

BC premier Clark freezes tuition again

BY ANNA ROIK

VICTORIA (CUP) — For the fourth year in a row British Columbia will freeze tuition fees at post-secondary institutions, the province's Advanced Education Minister announced last Friday.

"We must continue to expand access for what has essentially become basic education in today's society," Andrew Petter said at a hastily called news conference at the University of Victoria.

"Students must be able to get ahead without having their education become a debt sentence."

Premier Glen Clark officially announced the decision earlier the same day, in a string of pre-budget appearances to reveal his New Democratic government's policies for the upcoming year.

The decision means the average tuition fee for an undergraduate university program will remain at \$2,280 in 1999-2000. In contrast, the 1998-1999 average

undergraduate in Ontario was \$3,490, and students there face further hikes.

Student leaders applauded the province's move to continue the freeze on fees that was first implemented in 1996.

Rob Fleming, chair of the University of Victoria's student society, said he was also glad the announcement contained no mention of charging differential fees for out-of-province students. Instead, the freeze will apply to all Canadian students studying in BC.

"It is important to preserve the entitlement of Canadian citizenship, no matter what province we choose to live or study in," said Fleming.

Petter, however didn't rule out the possibility of introducing higher fees for non-B.C. students in the future.

"If it comes to a choice of keeping tuition down for students in BC or having to introduce a differential, we may not have a

choice but to bring in differential fees, but we aren't at that point yet," he said.

The Canadian Federation of Students said it was glad the Clark government will continue the tuition freeze, but added its latest campaign will push for lowered fees.

"The goal of the Access 2000 campaign is to pressure the federal and provincial governments to increase the overall accessibility and availability of education through increased public funding and decreased tuition fees," said Maura Parte, chair of the group's BC chapter.

But Petter cautioned that although his government would like to lower tuition fees, action on that front isn't likely any time soon.

"It's been a Herculean effort to maintain the freeze with the decreases in federal money and pressure from other provinces raising tuition yearly," he said.

21 years ago this week

Alberta says unskilled labourers shouldn't bother coming out

Manpower offices were instructed to actively dissuade unskilled workers from moving to Alberta from other parts of Canada. To maintain Alberta's quality of life, the government said it welcomes people who "want to work hard and get up early in the morning," but says "if you are unskilled the situation may be no better here than where you are now." The government said it was concerned that unskilled labourers looking for work would be disappointed and a drain on social services. The phrase "go home bastards" was never used publicly.

Regan sports pie toupee

Then premier Gerald Regan received a pie, if not in the face, at least on the head, at a Dalhousie Student Union forum. One of the pie throwers said the incident was a response to "pussy-footed liberalism". "Regan was giving us a line about limited portions of the economic pie," he said. "And we just decided to give him his."

Paradise lost

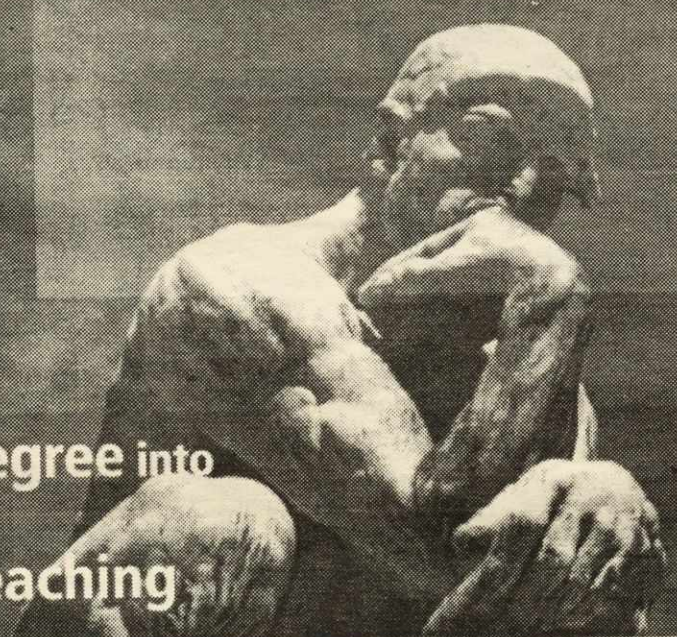
Dalhousie had a shortage of parking spaces. The university was facing a tight squeeze when it lost some of its parking lots to a land deal with the province — one of the lots was called "Paradise". It held 160 cars. The university said they were going to do something about it. They struck a committee.

Paradise found?

Full-page condom ads were stirring campus opinion at Dal. The ads, for Julius Schmid of Canada, ran in the Gazette, and were designed to act as sex education as much as advertisements. They featured sections on skin and rubber prophylactics, lubrication, some helpful hints, shapes, packaging and how to put them on and take them off. The ad was titled "Julius Schmid would like to give you some straight talk about condoms, rubbers, sheaths, safes, Fench letters, storkstoppers," and generated debate after an initial letter to the editor claimed the ads would promote loose sexual values. The letter argued that "the truly responsible student will avoid pre-marital promiscuity." The letter did not indicate whether post-marital promiscuity was responsible or required a condom. Many students disagreed, saying the ads were a public service. It also advertised Schmid's brand name condoms — Fiesta, Ramses, Fourex, Sheik, Excita and NuForm.

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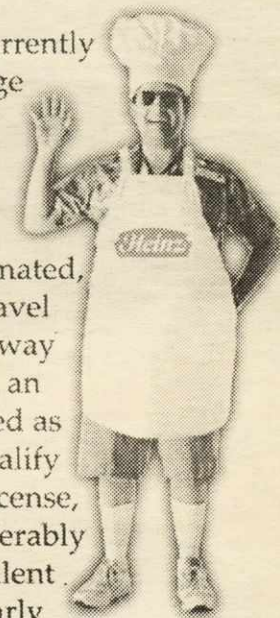


Then Liberal premier Gerald Regan gets his head creamed by a pie as part of a "piece of the pie" budget protest at Dal.

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