

Cutbacks across Canada

British Columbia

VANCOUVER (CUP)—If B.C.'s education ministry does not increase its funding to universities, quality education will drastically deteriorate, B.C.'s three university presidents agreed in interviews recently.

"We're on the knife edge right now. It's like asking the university to squeeze orange juice out of the same orange already squeezed yesterday," University of B.C. administration president Doug Kenny says.

"There's real serious damage being done to quality education."

Kenny said less money is available to UBC because government support to universities is less than the inflation rate. The future of quality education at UBC is resting on a "slippery banana peel," he said.

"Out grants are going up year by year, but they're not going up to meet the real cost. But Dr. (education minister Pat) McGeer does try his level best."

University of Victoria administration president Howard Petch said the quality of education at UVic will definitely suffer in the future from cutbacks and certain areas such as the library are already feeling the "squeeze" very badly. He added that he did not feel there has been a general deterioration of quality education at UVic so far.

The quality of research and graduate education is one of the most significant problems at universities, according to George Pederson, Simon Fraser University administration president. But he said he thought provincial funding had been "adequate."

He said that education should be B.C.'s first priority and added that there have not been enough adequate studies made on university accessibility.

Alberta

LETHBRIDGE (CUP)—The axe has come down at the University of Lethbridge. Seven faculty positions, two librarians, several assistants, a counsellor, and two secretaries are being cut in plans for the 1979-80 budget.

"If students haven't noticed

the effects of the cuts before, they're sure going to notice now," said student union president Pat Dortch. She said up to 21 fewer courses will be offered at the university of 2000 students because of the cuts.

Elimination of the faculty and staff positions will trim \$387,000 off the university's budget, but it will still leave a deficit of nearly a quarter of a million dollars.

"Every conceivable effort has to be made to reduce the deficit if the university is to continue," university president Bill Beckel said shortly after the budget plans were released. Any other faculty positions left empty by resignation or retirement would probably not be filled, he said.

"Significant further reduc-

grant it. Further cuts are expected to occur, unless the Alberta government changes its funding policy and becomes less tight-fisted with higher education.

Ottawa

OTTAWA (CUP)—Starting next week, students in two Western provinces will be showing governments they aren't about to let tuition increases and underfunding go unchallenged.

On Mar. 12, students at the University of Regina are planning a demonstration against cutbacks at the provincial legislature.

And, in early April, the Students Association of

and fine arts may be eliminated with a small increase. If the programs are not cut completely, it is felt they will be allowed to become stagnant.

The debate on accessibility will revolve around the impact of tuition increases on university accessibility. A sociology professor will be arguing they do have an impact, while the president of the faculty association is taking the opposite view. The local NDP MLA will also attend to present the government's view.

It appears the U of R board of governors may not decide on the size of the tuition increase until April, when most of the students have left the campus.

Plans in Manitoba are less final, but meetings are planned for the second week in

harsh effect on women who have "the most tentative foothold in the educational system in the first place."

"In view of traditional attitudes, tuition increases have a disproportionate effect on women," says OFS executive Karen Dubinsky. "And when parents are forced to fund the education of fewer of their children, sons will be chosen before daughters."

The report outlines a 10-point remedial program to counter-balance the effects of government restraint policies, including better day-care, more direct government job creation programs, and better funding of post-secondary education. It also urges rejection of the P.S. Ross Report recommending linking tuition with program costs.

Rising tuition fees are particularly harsh on women given their unequal position on the job market, the report notes. Women who are hired for summer employment and for post-graduate jobs earn less than their male counterparts.

The report also quotes a University of Toronto graduate student union study "that determined that only 17 per cent of women graduate students obtained graduate assistantships, against 30 per cent of their male colleagues."

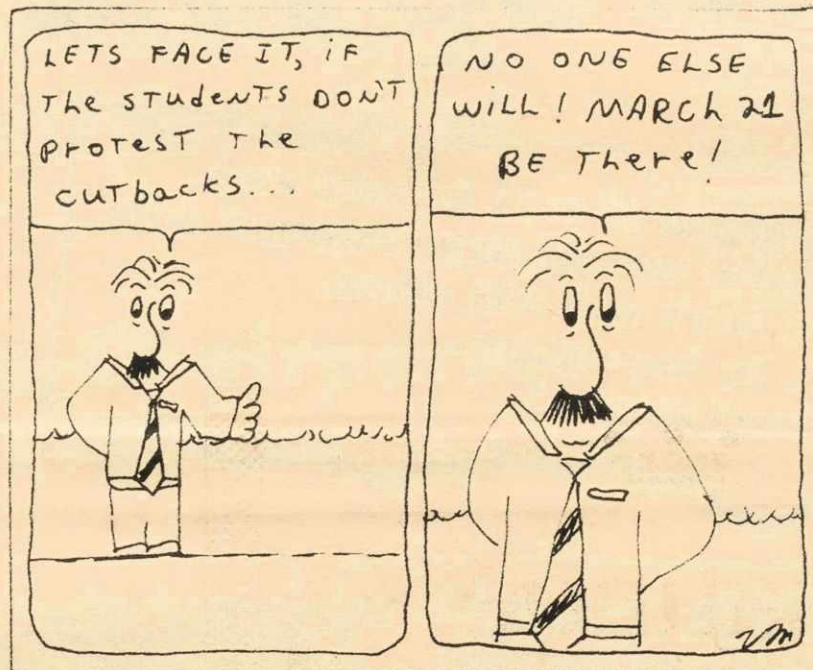
Chaviva Hosek, an associate professor of English at the U of T, agreed with the OFS observation on jobs, particularly within the academic profession.

"We were told in the 1960s that the baby boom meant that the world was open to you, but that they didn't say that we were the children of the post-war baby boom."

The increased political consciousness of women in the 1960s resulted in more women becoming professors than at any other time, Hosek said, only to face cutbacks in the 1970s.

The firing of female professors has taken a heavy toll on women's studies programs, the OFS paper maintains. "The people best qualified to teach women... were lost."

Hosek said that women's studies programs function "intellectually" by investigating "women as subject matter" politically be expanding the perspective of women.



tions" could be implemented, Beckel said, if the U of L doesn't get the eight per cent government grant increase the budget is predicated upon. Sources close to the Alberta government have predicted only a six per cent increase in grants to post-secondary institutions.

The university has run a deficit budget, spending more money than it had coming in from the government and tuition fees, for the last three years. But the deficits were covered by a reserve fund the university had built up since its inception in 1968. That reserve will also cover next year's deficit, but will then be depleted.

Without a reserve, the university will have to run a balanced budget on whatever the government decides to

Manitoba (SAM) is planning a protest rally against continued underfunding of education by the Manitoba government.

The Regina demonstration will be the culmination of an educational campaign this month, which included classroom speakers, leafletting, and the operation of two cutbacks information centres.

On Mar. 12, it will be preceded by a brief to the U of R board of governors and a debate on accessibility.

The Saskatchewan government has announced it will be increasing funding to the province's two universities by 7.6 per cent, down from last year's 10 per cent increase.

Student spokespeople say there is some concern that new programs planned for the U of R in journalism, design,

March to consolidate them.

At a SAM convention Mar. 3-4, delegates discussed a proposed rally against underfunding to be held in the first week of April, and agreed to a petition demanding the Manitoba government properly fund post-secondary education.

Toronto

TORONTO (CUP)—Women are usually hit first and hit hardest by cutbacks in post-secondary education, according to a study by the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS).

The report, written by the OFS Women's Issues Commission, shows that cuts in education have an especially

