

# STUDENTS MARCH

After four weeks of intensive planning by the Education Action Committee, the university family marches tomorrow.

Over 500 students and members of faculty are expected to participate in the march and forum. At press time, several professors had cancelled their Wednesday 1:30 class in support of the program.

The entire rally is expected to take less than two hours and participants should be back on cam-

pus in time for their 2:30 classes.

Ten buses, two from Lansdowne and eight from Gordon Head will leave the university at 12:30.

They will transport the marchers to the parade marshalling point in the vicinity of Quadra and Pandora Streets.

EAC spokesmen say they have the co-operation of the police and civic officials for the four-block march down Pandora Avenue to the McPherson Playhouse.

A fifty-minute community forum will take place in the theatre. Federal election candidates from each of the four major political parties will outline the program their party is advocating for the federal government.

Dean R. R. Jeffels will then speak on behalf of the university and is expected to outline the financial needs of this institution for the immediate future.

A highlight of the forum will be a statement by Education Minister Leslie Peterson.

EAC committee members state that Peterson has said he will make every effort to attend the forum in person. If he is unable to do so he will provide council president Paul Williamson with a written statement which will be read to the assembly.

Williamson will wind up the forum with an address expected to demand more public and governmental consideration of the importance of higher education. He will advocate five specific recommendations which were put forward by the EAC and ratified in last Sunday's council meeting.



## Recommendations

The following are the specific recommendations which the Education Action Committee and the Students' Council will put forward at the Community Forum on Wednesday.

1. That the government and the universities initiate studies to determine those factors which result in the small percentage of rural high school students in post secondary institutions.
2. That the government and the university initiate studies to determine motivational factors which determine why any capable student undertakes or does not undertake post-secondary education.
3. That the government and universities co-operate closely with university students in the development of effective high school liaison programs, designed to encourage capable students to continue their education, and to facilitate the transition from high school to the institute of post-secondary education.
4. That in recognition of the undesirability of direct financial barriers to post-secondary education, the government and the universities take steps to ensure that tuition fees will be reduced to their 1964-65 level in the coming year, as an indication of an eventual policy of eliminating tuition fees entirely.
5. That in view of the present financial disadvantage to out-of-town students, and in view of the injustice of this situation, the government and the universities initiate some form of out-of-town grant or subsidy to aid these students.

ally qualified high school students who for some reason or other do not continue their education.

The third refers to the expanded high school liaison program which CUS Chairman Brian White is organizing within the local CUS Committee.

The recommendation that tuition fees be reduced fifty-six dollars is an attempt to provide the government with a realistic method of eventually eliminating fees.

The request for subsidy for out-of-town students is the result of student complaint about the discrepancy between the direct costs to the local and to the rural student.

### Tomorrow's Program

- 12:30—Eight buses leave Student Union Building.
- Two Buses leave Lansdowne Campus.
- 12:45—Buses arrive on Pandora Avenue, parking east from Quadra Street.
- Students and faculty members march from Quadra Street west on Pandora Avenue to McPherson Theatre.
- 1:00—Community forum in Theatre.
- Statement on policy on higher education by one candidate for each of the four major political parties contesting the federal election.
- Statement by Dean Jeffels on behalf of the University President, Dr. Malcolm Taylor.
- Statement by Minister of Education, Leslie Peterson.
- Statement by student council president, Paul Williamson.
- 1:50—Buses pick up participating students and faculty members in front of the theatre and return them to the campus.

## The Martlet

Vol. 5 UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA, VICTORIA, B.C., OCTOBER 28, 1965 No. 8



"FREE TUITION" is war-cry of students across the nation on Wednesday, National Student Day. The Canadian Union of Students has called it "a day of action".

## Student President Urges Informed Public Discussion

by PAUL WILLIAMSON

Why are we asking students and members of faculty to participate in our community forum tomorrow?

Will participation in the day's events imply personal belief in universal accessibility?

Most certainly not. A forum is a place for discussion, and our forum will see a series of speakers outline their views on the future of higher education in Canada.

The march is a reasonable method of drawing attention to the forum where the real ideas behind national student day will be discussed.

