

# Dollars and Sense

MONEY • BUSINESS • ACADEMICS

## 29 states slash college budgets

*Tuition increases and budget cuts the 'worst seen in 25 years'*

By RICHARD JONES

*The Review, U. of Delaware*

Colleges and universities, already hard hit by trimmed services and employee layoffs, are experiencing some of the steepest tuition hikes in more than two decades.

"Every state runs into a few financial problems, but 29 (states) all at once?" Sweeney said. "It's the worst that has been seen in 25 years."

An AASCU study showed that colleges in 29 states enacted mid-year tuition hikes in 1991, averaging 4 percent nationwide. The study showed many of those same states have enacted tuition hikes averaging about 13 percent again this year.

Sweeney cited federal budget cuts as the source of college tuition hikes.

A survey published in August by the American Council on Education revealed grim financial statistics about American colleges and universities.

Among public four-year institutions, half

had operating budgets that either decreased or did not keep up with inflation. For American institutions overall, the numbers are one in three.

Mid-year budget cuts were reported by 45 percent of institutions, including 64 percent of public four-year schools.

Colleges are combatting their states' financial problems in a variety of ways, from a reduction in the number of library service hours to employee layoffs.

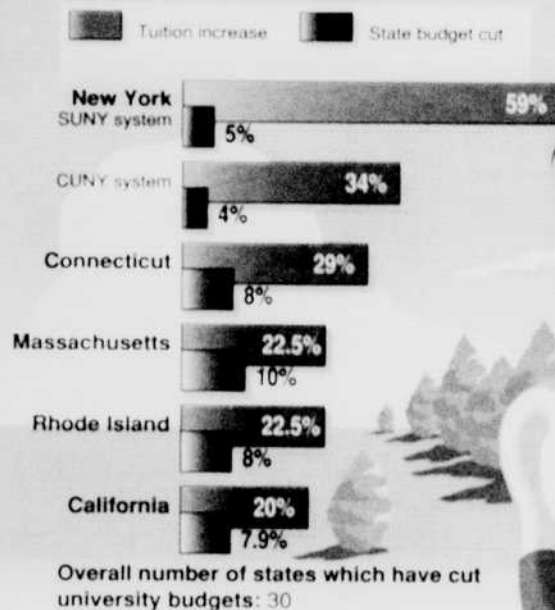
Sweeney said students will feel the effects of the budget cuts this fall. Reduced university services and fewer sections of classes also may hinder the graduation of students in need of required courses.

Aware of the problem, students around the country have descended upon the offices of school administrators and state legislators in protest of skyrocketing tuition and fees and decreased state funding.

Students of at least nine City U. of New York campuses barricaded themselves inside some of the school's administrative offices in

### Hardest Hit

The top five states with major budget cuts and tuition increases at state universities:



MEL MARCELO, THE UCSD GUARDIAN, U. OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

April to protest a proposed \$500 tuition increase recommended by administrators to offset nearly \$400 million in state cuts.

Students, staff and faculty at the U. of Massachusetts at Amherst staged a "no business as usual" week-long work stoppage to protest the \$700 tuition increase that was approved for the fall, said Karen Sherbin, new director for the *Amherst Student*.

Sherbin bemoaned the situation at the U.

of Massachusetts and around the country, saying, "Everyone want a piece of the pie, but the pie keeps on shrinking."

The cutbacks are part of a new economic reality, according to Sweeney. The reductions are "not because the colleges are incompetently run, but because they're working with a lot fewer resources," he said. "They're not just cutting programs for the

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## Art major colors students red

By MARISKA VAN AALST

*The Daily Collegian, Pennsylvania State U.*

Caroline Sykora and her fellow art majors have painted themselves gloomy financial pictures while studying art at Pennsylvania State U.

"Eight dollars for 200 milliliters of a hue — it's not even a color!" she said, holding up a tube of paint.

Sykora's frustration is common among art students who shell out big bucks for supplies these days. They are living proof that "the starving artist" image exists for painfully real reasons.

Other majors bemoan the rising costs of books, but art students contend with costs of supplies that can be triple what a non-art major pays per semester. To cover these costly dues, art majors often spend cash from summer jobs, overextend credit and rely on charitable parents.

"You can probably tell from the clothes we're wearing that materials are more important," Sykora said, clutching a T-shirt that has seen better semesters.

She said she has spent as much as \$2,000 per semester on supplies. "It depends on how far you want to go with your artwork — you could even triple your tuition."

Sykora said the main problem is depending on college merchants for materials. Those merchants have "a 300 percent inflation rate, and they don't even have what you



MIKE KUBEL, THE DAILY COLLEGIAN, PENNSYLVANIA STATE U.

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Lucy Stewart avoids pricey campus art stores for supplies.

## Grads job slumming, heading back to class in wake of recession

By TINA SHELTON

*Indiana Daily Student, Indiana U.*

The recession has given some recent college grads two choices: Take less pay or go back to school.

Trimming jobs by attrition and layoffs, many employers are hiring fewer graduates than before, making the job market more competitive.

And the number of students who are "job slumming," accepting lower positions while they're waiting for other jobs to open, is increasing, according to Jerry Houser, director of career placement at the U. of Southern California.

Sarah Greene, a graduate of Indiana U. who majored in psychology, ended up waiting tables after graduation.

"Every job I looked at wanted masters or Ph.D.s. I was either totally underqualified or overqualified," Greene said. "Some places I applied to that weren't soliciting said they didn't have the money to create a position whether I was qualified or not."

Jonathan Goldstein graduated in May from Syracuse U.'s school of public communication with majors in journalism and political science.

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