIENTATION
SERVICES

This job demands an interested and dedicated individual. The responsibilities of the position include:

- assisting with leader training;
 - organizing volunteer staff for the One-Day program; and
 - organizing the administrative workings of the SORSE one-days in cooperation with the Director.
- Students' Orientation Services (SORSE) is a large, student based orientation program. The successful candidate will be interested, enthusiastic, and have time to contribute to the SORSE program. Experience with orientation is a definite asset, but not essential.

The term of employment is June 1 - September 15, 1981, and this is a full-time position. Volunteer hours are expected prior to June 1. Salary \$900.00 per month.

Further information is available by contacting Dawn Noyes, c/o SORSE, 432-5319. A letter of application and a detailed resume should be submitted to:

Chairman, Selection Committee
Students' Orientation Services
Room 278, S.U.B.

Deadline: March 20, 1981

Spring & Summer
Sessions
Coordinator



Duties:

To plan, coordinate and promote extracurricular activities of the Spring and Summer Sessions.

To prepare a budget and to be responsible for all financial and correspondence records.

To generate interest in an association of Spring and Summer students.

Remuneration: \$750 for each of Spring and Summer Sessions.

Deadline for application: Wednesday, March 25th, 1981.

Term of Office: the beginning of Spring Session until the end of Summer Session.

Applications and Information available at room 259 SUB.