

VIEWPOINT

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1965

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Liberals Challenged

Through the editor to the campus Liberal Club:

The Progressive Conservative Club challenges the Liberal Club to a debate on Public Power in Alberta on February 11th. If the Liberal Club is willing to debate this issue the Conservative Club will make the necessary arrangements.

Peter Woolstencroft
Conservative Club

Mark—Chasing

To The Editor:

Why are YOU at university? True, you have many answers—some of them are even honest.

Throughout public school I was led to believe that university would offer the epitome of man's experience—the discovery of KNOWLEDGE: exploiting one's intellect, finding out *how* to think as well as or more than *What* to think.

Was I disappointed—YES! Instead of striving for a "good mark" in a departmental exam, I find I am driven to get another mark (a purely abstract symbol of a professor's opinion), the primary purpose of which is Not to evaluate what one *Knows* but to determine one's ability at test taking, at finding good used term papers or to "guess" what the professor has put on the exam. In this way, I establish my status as a "success" or "failure." All of us, and I am not excluded, are

caught up in this dreadful chase of a minute and somewhat meaningless symbol.

Evidence of my remarks:

Were you more tense during exam week? What was your conversation centered on?—Did any of your serious discussions encompass realms outside of your courses?

And the most galling little piece of support (incidentally, the stimulus which provoked the execution of this epistle)—a notice on a bulletin board:

"Wanted: History 200 term paper (3,000 words approx.). Will pay according to mark received."

O.K.—so some of your are practical and say you are here to get a degree (an extension of that hated symbol) in order to make money.

Couldn't you concentrate on the valuable knowledge to yourself and to your field instead of the "mark" on the next exam paper? Thorough knowledge of your field and of how to live would make for a more productive and a more satisfied you.

I am not speaking to all—I have, in fact, encountered a few individuals who are not just mark-chasing. But, they are FEW!

We need an answer. How do we extricate ourselves from this situation—this destructive attitude? It is destructive to you as a human being and as a productive member of society.

Yours most sincerely,
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Today - Freeze Fees

Seven Years Ago--Raise Fees

By

Canadian University Press

An enormous amount of attention has been focused this year on student means, student aid and efforts to freeze the rising tuition fees at American and Canadian universities. Some recent Canadian student editorials have gone so far as to demand free university education.

But, in 1957, serious consideration was being given to a proposal to raise tuition fees to match the costs of university instruction, simultaneously introducing installment and credit plans on an unprecedented scale to compensate.

In an article entitled "Colleges Are Too Cheap," published in *Fortune* magazine September 1957, Herbert Solow explained his reasons for urging the scheme.

ENORMOUS CHARITY

He called U.S. higher education an "enormous charity" with students paying an average of 33 per cent of teaching costs. He added that the gap between tuition fees and costs was growing rapidly with increases in university enrollment.

According to a 1954 survey, he said, a yearly new income of \$608 million, in addition to that of established sources—endowments, grants, alumni gifts, et cetera—would be needed by universities during the next ten years.

He said discounts to students, which could top \$4 billion by 1970, were made possible only by low faculty salaries, and stated that more than a score of institutions paid full professors less than \$3,000, with half of all faculty ranks earning below \$5,600.

BOOST SALARIES

According to the Presidents' Committee, institutions will have to boost pay by 100 to 125 per cent to hold an attract first-rate talent," he said. "After this projected raise, the 1970 faculty might cost two and a half times what the faculty cost today—close to \$4 billion.

He said that if all institutions set tuition fees at a level of true costs, an estimated six million students in 1970 might provide \$6.5 billion in revenue, enough to cover the projected faculty bill and all other direct costs of instruction.

"But, raising tuition fees to match costs would tend to jeopardize democracy in education unless there were compensating aid to desirable, needy applicants," he added. "A partial solution to this problem would be a loan fund that would take care of all who wish to use it."

"Retroactive scholarships could be provided to cover educational debts of those who became teachers, preachers, or members of other poorly paid professions."

MAKE LOANS ATTRACTIVE

He said that, although in 1957 American students raised only 1.5 per cent of their funds by borrowing, colleges could make loans "attractive" by establishing substantial loan funds, promoting their use, and making them broadly available at low interest and for long terms.

"A loan system that would make higher tuition fees possible in the economics of higher education would cause a substantial change in tuition.

"Something will have to be changed," he concluded.

Background

Tuition Fees Increase Across Canada

By Mary Osborne
for

Canadian University Press

Late last year the administrations and students' councils at two Manitoba universities were pitted in a foray over proposed increases in tuition fees which is likely to be repeated at every university in Canada within the next year.

The Manitoba story began at the 28th congress of the Canadian Union of Students (CUS) in Toronto last September. Reacting to unprecedented hikes in university tuition fees last fall, CUS fell behind a "freeze the fees" campaign pending the outcome of the final report of the Canadian Universities Foundation Commission on the Financing of Higher Education (Bladen Commission) in May. CUS further suggested that in the future, students be consulted and involved in discussions concerning fees and fee increases.

23 universities increase fees

CUS alarm was underlined by a fall survey of 34 degree-granting institutions by the Canadian Press. The survey showed that increases of from \$15 to \$80 had been imposed on students at 23 of 34 Canadian universities. It also showed that with tuition fees for a general arts student averaging about \$500, room and board, books and other expenses would push the cost of a year at a Canadian university to between \$1,500 and \$2,000 without luxuries.

