

WIPE OUT

the Martlet

HAIRY EARS

Vol. 5

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA, VICTORIA, B.C., JANUARY 4, 1966

SPECIAL EDITION



UVIC DELEGATES to the Student Administrators Conference at Banff, Dec. 27-30, discuss their brief concerning the universal fee fight. Left to right are Paul Williamson, Nan Elliot, Rick Kurtz, and John Thies.

COUNCIL PREPARED TO FIGHT Board Rules No Extension On Late Fees

The Board of Governors will enforce calendar regulations regarding payment of late fees.

But Students' Council President Paul Williamson has promised that no student will be penalized for withholding \$56 of their second term fees in protest of rising tuition costs.

A brief presented to the University of Victoria Board of Governors by the students' council two weeks ago requested:

- that the provincial government consider increasing their operating grant to a level permitting reduction in tuition fees;
- that a student council delegate sit on the Board during negotiations;
- that a public announcement of next year's fee level be made as soon as possible;
- that the deadline for payment of the remaining \$56 be moved back to the middle of March, "In order that no student be penalized for an honest . . . attempt to focus public and legislative attention on the problem of financing higher education."

These requests have not been acted upon and the Board has said that they will enforce the regulations in the calendar.

This means that students who have not paid their fees by January 17 will face a \$10 late fine and possible expulsion.

Williamson has stated that should it become necessary, council will organize a nationwide campaign to raise the more than \$15,000 necessary to pay the late fee fine set out by the calendar.

"For a university to kick out more than half its student body would be suicide," Williamson said.

"I even have word that at least 28 professors are prepared to conduct classes on the lawn in the event such a measure is taken."

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Banff Conference Yields Wide Support

By BOB MITCHELL

University of Victoria student president went to Banff last week to seek out Canada-wide support for the upcoming struggle over the withholding of fees.

BOARD SUPPORTS STUDENTS, BUT—

Political Consideration Prevents Compliance

By GUY STANLEY

Political considerations prevent the Board of Governors from meeting student requests as outlined on pledge cards signed last term.

But the board otherwise supports students in their fee fight.

So indicated Dr. Malcolm Taylor, University of Victoria president in a telephone interview Sunday night.

"The board of governors is responsible and independent, trying to develop the best quality in a university it can," said Taylor Sunday night.

"Our independence depends on our not taking a political position.

"To comply with student requests would be taking such a position," he said.

"Students Council is different. It can make statements the Board cannot."

But Taylor said he supported students in their attempt to dramatize problems of financing higher education. He added that students had signed an agreement to abide by the rules and regulations of the university.

"I feel students will pay as they are morally committed to do," he said.

Why not move the late fee deadline back as students have requested?

"The university needs the money to meet the obligations it has contracted—e.g. payments of salaries. We are in the last quarter of the fiscal year," he said.

According to pledge cards signed last term, 1,516 students have agreed to withhold payment of \$56 of second term fees until certain requests are realized:

a) That a student representative be included in the negotiations with the provincial government.

This cannot be done, according to Dr. Taylor. "Negotiations are a private matter, but we did convey specifically to the minister the students' request that there be no increase," he said.

b) that the estimates be made on a basis of last year's fee level, before the increase.

"We were not able to do that

either," said Dr. Taylor. "We had made our submission before your request."

He denied reports that the Board would make a verbal request that the size of the provincial grant be enough to permit a reduction in fees this year.

"Considering the size of the grant we are asking for development, such a request would be unrealistic," he said.

c and d) That a public statement be made indicating they are submitting their estimates on the basis of last year's fee level, and that the announcement be made on or before March 11.

Taylor said that the proposed budget does not include an increase in student fees and next year's fee level will be announced as soon as it has been established.

"That depends on when the Provincial and Federal operating grants are known," he said.

student editors promise support for fee fight

The University of Victoria fee fight gained the support of many of the 30 Canadian University Press editors in Calgary last week.

Martlet editor, Sue Pelland, presented a brief to the 28th National Canadian University Press Conference outlining the fee issue and asking the editorial support of the papers represented.

"We will require all the support we can get to bring about these objectives while ensuring that these students will not suffer the consequences," Miss Pelland said.

