

5,000 confront Lougheed in Alberta

EDMONTON (CUP) — About 5,000 Alberta students and staff demonstrated their opposition to tuition increases and inadequate government funding of education in a March 15 rally.

They chanted, "We won't pay more for less" and gathered on the steps of the Alberta legislature here to demand that the government loosen the public purse strings to ease the financial pressure that has led to tuition increases and cutbacks in services which have eroded the quality of education.

But a debate on the floor of the legislature immediately following the protest showed that the cries fell on deaf ears.

From the steps of the legislature, premier Peter Lougheed told protesters in a brief speech, interrupted by boos and chanting, that there were two issues: the matter of government funding of education and the level of tuition fees.

He told them that taxpayers pay 87 per cent of the University of Alberta's operating budget and that tuition in Alberta, a province with good employment opportunities, was among the lowest in the country.

This was answered by the crowd with a thunderous chanting of



"I'm glad you young people have seen fit to protest nonviolently. It shows you're civilized. Now get out."

"Bullshit, bullshit, bullshit."

Lougheed said he was impressed with a brief on tuition increases prepared by march organizers, and told the crowd that his government would re-examine the provincial student aid program. When he said that the students were demanding

taxpayers pay a greater portion of the costs of their education, the protesters shouted back, "Yes, right on," and chanted "We pay taxes too."

After Lougheed's speech, Federation of Alberta Students' executive member Brian Mason said the restrictive spending in Alberta was part of a federal government policy of restrictive spending for all social services, and pointed out that it was by the premier's own admission that the Alberta student aid system "stinks."

Question of BOG elections up to student senators

By Paul Stuart

Members of the Student Senate Caucus are being polled on whether the present vacancy on the Board of Governors should be filled by a campus-wide election or be selected by the caucus itself.

Correction

The Communications Department regrets an error made in the article entitled "OSAP Details Released" on the University Newsbeat page of the March 16 Excalibur.

All appeals should be handled through the office of Student Awards, Room 110A Steacie Science Building, telephone -2542, not through the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. An interview with the Director of Student Awards will appear next week in University Newsbeat.

Re: CYSF Chief Returning Officer Garfield Payne's demand for a "retraction and apology on page one of your next issue for the page one error in the Mark Boudreau story in your issue of March 9, 1978."

While Boudreau mistakenly quoted a passage from a statement by Payne and identified it as the reason given in that statement for the disqualification of Harvey Pinder in the CYSF presidential campaign, the Excalibur staff has voted to make neither a retraction nor an apology, as Boudreau maintains that Payne made a verbal statement to the same effect at a meeting of candidates March 9.

Excalibur stands by its editorial position on the decision to exclude Pinder — that he should not have been disqualified on a questionable technicality.

Ballots have been sent to every student Senator by registered mail. There are 23 positions on the caucus and word on the senators' decision should be given tomorrow.

Included with the ballot was a letter from student council President Paul Hayden, arguing that according to the York Act, the senate caucus has the mandate to "present a candidate to the Board for ratification." Hayden contends that as caucus members "are aware of the operations of the university, they are the most knowledgeable people to select a candidate for a student position of the Board of Governors."

The letter makes no mention of the argument for campus-wide elections and caucus chairman Bob Cash did not send the Senators a letter arguing the case for a general election of student representatives.

In a letter to Excalibur published today, Graduate Studies senator Celia Harte Johnson maintains that "the practice of attaching a 'position paper' to a ballot is tantamount to placing campaign literature in a voting booth." Johnson says that "whatever the outcome of the ballot I feel obliged to challenge it, as the democratic process was compromised by Mr. Hayden's letter."

Johnson argues the case for campus-wide elections in her letter (see page 5).

In response to Johnson's charges, Cash said, "the only thing I'm interested in is getting everyone's decision, putting them all together and coming up with a solution." He added that he had interest in deciding the issue on his own and that Hayden's letter was sent with the ballot because it is his policy to include any submissions in mailings to Senators.

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How you voted

PRESIDENT		
DAVID CHODIKOFF	535 (47.5%)	elected
Marry Marrone (S.A.)	500 (44.4%)	elected
Arnie Bell	91 (8%)	elected
CALUMET		
Lawson Oates		acclaimed
Chris Winter		acclaimed
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES		
Michael Bordt (S.A.)		acclaimed
Pat Doyle (S.A.)		acclaimed
Geoff Hare (S.A.)		acclaimed
FOUNDERS		
Linda Blanchet (S.A.)		acclaimed
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GRAD STUDIES		
Abbie Bakan (S.A.)		acclaimed
Dave McNally (S.A.)		acclaimed
Abie Weisfeld (S.A.)		acclaimed
McLAUGHLIN		
Barry Clements	143	elected
Donn Sugg	125	elected
Jon Simon	121	elected
Frank Zeppierri	94	
STONG		
Leon Mitchell	74	elected
George Karayannides	68	elected
Gary Empey	68	elected
Alan Silverberg	60	
Ian Kellogg (S.A.)	57	
Joanne Pritchard (S.A.)	42	
Fred Kuzyk (S.A.)	16	
VANIER		
Jeff Bien	81	elected
Tim Dayfoot (S.A.)	77	elected
Luigi Tucci	69	tied
James Belyea	69	tied
Cheryll Pruitt	57	
WINTERS		
Keith Smockum	104	elected
Robin Carter	99	elected
Kerry Johnston	93	elected
Joel Goldfarb (S.A.)	49	

Davis stays away from demo

*continued from page one refused to attend.

