

# 27 per cent of Alberta's post-secondary students are from low-income families

CALGARY (CUP)-Alberta has a better record than Ontario in bringing lower income people into the higher-educational structure stream, but the whole educational structure still needs revamping.

This is the conclusion of Paul Tietzan, a member of the Alberta Government's Financial Advisory Board.

In a no-holds-barred address to the delegates at the Alberta Association of Student's convention over the weekend, Tietzan pointed out that 27% of Alberta's post secondary students are drawn from families with a median income of less than \$3,000, while Ontario's percentage is 19%.

With regard to universal accessibility to educational opportunities, he commented: "Those who have had the benefits of the system have to fight to keep it open."

## TENURE PAYOFF

He also blasted the tenure system, commenting that "tenure is the payoff for keeping quiet for four years".

He concentrated on the students' role in dissolving our "cherished views of education".

Now is the time for fundamental changes, he believes, because there's tremendous flux in what's going to happen in terms of federal-provincial finance. Pointing out that there is a 15% growth limitation on the provinces largest institutions (with the overflow going to new and smaller campuses). He strongly presented his view that there should be more variability and scope and less bureaucracy in the educational process.

The preferred route to education now is through high school to university. If you don't go that route, things are at least better now than they were once. "Now they only slap you on the hands rather than hit you between the eyes".

Tietzan's main complaint is that there is a bias about what education is about. He doesn't see any reason to "require people to hang around the place (the educational institution) while they're studying." and that there is a need for the students to get out into the community to apply their knowledge. Formal structures defy the educational process in his view. "Mass education taught people to be masses....And many are placed in a pedagogical zoo for 10 years taking a remedial PhD.

He feels the really successful student, at some stage gets up from class and says "I've had enough. I'll go from here."

Educated in California, Tietzan says the philosophy there is that the first two years of higher education only allow a student to (hopefully) discover where his true interests lie. From the point of view of true education he feels the first two years are "a waste".

The average Californian has 16.3 years of formal education, and they "still can elect an actor (Ronald Regan) as governor".

On another matter, he feels the student assistance system

should be altered so repayment of loans is done on the basis of a percentage of the student's income when he gets a job. He also feels many students are pressed out of the educational

system who should be brought back in. "Once you knock a man down, he shouldn't be kept down the minute he tries to get back up again".

## MONTREAL PROFS SUPPORT STRIKE

MONTREAL(CUPI)-The Strike front at the University of Montreal achieved total solidarity Tuesday night when faculty members reaffirmed their support for the school's 1,000 nonacademic employees, who walked off their jobs last week.

More than 25,000 students and teachers are now supporting the workers' strike, resulting in a total shutdown of the university while union representatives (affiliated with the Canadian Union of Public Employees) continue negotiations with the administration.

The Association des Professeurs De L'Universite De Montreal last night agreed to give \$2,000 to the strike fund, and urged each of its members to contribute a full day's pay.

The university administration claims it cannot meet the union's wage demands because

of financial restrictions imposed by the government of Quebec.

Union officials, on the other hand, say the administration is obscuring the wage dispute by ignoring the breakdown in job classification presented at the bargaining table. This makes union demands seem

outrageously high.

If the deadlock continues past next week, the professors will meet again to reconsider their stand on the strike. Students have indicated they will respect the picket lines indefinitely until a fair settlement is reached.

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