

5000 in Alberta

Students hit the streets

EDMONTON (CUP)—About 5000 Alberta students took to the streets of Edmonton yesterday to protest tuition increases and cutbacks in government funding of education.

The demonstration of students from the universities of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge and the province's community colleges, left the University of Alberta shortly after noon for the provincial legislature, chanting: "They say cut back, we say fight back" and "Why pay more for less?"

Alberta premier Peter Logheed met the students on the steps of the legislature and tried to explain to students that the tuition increases were necessary because Alberta taxpayers were "hard done by". He was soon drowned out by a chant of "bullshit, bullshit" from the angry students.

"He tried to stay away from talking about cutbacks," one participant said later. "He sounds even weaker on that."

A special debate in the provincial

legislature was to follow the demonstration.

The march started ahead of schedule when police were no longer able to contain the students on campus. An observer said there were many police at the demonstration, but they had been "helpful".

The procession was estimated at nearly a mile in length, and filled the entire span of the High Level Bridge, Edmonton's largest bridge,

as it progressed towards the provincial legislative buildings.

Students from outside Edmonton arrived in a motorcade which left Lethbridge earlier in the morning and proceeded through Calgary and Red Deer, gathering support as it went.

The observer, a University of Alberta student, said the only way to describe the demonstration was "incredible".

Power-MacLean are elected

Mike Power and Cathy MacLean have been elected president and vice-president of the Dalhousie Student Union in a landslide victory last night.

Power and MacLean tallied 1028 votes to 396 for Tab Borden and Alan Conway, the only other team in the presidential race.

Power and MacLean's victory was campus wide as the team came out on top of 13 polls and tied one, the graduate house.

There were 112 spoiled ballots in the presidential election.

The Dalhousie Gazette lost its bid for independence by a vote of 810-741. The newspaper's main defeats came in the Dunn and Weldon Law Buildings as well as Howe Hall, the men's residence.

Students voted to maintain the present level of services in the prescription drug plan and to

increase student fees by \$4. Six hundred and forty-eight voted for plan one while plan 4, which was to raise fees by \$2 and to pay \$1 per prescription received 623 votes.

Jean Paul Deveau, running on a pro-differential fee platform, was elected Engineering representative to council by 61-53 over Charles Brown.

Tom McLeod won the Commerce seat 133-81 over Daniel Graham.

The results of the race for the four science seats were as follows: Peter Mack, 318, Peter Hayes, 312, Denise Roberge, 298, Gary McGillivray, 278, and Rodney Brittain, 275.

The election turnout was poor with only 22% of the Dalhousie population exercising their right to vote.

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The election candidates in Tuesday's forum, SUB lobby. Left to right Cathy MacLean, Mike Power, Barry Goldman-chairperson, Tab Borden and Al Conway.

Academic overload

by Marc Allain

The fact that there are now fewer people doing more work for less pay at Dal than there were two years ago is resulting in "low morale and general dissatisfaction amongst faculty that could result in a number of good individuals leaving the university," according to vice president Andrew MacKay.

In a presentation to the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission at public hearings held in Halifax last week MacKay backed this familiar rhetoric on the negative effects cuts in government funding are having on the quality of post secondary education with actual statistics that pinpointed where these effects were being felt most.

MacKay's presentation, which contrasted figures from the 1975-76 academic year with stats for this year, cited reductions in academic, clerical, and operations personnel, slashed budgets for materials and supplies, and library acquisitions as the results of the university's attempt at allocating the limited funds that are available. Since 1975 the university has been under an MPHEC regulation that restricts deficit spending to 2% of the overall budget.

According to MacKay, since that time budgets for teaching materials and supplies have been cut by more than 12%. The allotments for Arts and Science he said have dropped from \$505,000 to \$440,000 while those for the medical school fell

from \$473,000 to \$421,000. The consumer price index during this same period rose by over 15%.

MacKay also listed cutbacks in the number of university employees stating that there are now more than one hundred fewer people employed by the university than there were two years ago. Fifty-five of these were in non-academic areas notably secretarial positions, cleaning and engineering, while sixty others were in academic areas. The latter he said fell primarily in research as grants for projects have been severely curtailed.

MacKay also attributed these reductions to a university policy of not filling positions that become open through normal attrition. At present the university does not replace faculty positions that are vacated because of resignations, leave of absence, sabbaticals or retirement. This same policy is also applied to non-academic positions whenever the terms of collective agreements permit it.

The decline in academic staff has also coincided with an enrollment increase of over 250 students that has affected the student teacher ratio at Dalhousie. Dr. A. Peter Ruderman, dean of administrative studies, also present at the MPHEC hearings, said upwards of fifty students were registered for some classes in the MBA program making it impossible to use teaching methods necessary at that level. MacKay and Ruderman also

pointed to slashed library budgets as another detrimental aspect of the university's forced austerity measures. Ruderman noted that the library no longer subscribes to certain specialty journals and that students were now paying for duplicating costs and materials when these services used to be provided free of charge. Such practices he said amounted to a hidden form of tuition that was unjustifiable in terms of the existing amounts being charged at Dal-

housie.

Earnings for faculty and support staff were also adversely affected by the constraints on the university budget, MacKay stated. Because increases last year were held to 5.5% gaps have increased between salaries and wages paid at Dal and those at other institutions. Figures released by the Dalhousie Faculty association estimate that a 20% differential exists between academic salaries at Dal and other major Canadian universities.

Students plan protest

Students at Nova Scotia universities set tentative plans Saturday for a day of activity throughout the province to protest inadequate government funding to the province's post-secondary institutions.

Representatives from eight institutions decided at a Nova Scotia caucus meeting of the Atlantic Federation of Students (AFS) to take visible protest action to culminate a campaign pressuring the provincial government for more post-secondary funding.

Although the form of the protest is not final, delegates set March 30 as the date for action.

Delegates delayed a final decision about the nature of the protest until they have an opportunity to go to their student councils and discuss the options presented at the caucus meeting.

Cancellation of classes by administrations and faculties, class boycotts by students, information and discussion sessions on campus

and rallies or demonstrations were tactics suggested by delegates to facilitate the protest.

According to Denise Roberge, the caucus chairperson, "All the delegates were keen to get moving and get their students moving, but we will have to see what the response from the student councils will be before we can clearly outline the mechanics of the day."

She suggested there will most probably be a rally in Halifax as the focal point for the protest. "The rally in Halifax last year was a major success and because of the number of students and institutions here we are again looking to the city for the most visible expression of protest." Matt Adamson, from St. Mary's, said a protest is the inevitable next stage to carry the campaign against cutbacks: "We are doing on-campus research and have petitioned the government but our

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