When the demonstration organizers told him, on the morning of the demonstration, that they wanted Premier Davis or no one to speak to the crowd, Parrott left it to the Premier to decide. Davis refused to speak and when Parrott was asked to appear again, he turned the organizers down.

Davis has publicly claimed that "there are no cutbacks" citing the 5.8% increase in post-secondary funding planned for next year. The organizers of the demonstration pointed out, however, that this falls far short of the rate of inflation, which for post-secondary institutions is in the neighbourhood of 11 or 12 percent. In real terms, they said, the 5.8% increase amounts to a five or six percent cutback.

When the demonstrators were told that Davis had refused to attend, they began a rhythmic chant of "Harry, Harry, Harry" in an attempt to coax Harry Parrott, Minister of colleges and universities to appear and speak to the gathering.

Michael Cassidy of the New Democratic Party and Stuart Smith of the Liberal Party made an appearance to state their position on funding for post-secondary institutions. Both met with a mixed response.

Cassidy received many cheers for taking aim at the Tories' massive cutbacks, but received only polite applause, some boos and much silence when he ended his speech by calling for an NDP government as a solution to education cutbacks. Stuart Smith was met with boos, although he did get cheers from the Ryerson contingent for stating his support for community colleges and from Glendon when he told them, in French, that bilingual institutions like Glendon must not be allowed to go under.

The most favourable response was reserved for Cliff Pilkey, president of the Ontario Federation of Labour. The crowd roared its approval, when Pilkey pledged the unconditional support of the Ontario union movement to the anti-cutbacks struggle of the post-secondary community.

Tony Woolfson, chairperson of the Graduate Assistants' Association at York and co-ordinator of the York Anti-

Cutbacks Coalition, thought the demonstration was a big success.

"It was quite a high," he said, "really inspiring for all present. At least, Bill Davis knows that at least 7,000 of the electorate in Ontario are dissatisfied with his education policies."

Woolfson said, though, that the demonstration in itself wasn't going to change anything. "You'd like to think that it's going to change the government's mind, change the York administration's mind, but in all truthfulness, it probably won't. It'll take a lot more than one demonstration to do that."

Harvey Pinder, student representative on York's Board of Governors and one of the key organizers of the rally, agreed with Woolfson's assessment. "One demonstration, even though there were seven or eight thousand people, will not change the government's ideas," he said. "It is only consistent organizing of all means, including future demonstrations, which will bring to bear the political pressure which forces the government to change their plans."

Both Woolfson and Pinder thought the demonstration could have been handled better to ensure that it was more than a one-shot affair. Woolfson said that it should have been announced to the crowd that they could sign up during or after the rally if they wanted to be involved in future anti-cutbacks activities. "The fact that it wasn't announced," said Woolfson, "was going against what the Metro Coalition had voted on."

Pinder said that as well as giving students and faculty and staff an opportunity to sign up for future activities, "there should have been more proposals for concrete action to be taken in the future."

"One proposal which a few of us are putting forward," said Pinder, "is for teach-ins next fall on the cutbacks and the deleterious effects they have on our education."

He added that "great efforts will have to be made to ensure the openness of the anti-cutbacks committees and increased involvement by the rank and file membership of the unions and student federation memberships."

Woolfson said that he hoped everyone interested in continuing the anti-cutbacks fight, would

attend the next meeting of the York Anti-Cutbacks Coalition. It will be held next Thursday, but details on time and place have yet to be confirmed.

But although there were criticisms of the demonstrations from Woolfson, Pinder and others, they and most of the people who helped to build it thought it was an overwhelming success.

Woolfson said that the demonstration was a big step forward in getting rid of "apathy" from the campuses, "and that's what it's all about in my opinion," he said. "Breaking down apathy means me talking to you and both of us talking to the rest of the campus and all of us becoming a little more aware of the real impact of the cutbacks and the necessity of doing something about it."

Low-turnout explanations

*continued from page one with getting summer jobs."

Paul Hayden, president of CYSF, agreed with Chodikoff adding that "people were turned off by the whole election."

Chodikoff won by only 35 votes. Chodikoff attributed his win to the fact that "as time went on the sympathy for Pinder was dying down. My support increased because I was addressing the issues."

On winning the presidential election Chodikoff stated that he would first direct his attention to the cutbacks and student employment.

His main concern, however, was to establish better relations with the colleges. In order to achieve this aim, Chodikoff has proposed to hold a conference with the different colleges in order to establish some sort of co-ordination.

Despite these promises, the election of David Chodikoff is not accepted by all. Student Action and others are now in the process of passing a petition asking "for a new presidential election in the fall and that no major decisions be made by CYSF over the summer." The petition is based on the exclusion of Harvey Pinder from the ballot and the lower voter turnout.