

Cutbacks and tuition hikes hit Midwest States

DENVER (CSP-CUP) — Tuition hikes and budget cutbacks are giving an ugly edge to the mood of students hemmed in by spiraling costs.

Although most schools are staying tight-lipped about their budget for next year, American colleges that have put the bad news on the line have been met with angry rallies, threats of combined student-staff strikes, and accusations that higher education is becoming the domain of the rich.

In Georgia, Illinois, Ohio and New Jersey, students have confronted administrators in the past month over education costs they feel are becoming prohibitively high. Shoving matches between regents and students, egg-pelted college presidents and rallies "recalling the mood of the sixties" have been the result of 25 percent tuition hikes and layoffs of up to 80 faculty members at a single school.

Students hit with the second tuition increase during the year at the University of Georgia formed an indignant crowd in mid-January, protesting what amounted to a 25 percent increase in their tuition for the year. While tuition has skyrocketed, cutbacks have trimmed library hours, health services and faculty and student jobs on the campus.

A rally that drew students and faculty hit hard on the effects in creases in tuition would have on minority students. A black speaker charged that tuition hikes would "come down hardest on the people least able to pay." Black members of the school's student council have threatened to call for a tuition strike even if the rest of the student government doesn't agree.

At Trenton State College in New Jersey, students and faculty are

gearing up for a strike on March 15 to protest tuition increases of \$265 and staff cutbacks that could send 80 faculty members into the streets. Chancellor Ralph Dungan was struck with eggs as he explained the school's \$1.5 million budget cutback for the coming year. Along with the 80 faculty members, about 1,000 students would be cut from the school to stretch available money farther.

A letter to the editor of the Trenton Signal, the student newspaper, derided the cost hike and cutbacks as reflecting "the trend in higher education that is going to make it available only to the rich, as it used to be."

An angry crowd gathered outside a regents meeting at Kent State University in Ohio earlier this month, protesting a \$45 per year tuition increase. A shoving match broke out between students and a regent attempting to enter the meeting room. Six campus police held about 60 protestors back, but the short scuffle sent one of the police to the hospital with bruises.

Students at Kent State suggested that instead of raising the tuition, the regents put a \$25,000 ceiling on salaries and consider trimming the amount of money going to intercollegiate athletics.

Meanwhile in Illinois, blacks and other groups are embittered following a suggested tuition increase that would have students paying one-third of their educational costs. Black spokespersons called the tuition increase an "immediate disaster for blacks and other minorities."

A long range tuition plan for the state's public colleges would increase tuition by over \$300 in three years. Soaring tuition along with halts in expansion of facilities and hiring threaten to "completely

gut what advances blacks and latinos have made in higher education", according to black State Senator Richard Newhouse.

Other colleges and universities will probably be keeping any tuition increases under their hats until later this spring, after regents and administrators have a chance to figure out the difference between their proposed budgets and the amount state legislators have actually given them. But if private schools' proposed tuitions are any indication, the outlook won't be good.

Private institutions that have announced tuition increases for next year are upping the ante about eight to ten percent. Total educational costs at Princeton will go up eight percent, Harvard is jumping 8.4 percent to \$6,430, Dartmouth will be up 10.8 percent and the University of Southern California about 9.3 percent.

