

CUP BRIEFS

Tuition fees leap

OTTAWA (CUP) — The over-the-counter cost of higher education went up about six per cent this year.

University tuition fees are up an average of 6.4 per cent this year, according to a study released September 6th by Statistics Canada.

While fees in Quebec remain frozen, some fees were hiked by as much as 22 per cent. With tuition fees between \$450 and \$570, Quebec university students pay the least tuition.

Students at Acadia University in Wolfville Nova Scotia got a .15 per cent hike from \$1,720 last year to \$1,970.

With the exception of semi-private Trinity Western University in Langley B.C., Acadia's are the most expensive university eight-month-program tuition fees in Canada.

At an average \$1,621 per year, students in the Atlantic provinces still pay Canada's highest tuition fees.

"The future of accessible education is grim," says Canadian Federation of Students chair Jane Arnold. "And every day the situation gets worse."

Arnold says with federal transfer payments being cut back and provinces unwilling to pay for education, the cost of post-secondary education is being shifted to the students.

This blows accessibility right out of the water," she says. "We believe finances are the biggest barrier to post-secondary education, and hiking tuition fees makes this barrier more difficult to overcome."

Arnold says in the Atlantic the average tuition fee of \$1,621 consumes about half the maximum financial aid permitted under the Canada Student Loans program.

"That loan is supposed to be what you live on for the year too," she says. "You can't pay rent and food for a year with \$1,600."

"Accessibility to post-secondary education is in big trouble right now," she adds.

Lesbian studies approved

MONTREAL (CUP) — Concordia university will make history next semester when it offers the first accredited lesbian studies course in Canada.

About 30 students will be taking professor Sharon Stone's 'Lesbians in Society.' The course will deal with the experiences of and the issues affecting lesbians.

"Our current educational system is based on the assumptions of heterosexuality," says Shari Clarke.

Clarke is a member of the Lesbian Studies Coalition of Concordia, a student group that lobbied for the course. She hopes this course will pave the way for a multidisciplinary lesbian studies program.

"This course finally acknowledges lesbianism as a legitimate area of study," she says.

Concordia's Simone de Beauvoir Institute for women's studies decided to offer the course this year after the English and sociology departments refused. But they made no promises for next year.

"We hope that by virtue of popular demand they will have to continue to offer it," says Clarke.

The course so far has received a strong response from both Concordia students and the outside lesbian community. Enrolment and a waiting list filled up soon after registration began last spring. Several non-students have asked to audit the course as well.

Staff walks in Quebec

MONTREAL (CUP) — Sporadic one-day walkouts by teachers and support staff are disrupting the fall term at some Quebec colleges.

Across the province this month, employees at most colleges are deciding whether to heed their unions' calls to stage illegal rotating one-day strikes.

During the first two weeks of school several locals walked out for a day, but unions are threatening larger-scale strikes if contract talks continue to drag on.

Only one English-language college, Champlain College, is affected by the work stoppages. The others belong to a union which has so far ruled out walkouts.

Like other Quebec public sector workers, college employees have been without a contract since December 1988 and are in the midst of negotiations.

"We've been negotiating since last year and we're not even close to an agreement," said Louise Blanchard, spokesperson for the Central de l'enseignement du Quebec (CEQ). "Our members are fed up. They're voting overwhelmingly to go out on one-day strikes."

The unions want a 24 per cent wage increase over three years. They also want workers in positions traditionally held by women to be given an extra increase to bring them up to par with those in other positions.

They are also asking that at least 1000 more teachers be hired to ease the workload, which they say has increased by 20 per cent since 1982.

VP External bows out

by Jeff Harrington

The Vice-President (External) of the Dalhousie Student Union resigned on Saturday after a "song and dance" failed to persuade Dal Law School to let him in.

Tom Digby flew to Kingston, Ontario on Sunday to study law at Queen's University.

Digby was second on Dal's waiting list last Thursday, and was told Friday he would have to wait two weeks to find out whether he would get in, said DSU Vice-President Terry Crawley.

Crawley said Digby felt "very uncomfortable" about leaving, but felt he would lose his spot at Queen's if he waited any longer.

"We were prepared for it, we knew it was very tight (to get in)," said Crawley.

Crawley said Digby met DSU President Dave Shannon and passed on his "notes and plans" before he left.

The Vice-President (External) is the DSU liaison for both the Student Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) and the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

"He or she is also responsible

for governmental interaction and lobbying for student aid — any pertinent student issue," said Shannon.

Shannon, who is also Vice-Chair of the DSU's external committee, will act as VP (External) until a replacement for Digby is found.

A recruitment committee is accepting applications for the

position until 5 pm, Sept. 26. Its recommendation can be challenged by anyone on the Student Council, in which case the council would vote on the recommendation.

Shannon said he hopes to have someone in place in time for a SUNS conference to be held Sept. 29 - Oct. 1.

"It's unfortunate, he was a good guy," said Shannon.

Feds slash funds

by Chris Lawson

OTTAWA (CUP) — It seems like an innocuous adjustment in a complicated mathematical formula.

But a new bill, which cuts federal payments to the provinces for social programs, will have devastating effects on health care and post-secondary education, critics say.

Still in the early stages of becoming law, Bill C-33 will reduce the growth rate for transfer payments to the provinces under

the Established Programs Financing program (EPF), by one per cent. It would be in effect for 1990/91.

Wilson told parliament in April that the reduced growth rate would cut \$200 million in 1991 alone from the payment program, which will transfer \$34 billion to the provinces this year.

Because the EPF represents 23 per cent of all federal spending, Wilson argued, it had to be cut back as part of the conservative

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