

# 1200 students march

VANCOUVER (CUP) -- As 1200 singing, shouting demonstrators marched on the University of British Columbia's administrative building

March 1, the board of governors inside agreed to increase tuition fees by 25 to 30 per cent unless the province provides additional operat-

ing funds.

"Recognizing there is a serious shortfall in operating funds granted to UBC for next year, the university's board of governors voted today to make a formal request to the university's council for additional funds for 1977-78," board chair Thomas Dohm said in a prepared statement.

"To make necessary provisions for the possibility that the council may reject the university's request, the board approved tuition fee increases of \$108 to \$112 per year for most students in the faculties of arts, sciences and education as well as some other schools.

"The board also approved tuition increases of \$130 to \$194 for students in the faculties of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, law, commerce and engineering," the statement said.

The increases will take effect if the BC universities council rejects the board's request for more money.

While the board made its decision, students outside chanted "Send the budget back" and "We want Kenny," waiting for administration president Doug Kenny to emerge and make a statement.

Many demonstrators wanted to occupy the building, but organizers of the biggest rally at UBC since 1968 stood at the doors to the building to control the crowd.

Later, 40 placard-carrying students entered the board room for the last 20 minutes of the open part of the meeting and told representatives to send the education budget back to Victoria.

"We are asking you how you should finance education, and we say its not by continually raising tuition fees," arts representative

Dave Jiles told the meeting.

"The people here (at the rally) have made a commitment, that the budget should be sent back, and if they (the provincial government) send it back to you without any more money, then you should close the place down."

When the students were asked to leave to allow the board to vote on the increase in private, student board member Moe Sihota said there was a precedent for making the decision on tuition fee increases in open rather than in closed session.

"Last month we discussed resident rate increases in the open part of the meeting," he said.

"This is a similar decision affecting students and I would like to suggest we discuss this openly and frankly."

But other board members did not agree and the students were shuttled out.

Sihota said neither he nor Basil Peters, the other student board member, voted for the proposal.

"I personally support sending it (the budget) back, but I didn't support the fact that they're willing to increase fees. It's a diluted position, but I think they're putting the blame on the proper people," he said.

Peters said the turnout at the rally probably influenced the board's decision.

Student union president Dave Theesen called the rally an outstanding success.

"I think we got the point across about just how serious we are. Kenny, the administration and the government have to realize that once this thing starts it's going to blow up on them if they don't act.



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## Withdrawal policy unfair

Former Dalhousie student Peter Kerr is protesting the university policy of telling other universities that he withdrew. Kerr's complaint refers to "non-academic information appearing on transcripts".

Kerr dropped all his courses in October, before the Nov. 16 deadline for dropping individual courses without penalty. But Dalhousie Registrar Arnold J. Tingley says that it is university policy to record a withdrawal from the university after Oct 1. Kerr withdrew after this deadline, and this information appears on his transcript.

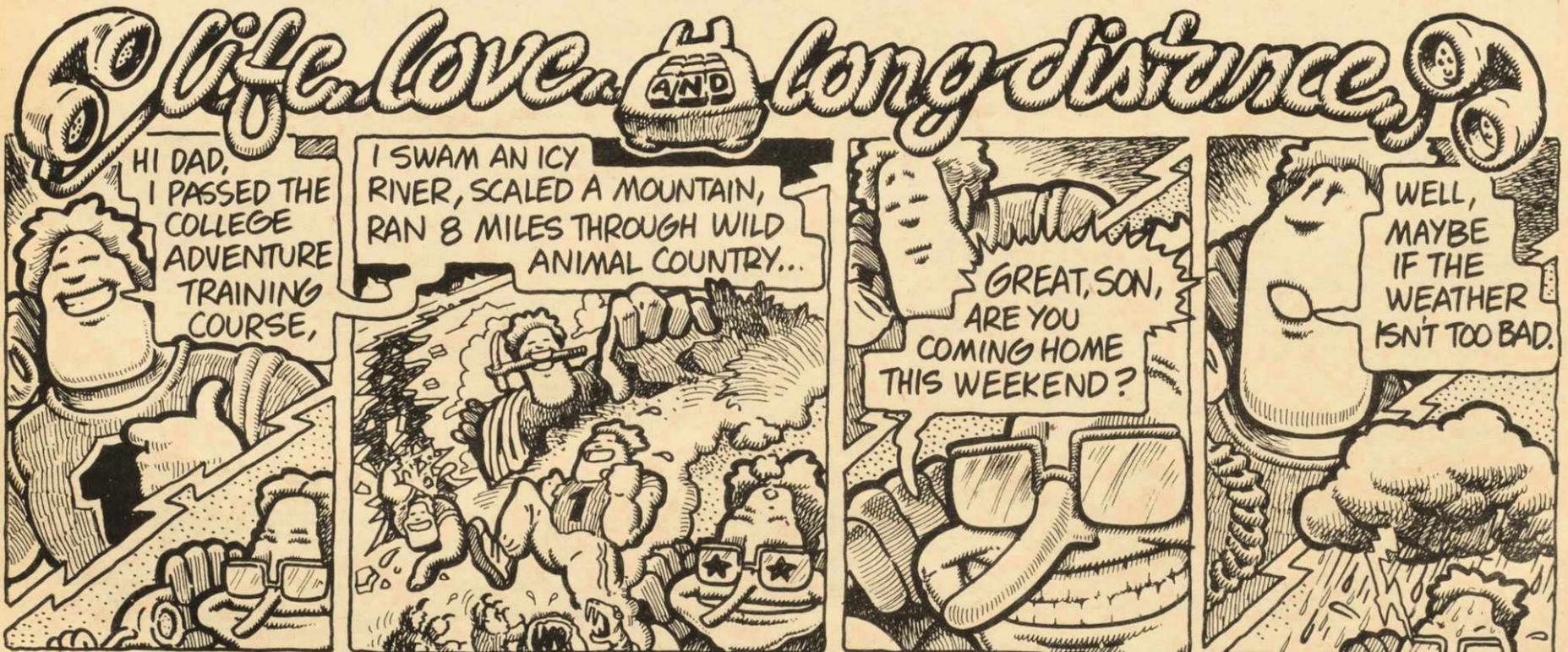
Kerr's major grievance against this policy was that when applying to another institution you have to

include a letter of explanation, even though your reasons for dropping out may have been personal.

In talking with administration people, both Kerr and the *Gazette* found conflicting reports. According to Tingley, if the university did not indicate that Kerr had withdrawn from university, "it would be falsifying the records."

A spokesperson for the Student Services Office did not agree. A mistake had been made on Kerr's transcript. His withdrawal should not have been recorded.

Kerr is now circulating a petition against the university policy in the SUB lobby. He also plans to approach the Committee on Studies with his complaining tomorrow.



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