Paul Williamson, University of Victoria students president, also addressed the CUP delegates explaining the position of the University Board of Governors and the stand that the Students Council is going to take. Williamson asked support on the grounds that "the students are right and the line must be drawn on rising fees."

"If the struggle is prolonged and any stronger action becomes necessary we will get a great deal of editorial support," Williamson said.

Western Regional editors have promised strong support to the Council stand.

Sam Steenhuus, editor-in-chief of the Simon Fraser Peak, said that as soon as he receives word that fees have been withheld he will give full editorial support to the fight.

Ubysey editor-in-chief, Tom Wayman, will continue to support the Victoria students even though no active support is forthcoming from the UBC council.

FROM THE MARTLET

Happy New Year To . . .

John Gough who has a special interest in us . . . the Victoria School Board—we have a special interest in them . . . the City of Victoria which has still to learn it is a University town . . . Len Norris, because he's the only one who really sees Victoria . . . the municipality of Oak Bay—for maintaining tradition . . . the Ubysey for at long last recognizing us as a university . . . 26 Canadian universities for supporting our fee fight . . . Byron Hender (UBC students' president) for wishing us well . . . Simon Fraser's instant newspaper, The Peak, for becoming a full member of Canadian University Press within six weeks . . . Laurier Lapierre, new honorary president of CUP . . . Premier Bennett for never reading the news he makes, especially education finance statements . . . Air Canada for a fun New Year's Eve flight . . .

And a prosperous '66 to . . . Dr. Taylor because we're looking to him for a good deal . . . the Board of Governors because we're looking to them for a fair deal . . . Dean Jeffels just because we like him . . . the Canadian Union of Students because it did big things last year . . . the students' council because it has grown up . . . Bob Mitchell our new Laval correspondent . . . Acme Buckle for putting up with us . . . and all of you.

Williamson was able to persuade 26 out of 27 student union delegates that they should ask their student councils to give financial support to the U of V cause. However, no definite commitment of money was received.

In the event of \$10 fines being levied against the 1,515 students who have already pledged to withhold their \$56, aid to the tune of \$15,000 would be required to ensure the success of the protest.

Universities who have so far pledged to plead our cause on their home grounds include: Simon Fraser, University of New Brunswick, York, Waterloo, Mount Allison, Mount Saint Vincent, Eastern Ontario Institute of Technology, University of Alberta, McGill, Western Ontario, McMaster and University of Manitoba.

The paradoxical University of British Columbia was the only holdout. It can only be concluded that the UBC stand does not necessarily represent the majority opinion of the student body of that institution.

The Martlet

Member of Canadian University Press

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: 386-3779

Editorial

WHO'S AFRAID OF THE BIG BAD BOARD?

Students! Now is the last time we are going to have the opportunity to stop the cost of education soaring beyond the ability of students to pay for the right to learn.

Why should society tolerate prejudice in the form of allowing the privileged alone to attend university without engaging the crushing burden of endless loans and the indignity of begging constantly for money?

There is enough ignorance, prejudice and bigotry swilling about this country now without increasing the number of uneducated by a short-sighted inability of evolving the means of producing educated men at the same pace as the population figures are erupting now throughout the world.

A revolution must occur within the structure of the administration of universities if we hope for a better world in the future. The argument so often thrown at the student that the poor taxpayer has to pay for an education of benefit principally to the individual student simple does not hold water. Not all men may have the capacity to attend university, but without a doubt, many more could attend university were not the financial obstacles so monstrous.

But there must be a growth, unmatched by any period in history, of the number of men who gain higher learning if education is going to make any sort of impact or impression on society.

The average student does pay income tax, if he has the fortune to make money during the summer. He does his part in paying for education, just as much as the rest of the nation's taxpayers. The student also pays a sizeable sum in fees to the university for the right to attend. The ironic part of this is that while the non-student taxpayer protests having to pay the shot, the student does pay taxes—if he earns enough to pay the taxes. However, seldom is the case.

BUT HE DOES PAY ACCORDING TO HIS ABILITY!

In fact, the student pays through the nose!

All students at the University of Victoria must withhold the second term fees. The Board of Governors must not be allowed to extort another cent from the student and strike yet another blow for reactionism.