When you participate in the march and the forum tomorrow, you will be demanding that the universities, the government and the public intelligently discuss the problems confronting higher education in Canada.

The minister of education and the administration of this university have agreed to support this forum not because they believe entirely in the concept of universal accessibility as enun-



WILLIAMSON

How does universal accessibility fit into the program on National Student Day?

The policy of CUS was hammered out after five days of intensive discussion and debate at the national congress two months ago. It was not designed to be the perfect solution to the particular problems confronting universities in the various provinces.

In fact, it is not limited to universities, and it must be stressed that "universal" means universal: universities, technological institutes, vocational schools, nursing schools, etc.

The philosophy is based on the belief that the standard of living of a given society is directly related to the percent of the population with adequate education.

Obviously, adequate education cannot be defined, but we do know that it was not so many years ago that grade ten was adequate education. No one believes that now.

It is also obvious that with the impending large scale shift to automation, the need for technicians and administrators will be greater than ever before. Adequate education is becoming post-

ciated by the Canadian Union of Students, but because they realize the importance of enlightened discussion.

The political candidates have agreed to address the forum not because they totally accept the CUS policy, but because they wish to state the policy of their particular political party towards higher education.

secondary education. Post-secondary education is becoming a minimal requirement.

Universal accessibility is a policy which CUS believes will see the maximum number of persons receiving some form of post-secondary education.

If we attempt to ascertain those factors which decide whether or not an individual will go on to post-secondary education, we may be able to effect the

necessary changes in their environment or financial situation.

The financial question is really only a small portion of the problem. The immediate problem is society's attitude toward higher education. Once society realizes the relation between standard of living and higher education, and once society realizes the soundness of investment in human capital, some form of universal accessibility will be inevitable.

(Continued on page 2)

# NATIONAL STUDENT DAY



'Stronger than dirt'

## Fair Deal Demanded For Senior Students

By LEIDA-MARIE GRANT

It would seem that free tuition, if any when it comes, is unlikely to be granted to all university students simultaneously.

A year-by-year system, such as the one begun this year in Newfoundland, is more probable. If this is to be the case, there is some reason to wonder at an apparent trend.

Newfoundland started their plan this year by abolishing first year fees.

Our own provincial bursary regulations state that first year students will receive primary consideration, senior students only receiving aid as funds permit.

The Bladen report seems in favour of requiring higher fees from third and fourth year students, a decision apparently based on the false assumption that upperclassmen earn considerably higher summer salaries.

On the graduate level, much larger grants are available, it is true; but they are few in number and competition is fierce.

Top marks and an honours degree are almost always demanded, and even then a scholarship isn't guaranteed. And of course, as they are scholarships rather than bursaries, financial need is not considered when awards are made... a fact that sometimes leads one to question the fairness of the distribution.

A student with a general degree and an average in the low 70's may get no aid at all.

His case is particularly acute if he wants to study at a graduate school outside his province of residence. He receives no provincial help, and may have to pay higher fees as well.

This is not intended as a comprehensive report on the finan-

cial difficulties of a senior student. However, for the above and other reasons I feel the Student-Aid people are starting at the wrong end of the line.

While it is true that first-year students have only a two-month summer in which to earn their fees, and should therefore receive proportionate consideration, the emphasis at first should be placed on helping the senior student.

He is the student who has demonstrated his interest and capability, and is therefore more likely to be a good investment.

Starting off free tuition (or any large grant system) as Newfoundland has done is, on the other hand, largely wasteful.

While certain worthwhile students benefit, a large amount of money is lost on the good-time Charlies playing cards in the Caf.

Grants in first year, when they come, should be given in the form of loans — and the debt cancelled only if the student passes. This system could be applied to all years if necessary.

In the meantime, free tuition (or whatever course major student aid eventually follows), should be introduced at the top levels of university degree programmes — starting at the doctoral level and working down.

The more the student has proved himself a good academic risk — both by performance and in the amount of money he has already paid for his education — the more he deserves help.

I look forward to seeing you at the forum.

## Aussies Annoyed

MELBOURNE (CUP) — Australian students are considering a one-day general strike to protest poor conditions in primary, secondary and higher education.

