

Women hit hardest by cutbacks in education

(CARILLON) — 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 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 Karne 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 counterbalance 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 by expanding the perspective of women.

May Corkery, coordinator of the Canadian Committee of Learning Opportunities for Women, confirmed the detrimental effects of cutbacks on part-time students, the majority of which are mature women.

Women's career counselling and access to programs which were formed just after International Women's Year are being cut, Corkery said. Female student must also grapple with cuts in daycare facilities and, as part-time

students, are ineligible for student aid, according to the OFS paper.

The result, Corkery says, is that lower-income women don't have access to post-secondary education.

Women cause of unemployment

MANITOBAN — Canada's high unemployment has been partially caused by too many women looking for jobs, according to Finance Minister Jean Chretien.

Chretien told a Toronto audience recently that the shortage of jobs was partially a result of the unexpectedly high participation of women in the labour force in the last few years. However, he said he expected "this rapid increase to taper off in the future."

However, an executive member of the National Action Committee for the Status of Women says this statement only confirms the government's attitude that women are to blame for unemployment.

"Presently, it's a very fashionable approach to blame women for the unemployment problem, when it's clearly the economy's inability to respond to the needs of a growing work force that is the culprit."

The opposition has also questioned Chretien's assertion the participation rate will level off, in view of previous vastly incorrect predictions.

Already, women's participation rate has reached what the finance department had predicted for 1986. In a paper presented to the First Ministers' Conference in November, the department admitted it had underestimated the growth, and as a result, the labour force would grow faster in the 1980s than previously predicted.

In a recent report, the C.D. Howe Institute also said there were strong reasons to believe women's participation would continue to rise.

In the House of Commons March 5, PC MP David MacDonald questioned Chretien's rationale, given that "previous estimates by his department were so woefully wrong."

Although Chretien responded that the rapid increases in the past few years and the lessening gap in participation rates between the U.S. and Canada indicate "the acceleration will stop very soon", MacDonald pointed out that a recent report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development predicted that the growth in the participation rate in Europe and the U.S. would continue. J. Swan said she expected continued growth, given that women need and wish to work. The finance department mistakes, she said, indicate "they just don't understand the factors that motivate women to work."

The amount of the growth, Swan said, would depend on several factors, not the least being what she termed "the success of the government's campaign to pressure women out of the labour force".

Financial Administrator

Hudson speaks on SRC matters



By GORDON LOANE

C.H.S.R., the Yearbook, Campus Police, C.H.V.W. and the future operations of the U.N.B. S.R.C. were among various issues discussed with S.R.C. Administrator Ted Hudson in an interview this week.

Asked to comment on the recent CHSR Referendum, Hudson "seemed quite pleased" with the results. In fact, "I am glad the CHSR-FM referendum was a decisive as it was". As to his role in the expansion of CHSR Hudson remarked that he will only become involved in areas of finance and administration "if he is requested to do so" by the SRC executive.

The Yearbook has been a cause for concern in SRC circles the last

couple of years. Asked to comment on the yearbook position vis a vis sales to this point in the

year Hudson said sales are at the 800 to 900 level at the moment and thus are up over the same

period last year. To the Administrator's knowledge advertising solicitation has been completed for this year and the results are favourable. It is hard to determine what their final financial situation will be at this point. However, Hudson is presently reviewing the yearbook budget and doing a cost analysis of the situation. "The number of yearbooks to be ordered has yet to be finalized but an order for 'some 1200 books' is predicted", said Hudson.

Hudson was "basically in agreement with the suggestions made by SRC president Dave Bartlett concerning yearbook sales at registration. What will actually take place in September is subject to the approval of the Yearbook staff "but a reduction in price to stimulate sales of the yearbook through frosh packs seems like an excellent idea.

Perhaps more orientation pictures could be placed in the yearbook commented Hudson. Studies show that people have the tendency to buy a publication like the yearbook if events they participate in are covered.

Asked to comment on the Brunswickan operation Hudson professed to be impressed with their financial situation over the last couple of years. "They have

done an excellent job". Basically the Brunswickan budget is favourable if advertising sales are good. And they have been excellent." There has been much accountability in the Brunswickan organization in the last couple of years commented Hudson.

Hudson refused to comment on the recent suggestion that only one vice president is needed for the union suggesting that "this is a student union organizational matter" and is a concern "for the executive and all of the Council" to determine.

Campus Police now have a new office in Room #124 of the S.U.B. and Hudson said, "They need an office to do their administrative work and to keep their files and equipment". In fact Campus Police used to occupy the present S.R.C. Administrator's office in past years. They are "a very necessary organization and they need some space for their operation", according to Hudson.

Concerning the revision of SRC Honorary, Hudson said "there seems to be a general feeling about the honoraria situation". If the union decides to look into the matter the summer is an ideal time to do some research on the matter. Then some suggestions could be ready for review by the appropriate committee in the fall".

Renovations in the SUB are being considered at this time according to Hudson. The SUB Director is apparently looking into the matter. Some consideration is being given to renovations on the third floor of the SUB.

CHWV also came up for brief discussion. Asked if any additional

plans are in the works Hudson professed to know of no plans for expansion, etc. at the moment. "Of course, this is a Student Union

matter according to Hudson and it is up to the Union to decide whether money will be allocated for current maintenance or future expansion, etc.

Hudson seemed to be in basic agreement with the SRC Comptroller Scott Cronshaw concerning the union's present legal retainer. "For the amount of legal work and the assistance received by the union we are receiving good value for our investment."

Asked to comment on his role within the Student Union Hudson professed to be involved with a budget "in excess of 1/2 a million dollars" annually. It keeps him busy said Hudson who has been with the Student Union as Administrator since January 1976.

Hudson was asked if the union contemplated buying its own cargo van. Three studies have been done on the matter — one each year for the past three years. High insurance rates, maintenance and storage costs make purchasing a van not worthwhile according to Hudson.

Asked what was in the wind for the summer months Hudson claimed that an intensive cost analysis on all union budgets will be done. This will be prepared for the benefit of the Comptroller, the Administrative Board and all

organizations for the fall. Certain problems are now being studied.

Telephone costs appear to be a problem at the moment and are being looked into.

SRC files that are presently stored in the basement need to be reviewed and information needs to be brought up to date as a result. The tender contract for the

travel office must be finalized according to Hudson although he revealed Maritime Travel has

been awarded the contract. Inventories will be rechecked in the summer as is the routine every summer according to Hudson. In addition the Financial Policy of the Union will be reviewed and updated. In addition the Union should consider the possibility of doing a research project on the history of the Union, sometime in the future.

The month of August usually is a busy time said the SRC Administrator. The financial books of the union must be prepared for audit at the end of August. Orientation activities are usually in high gear for September by this time said Hudson.

Hudson wished to inform all students organizations that he is available at any time if he is needed. He spends a good deal of his time advising student leaders and organizations on many aspects. "I enjoy working for the union and helping to solve problems," Hudson said.