



NERVOUS BREAKDOWN—Faced with the prospect of 30,000 students, a section of the new parkade collapsed under the strain Thursday. The collapse spewed semi-hardened cement over the site. For lack of a more concrete suggestion, why not leave it as it is and label it "Progress?" This campus needs a little culture, and besides students are last on the parkade's occupancy list, anyway.

we
need

The Gateway

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aid

VOL. LX, No. 18 THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, EDMONTON, CANADA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1969, SIXTEEN PAGES

Two strike in sympathy

Two U of A arts students are going on "strike" in sympathy with the PSA department at Simon Fraser University.

Voters going to the polls today to elect three students' union representatives for the Faculty of Arts have seven instead of eight candidates to choose from.

"I am withdrawing in favor of the principle of the SFU student body and faculty," Kim Hancock said in a statement to The Gateway Thursday.

"The students' union does not represent the community by the very nature of the electoral system being representative only of the elitist student body."

"It is important to understand that effective change cannot be produced to its desired state by the student council as it exists.

"Dissent is not change when dissent remains dissent."

"I therefore leave to join the struggle at Simon Fraser."

Bob Sutherland quit Monday and is planning to go to SFU in hopes of joining the political science department.

Wednesday night, he outlined his reasons for quitting.

"Because of their location in the structure of the society—which determines their sources of funds, their own views of the world, the subjects of their research, etc.—social scientists at the University of Alberta are unable to engage in any studies of teaching which are at all critical of the society.

UNIVERSITY IRRELEVANT

"I have found the social science courses and the structure of this university at large irrelevant to the needs and interests of the majority of the people of this part of the world—irrelevant to the interests of workers, housewives, small farmers.

"The courses are relevant largely to the interests of the enemies of the people—corporations, foundations and so on.

"At the one university in Canada at which social scientists have been deliberately working to bring together theory and practice in the service of the people—SFU—the enemies of the people are trying to smash critical teachers, researchers and students.

I AM LEAVING

"I cannot remain at the University of Alberta, learning lies and doing nothing when people at SFU are engaged now in struggle that raises all the important questions about the work of social scientists.

"I am therefore leaving this University of Alberta and its lies and I am going to SFU to join the struggle there. And I say to those who remain at the U of A: You can fight, or leave and fight, or stay and live your lies. Those are your choices," Mr. Sutherland said.



BOB SUTHERLAND

Study attacks student loans

Findings recommend non-repayable grants

TORONTO (CUP)—An in-depth study of student aid in Ontario has condemned the province's current student loan program as inadequate and inefficient, and calls for a radical re-structuring of student assistance and provincial tax inequalities to break down class barriers to higher education.

Student Aid and Access To Higher Education, a study undertaken by four University of Toronto students, will receive its official airing Friday at a meeting of the Ontario Department of University Affairs. The meeting is expected to be closed to the public.

UNEQUAL ACCESSIBILITY

The study, based on responses from 8,700 students from various social and economic backgrounds across the province, explicitly points to the class structure of

Ontario as a cause of unequal accessibility to higher education, and calls for massive changes in taxation, educational programs at the high school level to ensure students are aware of all available opportunities, and the replacement of all student loans with non-repayable grants—in effect, student salaries.

"Both a loan scheme and OSAP (the Ontario Student Aid Plan, which combines both loans and non-repayable grants) force students of low income to go into debt," the report says.

The report was written by Edmund Clark, David Cook, George Fallis and Michael Kent, all University of Toronto students at the time the research project began. It was financed jointly by the Department of University Affairs and the Ford Foundation.

CLASS STRUCTURE

Their findings, the four said, affirm the existence of a class structure in Ontario—whether the province likes it or not.

"While the present society has generally adopted a mythology which denies the existence of classes, it is clear that they do exist," they said. "Different groups have quite distinct life patterns. Their values and ambitions differ from those of other groups. They enjoy unequally the benefits of society."

But while the "concept of total equality" involves "very real theoretical and practical problems," according to the researchers, "the present degree of inequality is far beyond that which is functionally necessary for the operation of the society."

A realization of class position, the researchers said, will have an effect on students considering further education. They will feel they

can't afford it, and unless other information is available, they will decide not to apply to university.

STUDENT AID

Student aid schemes are important, the researchers said, when they alter "the decision-making process of students who are unsure about continuing." OSAP, they added, isn't doing the job.

Only 40 per cent of students at the grade nine level—a crucial year, when students make decisions about further streaming in their education—have heard of the OSAP program.

"Those among the lower income groups in grade nine who want to go on to university have an unreasonable idea of the cost," the study reports.

"These students envisage post-secondary education as expensive. In fact they greatly exaggerate its costs. It appears to them as alien, dominated by middle and upper class students."

NOT EFFECTIVE

A loan-grant program such as OSAP does not overcome low-income resistance to borrowing money, especially in the lower grades, the report says, and is not effective in encouraging students to proceed with their education, particularly at lower grade levels.

Simply changing the student aid system will not solve the problem, the researchers warned, and recommended that the Ontario government reform the tax structure to eliminate all major "regressive taxes" and rely exclusively upon "progressive sources" for revenue.

"The situation which we found is so severe, that only a more sweeping attack on the environmental forces causing the problem can hope to remedy it," the report states.