There is nothing to fear from the Board of Governors. They are running scared. They fear they will lose this struggle, and so they must, for society's sake.

Students across Canada are awakening to the struggle. At least twenty-six students' councils have pledged support for the campaign being led by the students of this University.

If the administration tries to turn the screws on the students here by extorting a late fee fine, promises across Canada have been given by students for financial assistance to pay the bill collectors of this university.

What a pathetic mark against our society will be struck if the principle-poor, weak-kneed, political heelers, infesting our university institutions triumph against the embryonic reform being nurtured here by the students.

What a disgusting demonstration of powers of the Almighty God Money will be viewed if the administration heaps more bills on men already crushed by the demands made by short-sighted, self-interested and toadying politicians. These politicians who claim to be working for the benefit of the people they represent, lack the ability to recognize the true interests of society and appropriate and place monies in the places where they feel will illicit the most votes.

Too long we have placed the full blame on these politicians, however. If the men who claim to be administering this university cannot, with all their collective abilities, present the absolutely vital need for universal accessibility upon the government, then they should be ousted. They should be removed and replaced by men with the vigor, the foresight, and the time to impress the crying need on politicians, who will not listen to voices other than vote-getting ones.

For all the threats the Board of Governors may rattle against the students, what can they do if the overwhelming majority of us turn against their outdated methods? What can the provincial government do if an inspired Board of Governors turned against misapplication of taxpayers' funds and join the voice of the students.



"Senators Bond, Solo and Smart reporting sir."

Comment

Place The Facts Where They'll Be Felt — In Their Stomachs

By GUY STANLEY
Martlet Magazine Editor

AMS President Paul Williamson's handling of the present campaign to fight rising tuition costs lack publicity savvy.

Right now students look like they're just another group asking something for nothing.

The pros and cons of withholding \$56 is not the issue

here. As originally conceived, this move was to focus attention on the problems of financing higher education. Our case, as students, demands that the facts of post-secondary financing be placed before the public in terms they can feel in their stomachs.

Only implementation of the Bladen Report recommendations by the federal government will hold the lid on fees this year. I

do not believe Ottawa will do this; fees will go up again.

Only a campaign undertaken by the university family of students and administration can help in the face of this.

The administration is paralyzed politically, but it can make the students case in its negotiations with the province.

The students, must swing public opinion. That was the aim of last year's freeze the fees campaign and of national student day. Both, although failing to produce much in a tangible way, kept pressure on government by increasing public awareness of the problem.

All the public sees now, however is a meaningless confrontation over \$56 worth of fees.

The program for withholding fees must be backed up by letter writing and perhaps even door-to-door canvassing. In addition, a brief prepared by all post secondary students in the province should be submitted to the provincial government.

The machinery for doing this exists now. Preparations for just such a move are already underway and will begin with a conference to be held here sometime this month.

That will take care of the brief; hopefully it will churn out some statements making clear the implications of rising fees.

Meanwhile time goes on and people are making unfavorable first impressions that may be hard to change.

Only in the context of a planned publicity campaign will the plan to withhold \$56 become effective.

The old hit-and-miss methods of educating men has become engulfed by the rising need for reform and the ever-mounting pressure of population.

The reform will come, for all the efforts of the reactionaries. The chase will begin soon, for the scent of fear exuded by the administration is strong. As the administration is overcome, they will join the move for reform, and lead — as they should — the chase after the self-seeking in politics who would maintain the status quo and thereby their grip of personal fortune and power. We, the students, however, must be the hounds for the next months and never yield in our demands for a basic human right.

No man of ability should be prevented from bettering society and himself by the simple lack of money. No society should be allowed to jeopardize its own future, and the succeeding generations, by permitting those in power to sell their souls for the sake of self-aggrandizement.

Men must be taught. Men must have the freedom to learn! You, the student, must at last maintain a principle at home before casting abroad for vague and ill-defined principles. The principle we propound is right because it is based upon the fundamental tenets of our society.

Institution of reform requires guts. The university administration, Board of Governors, and Senate lack the fortitude. Surely the students will not quail too!

Editor-in-Chief Sue Pelland

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