



Photo by Sara Schweider

Creighton students. . . ponder further protest.

Students protest Creighton tuition hike

by Sara Schweider

Legal action against Creighton University's Board of Directors is anticipated in the wake of last Wednesday's class boycott to protest tuition hikes, according to Creighton Student Board of Directors President Joe Warin.

"We're considering filing suit against the Board of Directors," Warin said Friday. "The suit will try to force them to improve the quality of education in relation to the tuition hikes."

"We're also seeking two students on the Creighton University Boards of Governors," he said. "The student Board of Governors wasn't consulted about the tuition hikes."

Warin said there were two distinct issues: one concerning the relationship between the tuition hike and the quality of education and the other concerning the "student's right to be consulted on Creighton University policies."

The Rev. Michael Sheridan, dean of students, said he doesn't have "any comment on the case until the students actually do something."

Sheridan said the tuition hike will remain in effect, and that the quality of education engendered by the tuition hike is "hard to determine."

"It depends on what the students want," Sheridan said Tuesday. "I hope we can find a common definition of quality decided upon by the students and the administration."

He said there is no official committee to look into the quality of education question, but that administrators from each college were having discussion sessions with students to find out the kind of things they think are important concerning the quality of education.

The Creighton University Board of Directors last week announced nine per cent tuition increases, up \$150 in the undergraduate colleges, and the Schools

of Law and Pharmacy, and \$250 in the Schools of Medicine and Dentistry.

Creighton University President the Rev. Joseph J. Labaj, in a letter to the student body, said the operating budget has relied too heavily on gift income from the Centennial Thrust Campaign amounting to \$615,000 this year.

The letter read, "In these circumstances, increased dependence on gift income for operating expenses was judged to be imprudent and fiscally unsound."

He also listed inflation as a reason for the rise, and assured students "that every effort will be made to help students presently in school to meet their financial needs to remain in school."

This is the 14th consecutive year tuition has been increased at Creighton, a total increase of over 400 per cent.

The boycott last Wednesday protesting the hikes affected "about 50 per cent of the students," according to the student newspaper the *Creightonian*. Warin estimated the boycott attendance at "about 75 per cent."

The School of Medicine, with about 320 students, "closed down," Warin said.

Warin and several student leaders are determining the feasibility of suing the Creighton University Board of Governors' Corporation and asking for a mandatory injunction, a restraining order or both, Warin said.

"It will be the Student University Corporation filing suit against the University Corporation," Warin said.

He noted that students couldn't use University lawyers, so they were looking for a firm to handle the case.

The tuition hikes will primarily affect middle-income students. The government will pay the difference for lower income students on scholarships.

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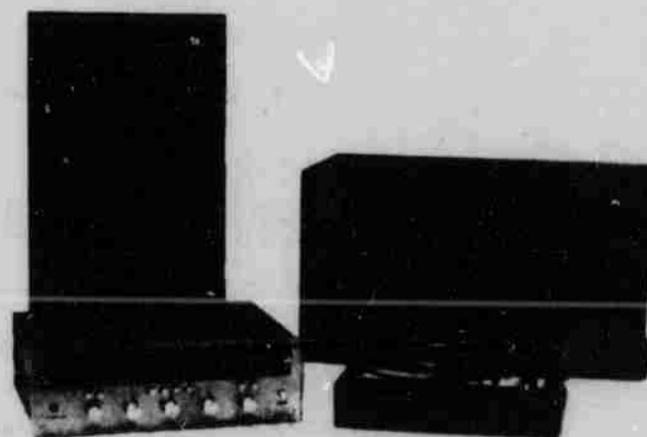
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