



Remember this? It was the scene at the north end of the High Level Bridge a year and a day ago. The March. A year later the government's response has been even more inadequate than its funding. On these pages the present situation is reviewed, in part, by Randy Read and other members of COTIAC.

Many of the costs previously met by the University have been transferred to the student. Thus the cost of education can clearly be seen to have increased ... In combination with the rising cost of books and tuition fees, the effect is to add substantially to the burden that an individual student must carry in coming to the University."

John Forster, Dean
Faculty of Graduate Studies

GN UP

COTIAC backs FAS petition

The Committee Opposing Tuition Increases and Cutbacks (COTIAC) decided last week to place its support behind a petition to the provincial government which has been organized across the province by the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS).

COTIAC has begun to distribute the petition this week. The petition calls upon the provincial government to: 1) increase funding to cover inflation experienced by post-secondary institutions, 2) review the student aid program, including student and public representatives in the review process, 3) have dependent status for student aid end at age 24, 4) commit itself to a policy of having no further tuition increases, 5) allow full public discussion of the needs of post-secondary education, 6) protest the decision of the federal government to cut spending in education transfers to the provinces, student housing, summer job creation and research, and 7) make the public representatives on the Boards of Governors truly representative of the public of Alberta.

In a *Gateway* interview, Tema Frank, chairperson of COTIAC, said that cutbacks in education are still with us, and that the problem is apt to get even worse. She said that students must let the government know that they have not forgotten about cutbacks, and that strong support of the petition will help achieve that.

Students who are interested in picking up petitions in order to collect signatures may do so at the Information Desk in SUB. Completed petitions may be returned to a box at the same location.

Entomology, still bugged by cutbacks

The acting chairman of the Department of Entomology says cutbacks in the funding of post-secondary education are damaging the teaching and public relations functions of his department. The situation is "worse—worse" now than it was at the same time last year.

According to Dr. R.H. Gooding, one of the most serious consequences of cutbacks may be a worsening of relations between various departments of the university. He said that people in the university community may "end up scraping over bones—one part will be left against another."

Already, he said, departments are having to increase the charges for services supplied to other departments and individual researchers in order to make their ends meet.

He can foresee a time when

one part of the university will accuse another of failing to exercise the necessary restraint in the competition for diminishing funds.

Dr. Gooding said that students in his department, Entomology, will have fewer specimens to examine in their classes next year. Costs to replace specimens are up—and funds to replace them are down.

Courses in which undergraduate students do research projects in Entomology will also

Ontario hires help to sell U cutbacks

TORONTO (CUP) — When the going gets tough, the tough hire a public relations man to boost their sagging image.

At least that's what Ontario universities, beset with education cutbacks and tuition increases, have decided on as a course of action.

The Council of Ontario Universities is looking for a public relations officer who would distribute information to the public about the universities, arrange meetings between the council and each of the three political parties and establish a special advisory committee made up of business, labour and industry executives to provide advice on the issues of higher education.

The officer would also develop and implement the programs outlined in a report by the Special Committee for the Public Image of the Universities. The committee was set up to "examine the activities of individual institutions in dealing with the public perception of the current role of universities."

According to the report, the leaders of government, business and industry are "from time to time, critical about the effectiveness and/or relevance of universities", making the PR position a necessity.

suffer. Projects will have to be restricted to ones in which funds can come from externally-funded grants, instead of from department funds. This will make it much more difficult for undergraduate students to learn research techniques in an area which interests them.

In addition, the price of graduate assistantships has gone up, although the total funding for them has not. So next year, there will be at least 10% fewer

continued on page 7

"What a layman sometimes misperceives as unnecessary 'fat' may very well represent resources that are essential for development in instructional, research, and service programs ... We require a level of support that will enable us not only to exist but to continue to develop as a quality institution and as a center of excellence."

E.A. Geddes
Former Chairman, B of G

EDUCATION

Practicum program gets special deal, but how long will the money last?

by Sharon Bell

A unique situation exists for the Division of Field Services, in the Faculty of Education, on the question of programme funding. Two years ago, the provincial government altered the requirements for certification for teachers in Alberta.

A minimum of thirteen weeks student teaching is now required. With this change the Faculty of Education was forced to alter its student teaching requirements.

Unfortunately, it is impossible for the Faculty to finance this alteration under the current funding guidelines. However, the provincial government subsidizes the programme with a special grant of \$6 million for the first four years. The money is divided amongst the three universities in the province.

According to the Assistant Dean—Practicum for the Faculty of Education, Dr. R.K. Jackson, without the special grant the Division of Field Services would not be able to continue developing and expan-

ding its programmes to better meet the needs of the practicum programme.

Dr. Jackson indicated three major areas that would be affected by funding constraints without the grant: the ability to communicate with the schools; the ability to inform the co-operating teachers about their roles and functions; and, the ability to send students to outside the city of Edmonton for their student teaching.

But the grant is only temporary. In two years the Division of Field Services will be faced with the situation of possibly not receiving sufficient funds to maintain these programmes. This could mean that all of the current planning and developing going into the education practicum programme could be going to waste.

To date, there is no indication of continued subsidization by the government. As Dr. Jackson concludes, "If we build something less than the best we can ... it's probably the student who will suffer."

CLASSICS

Even Xeroxing a thing of the past

What do Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Engineering, and Science have in common? Students from these groups take Classics courses! In fact there are fewer students from Arts taking Classics courses than non-Arts students.

However, Dr. Smith, Chairman of the Classics department, has pointed out that it is becoming more and more difficult for his department to meet its responsibilities given the low levels of funding. This year there is an 8% increase in student enrolment in Classics but one fewer permanent staff member.

This means an increased load on the remaining staff members, who already have heavy teaching responsibilities. The lack is partly made up by less experienced sessional lecturers but this is only a temporary solution. What has been happening is that every time a professor retires, his place has been taken by sessional lecturers because there is not enough money to replace him.

Eventually, if funding stays low, Classics might reach the point of having only two or three experienced staff members. As it now is, it is hard to get enough money to pay even a sessional lecturer if he has a doctorate.

There are other problems caused by lack of money. To fund archaeological expeditions, which are needed for both teaching and research, the department has had to get by on Canada Council (S.S.H.R.C.) grants. Other universities have reliable money of their own for this.

Also, the library has been called on to cut all "non-essential journals." The Classics department needs a variety of journals. Classics is so short of money that it cannot be sure of having enough money to keep its Xerox machine.

Every professor shares a phone with at least one other person. The City of Edmonton has given notice of an 11.7% increase in the basic line charge for telephones next year.

Dr. Smith says that the U of A is presently "one of the better universities on the continent ... eventually, we will not be able to maintain this if funding is not increased."

In the meantime Dr. Smith and the Classics department face a desperate struggle to maintain standards in the face of inadequate funding and increased enrolment.