At the same time, Dominion Bureau of Statistics figures cast the problem in some perspective. Tuition fees paid by students, they showed, accounted for only 26.6 per cent of the operating and research costs of operating Canadian universities in the 1962-63 academic year. The remainder, some \$253,002,000 was supplied by the provincial (38 per cent) and federal (19.3 per cent) governments and endowments (15.2 per cent).

Canadian Universities Foundation surveys showed that the operating expenditures of Canadian universities were increasing at an annual rate of 15 per cent, that university enrolments had doubled in the last seven years, would triple in the next eleven, and that \$800,000,000 in capital expenditures would be required by 1966 and again by 1968.

battle lines drawn at united college

Battle lines were drawn in Manitoba when in November Dr. W. C. Lockhart, President of Winnipeg's United College, joined a growing chorus of Canadian university administrators who feel that students should be making greater contributions to the rising cost of higher education. President Lockhart said he felt government and endowments would come to the aid of the countries' financially-strapped universities but "the most promising and justifiable area to consider is academic fees. With this there can surely be no objection."

He was wrong. His suggestion that tuition fees at United College and the University of Manitoba might be increased from \$50 to \$100 provided CUS with its first opportunity to act on its "freeze the fees" policy. In telegrams to Dr. Lockhart and Dr. H. H. Saunderson, president of the Univer-

sity of Manitoba, CUS President Jean Bazin attacked any thought of increasing tuition fees without regard for student means. He asked the two university presidents to postpone action until the Bladen Commission completed its report.

Twenty-four Canadian universities and colleges responded to a CUS request to send telegrams to the two university presidents protesting proposed fee increases and the student governments at United College and the University of Manitoba launched "freeze the fees" attacks.

isn't possible to freeze fees

Presidents Lockhart and Saunderson were unmoved. In a statement following the CUS action Dr. Lockhart argued that more money was urgently needed to meet rising costs and to provide the staff necessary to handle the advancing tidal wave of enrolment in universities and colleges. Dr. Saunderson said, "It just isn't possible to freeze university tuition fees at the present level unless the university's expenditures can be similarly frozen."

The two men had support. Weeks later, Dean Vincent Bladen of the University of Toronto said his commission might recommend a doubling or tripling of university tuition—"The fees must go up"—but that a rise in fees would be conditional on some form of increased aid to needy students. "An equitable balance between costs and fees will be struck," he told reporters in Edmonton.

For the moment, a quiet truce, in which no one is saying anything, has interrupted the battle in Manitoba. But the prospect of an across the board fee increase at Winnipeg's two universities is still very much alive. Meanwhile four other Canadian universities have hinted tuition increases might be in the offing in 1965.

CUS stand idealistic one

In December Dr. G. E. Hall, president of the University of Western Ontario told student spokesmen he expected Western's fees would be increased \$50 a year for the next four years. "Seventy-five per cent of the families of students at this university could well afford a \$50 increase without batting an eyelid," he said. "As for consulting students before increasing fees, this is nearly impossible," he said. "If an increase is necessary, we will inform the students' council and give our reasons at that time." He added, "The CUS stand toward tuition increases is an idealistic one."

President Hall pointed out that the percentage of operating revenue contributed by students is decreasing. He noted that increased provincial aid has allowed Western to cut the percentage operating revenue provided by student fees from 31.54 in 1962-63 to an estimated 26.20 in 1964-65.

Other universities which have suggested immediate fee hikes in recent months are the University of New Brunswick, Dalhousie University and the University of British Columbia.

The fear held by Canadian student leaders is that escalating tuition fees may curtail the educational careers of students who simply can't keep pace with rising costs. Commenting on a CUS survey which showed an average

\$60 increase at 20 of 26 Canadian universities last October, CUS President Bazin asked, "Are tuition fees going to rise year after year when summer employment for students is declining and when financial aid to students is not meeting the normal growth of Canadian universities?"

Concern for student aid is, to be sure, a symptom of the tuition trauma. Student loan schemes, it is argued, do little to compensate for increasing tuition fees and to alleviate the financial burden of the needy student. A member of the student government at the University of Victoria recently blasted Chancellor J. B. Clearhue for suggesting tuition fees should be increased \$100 through a promissory note repayable without interest over five years.

"To delay payment of high tuition fees through devices like promissory notes or loans does not justify increasing tuition," he

notes only delay unjust taxation

said. "The devices merely delay the unjust taxation until the loans become due which, in fact, is right after graduation when the graduate's earnings are low and living expenses high."

"So far a system of equitable aid to needy students has not been devised," The Gateway, student newspaper at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, said last month. "And without a revision in policy towards means tests, which in many cases constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy, there is little hope that the Bladen Commission can suggest a workable scheme whereby fees can be increased without making a university education impossible for a great many."

Prime Minister Pearson told an Ottawa audience last October that he believes in free education for qualified students. To this radical but nonetheless harmless statement (education is a provincial responsibility) he added that although there will always be impediments of one kind or another, financial barriers to education which now exist cannot be tolerated indefinitely. Student leaders will await anticipated revisions of the Canada Student Loan Plan this summer to judge the sincerity of the Prime Minister's remarks.

student loan plan not last word

That the government's student loan plan is not regarded by students as the last word in student aid has been made abundantly clear since its inception at the beginning of the current university year. A submission to the Bladen Commission from the student government at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, in December summed up student reactions. It termed the loan plan an interim measure, calling for a reversal in the trend to increasing tuition and asked for new program to supplement rather than replace existing student aid schemes.

In the meantime, students, administrators and government officials alike, await the report of the Bladen Commission. Unless it comes up with something more than the hackneyed financial clichés of the past ten years, Canadian students may be asked to foot an increasing share of the monumental tab on university education.