

Science libraries under pressure

WINNIPEG (CUP) — Students at the University of Manitoba may soon have to pay \$300 each to maintain their science library privileges, while students at the University of Calgary can look forward to a greatly reduced inventory at their science library.

The science libraries at both universities are facing financial crises, but for different reasons.

Enrollment in the science faculty of the U of M has set all-time highs for the past six years, but provincial funding has steadily declined.

To underline the seriousness of the problem, the U of M Science Faculty Council has endorsed a recommendation to charge all students \$300 per person per full academic year.

There are about 24,000 full and part-time students enrolled at the U of M.

The surtax, combined with gua-

ranteed two to three per cent tuition increases for next year, amounts to a 27 per cent increase in student fees.

"There is definitely a threat that science will become an elitist institution," says Al Ogradnik, a member of the faculty council.

"However," he said, "for lack of government funding, this surtax appears to be the only viable alternative to maintain the basic standards of the faculty."

But a professor on the Library Committee and the Senate called the tactics "highly unfair."

"It is obvious that students are being used in a very Machiavellian way," said the professor, who did not wish to be identified. "It is clear that the proposed solution is highly political and that the students are being used as pawns to draw attention to a desperate problem."

Ogradnik considers political

pressure the most effective tool to force the government to recognize universities and students as valuable community resources.

He said cutbacks to the library have had a great negative effect on science students. The Science Library seven years ago held 2030 serial titles, but now holds 1371. To offset the current budgetary shortfall, the Science Library Users' Committee projects cancellation of about 200 more titles.

"The problem continues to be the inflationary cost of serials which exceeds the budget allocation by eight to 10 per cent every year," according to Science Library Users' Committee chair R.M. Lyric.

The head of the Environment-Science-Technology Library at the University of Calgary says inflation is why the library plans to cancel subscriptions to more than 100 journals.

Hazel Fry said the financial crunch is a result of inflation — science journals have increased 20 to 40 per cent this year — in combination with the low Canadian dollar.

Fry said by charging in American dollars for their journals and inflating shipping costs, "the Europeans

are gouging us."

Small circulations and specialized subjects lead to high prices. Fry said the average subscription costs \$250 per year, with an upper limit of \$10,000 for one publication.

She said 112 subscriptions have already been cancelled, while 59 more may be cut next year.

Git yer tickets!

by Dean Bennett

Fear not, Olympic fans, you can still catch the games during Reading Week in '88.

On Monday, GFC executive passed a motion to hold off the implementation of a new time for Reading Week. The break, currently held in the seventh week of the second term, was due to be rescheduled to the eighth week in 1987-

88. If this was to occur, though, the break would begin after the Olympics had ended.

The motion was passed with the provision that it passed at the Students' Council meeting on Tuesday night — which it did.

The revising of Reading Week will now take place for the 1988-89 school year.

Season's Greetings

from Spuds MacKenzie

BUD LIGHT
BEER