

Increased financial aid to universities criticized

KINGSTON (CUP) - Universities have become too accustomed to "easy living", and the present crunch is "long overdue", according to John Grace, editor of the Ottawa Journal, and chairman of the Board of Ottawa University. These statements clashed with those of the other speakers at a student-sponsored forum on financial restraint held at Queens University Feb. 26.

Grace surprised the audience with additional arguments against increased financial aid to universities. He called deficit financing a "cop out, unfair to those schools who had dealt with their own shortages without it." He described the university community as "full of brats."

He stressed his feeling that "there is fat to be trimmed and the trimming will not hurt the quality of education... the cries of anguish seem to me to be too much the cries of self pity."

The student forum was held just two days after the Minister of Colleges and University Affairs James Auld announced that the government had rejected the suggestion of the

Ontario Council of University Affairs to distribute \$16.2 million among the universities to offset their inflationary costs.

Peter Lane, a third year medical student, directed his comments mainly towards examination of student discontent with government methods. He emphasized his dislike of the formula of government financing, based as it is, on enrollment.

He sees this system as an inflexible one, offering growth as the only solution to inflation. Feeling the number of university graduates to be already too large, he described the situation as cheating both the taxpayers and the graduates.

Duncan Sinclair, Dean of Arts and Sciences at Queen's held his discussion on both a practical and philosophical plane, stressing his concern about the lack of appreciation shown by the public for the role of higher education.

A university, he said, "enables us to face the future with confidence... it is the one institution designed to help society cope with problems that are as yet unforeseen."

Provincial gov't joins in Oil Sands environmental research

The Government of Alberta will undertake a major environmental research program in the Athabasca Oil Sands with the Government of Canada. The program will survey the natural renewable resources in the Oil Sands and assess the impact of development on these resources. It will also research methods to protect the environment as development proceeds.

The program will be under the direction of W.J. Yurko, Minister of the Environment for Alberta and Mme. Jeanne Sauve, Minister of Environment Canada.

Several committees, representing Alberta government departments, Environment Canada, and industry, have prepared recommendations for inventory and research projects which they will implement. General coordination of the program will be through the Research Secretariat in Alberta Environment.

This program will look at air quality, terrestrial and aquatic animal and plant life, surface and groundwater systems, land uses and the human environment. The governments will cooperate on these studies and will provide staff for many of the projects. Consulting companies and universities will undertake many projects. Industry, as represented by the Oil Sands Environmental Study Group, has co-operated in planning and will participate in research.

During the first year of the program, emphasis will be on determining present reviewable resources and environmental conditions in the Athabasca Oil Sands. This has not been done in an intensive manner to date. Continuing research projects will also begin.

Alberta will contribute \$2-million to the program during its first year and the federal government is expected to contribute a similar amount in studies. The total cost of the program is estimated to be \$40 million, or more, in total over 10 years. The term of the signed agreement is for a period of 5 years, renewable for up to a further 5 years.

Information obtained through the program will be available to government, industry and the public to aid in planning development and environmental protection. Publication of this information will ensure that it will be available.

A large number of researchers will be involved in field work for days, weeks or

months.

Field studies are expected to begin this summer on such projects as establishing networks of monitoring systems and obtaining inventories of the renewable resources.

All air quality and meteorological information obtained through the monitor will be fed into a meteorological office in Ft. McMurray where it will be used to construct a model for pollution forecasting.

Water monitoring stations will be added to those already on the Athabasca River and will extend to its tributaries. The groundwater systems in the Oil Sands will be determined. Surface and groundwater have important inter-relations with mining operations.

Aquatic resources in lakes and rivers, including those downstream, will be studied. Effluents entering water

courses may be harmful to the fishery potential. In addition, the wildlife resources and the impact of development on these resources will be studied.

Atmospheric emissions from oil extraction plants may have an impact on vegetation. Several studies will examine these effects, especially the effect of sulphur dioxide on the plants and forests.

Once mining progresses, reclamation of the mine sites will be needed. Researchers will examine the problems of storing overburden, obtaining suitable species and species stock for revegetation and properly restoring the sites to productive ecosystems.

This will fit into some of the programs planned for the Environmental Laboratory and Research Centre, on which construction will start at Vegreville this year.

Bacus elections nullified?

It seems there is excitement in the Business Administration and Commerce Undergraduate Society. The Society's elections, to be held this Friday, are in danger of being nullified.

Numerous discrepancies were noted by one of the nominees, Gary Croxton, a third year Commerce student. He has submitted his complaint to D.I.E. Board who will make a ruling this Thursday. His complaints are: 1. He states he was told the election was to be governed by By-Law 300 of the Students' Union, then this was denied; 2. Some nominations were submitted unsealed and open to view before the close of nominations; 3. The time between elections and close of

nominations is not one week as stipulated; 4. The Society contravenes By-law 3500.

Mr. Croxton seeks enforcement by D.I.E. Board and ruling in his favour would cause the dissolution of the elections. He hopes the result will be a new election with definite rules.

The Returning Officer has stated he has not found fault with the nominations nor the election, so campaigning will continue. The President of BACUS also observes no faults and states this election is congruent to past elections.

Nonetheless, D.I.E. Board will be called upon to render its decision on the democracy of the BACUS elections at 4:00 p.m. today.

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tion had to be given the government, and McGhie, Jack Redekop vp finances and administration, and Burt Krull, General Manager were forced to prepare brief after brief to show the government the extents to which the Students' Union was prepared to go to try to solve the HUB problem.

It was even feared, and rightly so, at more than one point that the government would just listen politely and turn away, or would ask unreasonable terms for its assistance.

It was these points which were stressed against McGhie in the last election; that he would not tell what the terms of the negotiation were going to

be, or even how well the negotiations were going.

Well, the days of speculation are over, and Joe McGhie along with his Executive Committee, are smiling.

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expenditure whose benefit will be carried over to next year, part of the expense should also be carried over, he said.

The only voiced objection to granting even the \$150 came from Med rep Gordon Mills. He felt that the members of the club should show their support by agreeing to pay dues. He said that \$2 per member would cover the proposed deficit.

The motion passed with little other debate.

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