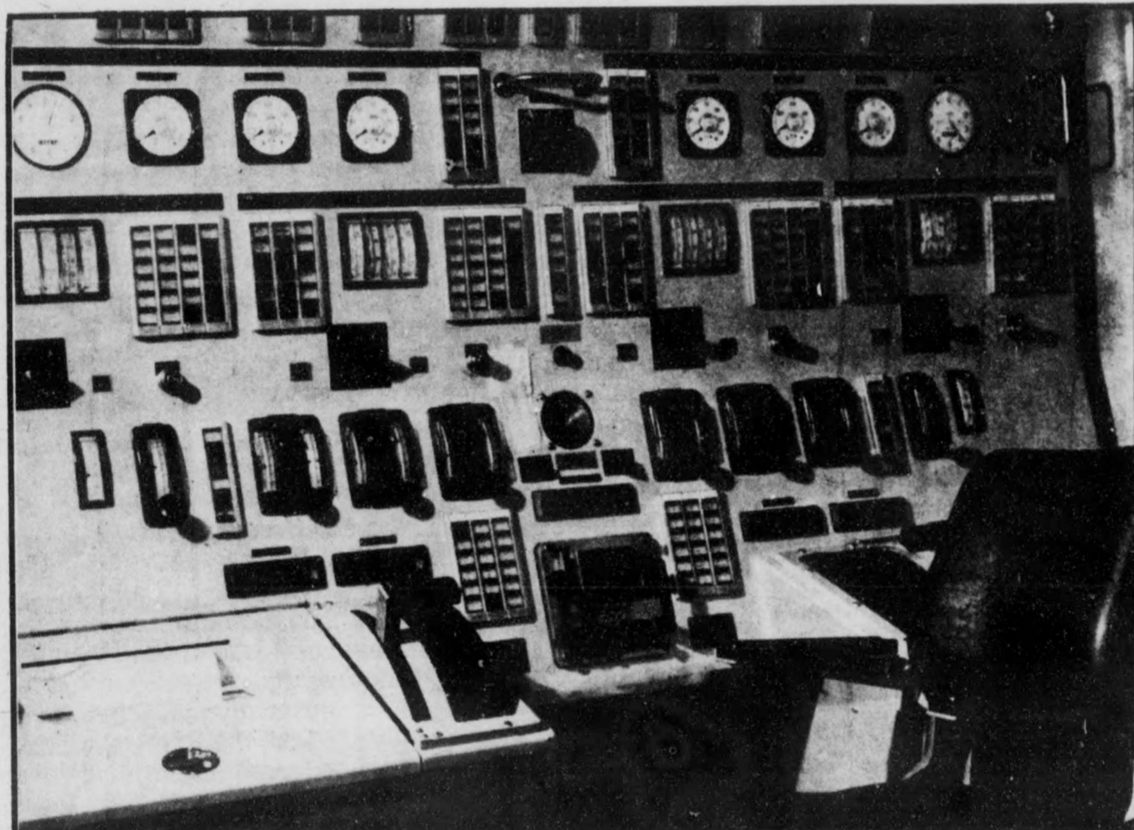


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NUS loses Manitoba

WINNIPEG (CUP) — Students at the University of Manitoba voted overwhelmingly February 26 not to join the National Union of Students.

In a referendum held at the same time as elections for student council president, students voted 2127 to 1227 not to approve the \$1,000 fee necessary to join the national union.

Although both presidential candidates supported NUS, the student council gave no leadership on the issue and financed both pro and anti-NUS campaigns.

The anti-NUS campaign, organized by two students, one a staffer with the student newspaper, The Manitobian, consisted of posters, pamphlets and newspaper coverage of why students should not join NUS.

An interview between the Manitobian staffer and the other leader of the anti-NUS campaign which appeared in the paper the week of the referendum argued that students should not vote for NUS because the provincial government "is entirely responsible for education spending", so NUS, as a federally oriented "lobby group", would be lobbying for nothing, it stated.

The article failed to note that more than 50 percent of the funding for the province's post-secondary sector comes from the federal government, and that student loans and aid policy in general are

decided in a federal or federal-provincial context.

The article contended that the money which students would pay as NUS members would be better used to "support Festivals or expand the pub" rather than "for some union in Ottawa."

Another major issue raised by the anti-NUS group was the change that NUS was financially irresponsible and frequently raised its fees without notice.

The anti-NUS group criticized NUS for having a cash shortfall last summer and the resulting \$30,000 loan the national loan needed from its members to finance operations.

NUS explained at the time that the demands being placed on the organization exceeded its fee revenue, and that more money was needed until the fee increase from 30 cents per students to \$1.00 per student was passed by referendum at local campuses.

The charge that NUS changed its fees frequently and without notice is baseless, since the 30 cent to \$1.00 increase is the first since the organization was set up in 1972, was approved at NUS conference, and must be passed by referenda at each campus, said NUS spokespersons.

The pro-NUS campaign was badly organized and unable to get its message across to students, according to a NUS spokesperson.