The Council of the National Union of Australian University Students (NUAUS) has voted to support the proposed strike.

The motion will now be debated by individual student bodies. If there is general support, the strike will probably be held this spring.

## Facts and Figures

The following is submitted by the Education Action Committee.

Did you know:

—That by 1975 Canadian universities will need to expand their enrollment from 178,200 to 461,000.

—The cost of running Canada's universities will expand fourfold from \$537,000,000 now tot \$2,032,000,000.

—The federal share of the bill is now only 15 percent.

—Tuition fees have risen 43 percent in the last five years and now average \$500 for an undergraduate year.

—That the \$40,000,000 scholarship proposal for 10,000 students need only be increased by \$60,000,000 to provide 200,000 students with free tuition.

## The Martlet

Member of Canadian University Press

Runner-up Jacques Bureau Trophy

Published weekly throughout the University year in Victoria by the Publications Department of the Alma Mater Society, University of Victoria. Editorial opinions expressed are those of the Editorial Board of The Martlet and not necessarily those of the Alma Mater Society of University of Victoria.

Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa, and for Payment of Postage in Cash.

Subscription rates: \$2.00 for students and alumni per academic year. For non-students, \$3.00 per academic year.

Days: 477-1834

Evenings: 388-4134

### Editorial

## We're Concerned

Tomorrow's the day.

Tomorrow students and professors are going out to show the government they mean business.

And we're going along.

We're going because we're concerned and we think it's about time something was done.

Within the last two years tuition fees have gone up \$106.00 and there is every indication they'll go up again next year.

So what can we do? Well we certainly won't accomplish anything sitting on our banana-spined butts and crying in our cold coffee.

Some students have said they won't participate because they don't believe in some of the concepts CUS is advocating.

But surely these students would oppose the denial of an education to any deserving person.

CUS has hammered out this problem for years and is finally ready to act.

It's going to be a long hard fight. It's going to take time to bring about change.

And not everyone is going to agree.

But we've overcome the first hurdle and that's getting the students and the government together to talk about these problems.

For the first time students are standing together as a cohesive body rather than remaining separate noneties.

And the government is concerned.

The rally at the McPherson this Wednesday is designed with this in mind.

We are also concerned. And if the government won't take the first steps, we will.

We have the support of the faculty and the University and the government is willing to listen.

Now is the time to aim high.

The government cannot blatantly ignore rising costs of education and rising unemployment without sooner or later meeting mass revolt.

If anything, the demonstration Wednesday will probably be conservative in the extreme.

Perhaps a more "radical" action will have to be taken later.

But a large turn-out for the forum can hardly fail to impress upon the community and the government that we ARE concerned and that we ARE earnest.

Whether we all agree on the fine points of "free education" is not the point.

That we all demonstrate our disappointment in the government for not meeting their responsibilities is the point.

And that is why we personally will be out there on Wednesday.

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### Guest Editorial

## Stronger Action Needed by Gordon Pollard

When the assembly of notables convenes at the McPherson Theatre on Wednesday it is highly likely that everyone will come out four square for "Universal Accessibility."

Indeed it is also beyond the realm of possibility that this august body may summon all its courage, bow low in the direction of Madison Avenue and come out unequivocally for motherhood, small dogs and helping nice little old ladies across busy streets.

It is appalling that in our Madison Avenue society students are developing syncopated bureaucratic minds.

It is as if Paul Revere had galloped through Concord shouting "Accelerated preparedness! Accelerated preparedness!"

Surely if students wish to demonstrate they should have no qualms about using words like "protest" and taking their cause, not to the local theatre, but directly to the steps of the provincial legislature.

A public forum is ludicrous without a question period. If the views of everyone on stage are already known and no one else can speak, the concept of a genius forum is reduced to a sham.

A vigorous and meaningful protest calling for either a total elimination of fees with increased academic standards, or a massive reduction in fees with the existing standards would be very much in order.

There would appear to be very little to be gained, however by listening to Cliff Waite spout off a few anecdotes gleaned from an obscure Haliburton anthology.

### THE MARTLET

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