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# Lean state revenues drive tuition on colleges campuses

(AP)—A second bad year for the economy is driving up tuition and fees on many public four-year campuses as state revenues decline and costs keep escalating.

"Last year, overall, wasn't pretty. This year is worse," said Travis Reindl, director of state policy analysis at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

"The situation's pretty much caught up with everybody. The effects of the economic slowdown are being fully felt."

At private schools, which rely on tuition, followed by private gifts and endowment income, a survey of some 225 schools found tuition and fees growing 5.8 percent on average this fall — up from last year's 5.5 percent increase, said Tony Pals of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

That's a "slight uptick," Pals said. "But certainly not anything like you're seeing on the public side."

The National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, which represents the larger public institutions, posts a running tuition survey of its members on its Web site. Responses show hikes frequently of more than 5 percent for the upcoming academic year.

Using the Web survey as a guide, The Associated Press asked college officials around the country about in-state tuition and fees this fall.

The University of Colorado at Boulder is typical of public schools; it is raising tuition and fees 6 percent for in-state undergraduates, to \$3,566 from last year's \$3,357.

Other cases are more dramatic.

— Texas A&M University tuition and fees will soar nearly 28 percent for incoming freshman and transfer students, to \$4,758 from last year's \$3,722. Returning students get a break in

the form of a more modest increase, less than 1 percent, to \$3,858.

— University of Kansas, up nearly 21 percent, from \$2,884 to \$3,484.

— University of Iowa, a 19 percent rise, to \$3,522 to \$4,191.

— Washington State University, up 18 percent, from \$3,898 to \$4,520.

State cutbacks ended a seven-year freeze at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. They also forced building maintenance funds to be cut in half. This fall, tuition and fees are rising slightly more than 10 percent, from \$3,664 to \$3,936.

In California, the news looks more mixed. Students at public institutions since lawmakers are still working out the state budget.

Under the proposed spending plan, tuition and fees at all California State and University of California campuses would remain unchanged for an eighth straight year — \$1,876 at Cal campuses and \$3,859, on average, at UC's.

But out-of-state students will pay far more and money would be cut for libraries, equipment and maintenance, among other things.

Nationwide, what's adding to school pressures as state revenues drop is that children of baby boomers and adults are going to college.

The federal government has projected enrollment nationwide, now around 15 million at two- and four-year campuses, will grow 1 percent a year through the end of this decade, reaching 17.5 million by 2010.

Historically, in bad economic times, higher education is among the first places state legislators and governors look to cut. And in some states, lawmakers also have power to set tuition for state schools.

# Mob beats two men to death after crash

CHICAGO (AP) — Police pleaded for help Wednesday in finding members of a mob that pulled two men out of a van after an accident and beat them to death with bricks, stones and their bare hands.

"This is a simple, senseless double homicide committed by a bunch of cowardly thugs," Police Superintendent Terry Hillard said. "These are murderers. They killed two innocent people."

One person was being held for questioning, but police said they had made no arrests.

Autopsies showed that Anthony Stuckey, 49, and Jack Moore, 62, died from multiple injuries and blunt trauma, Cook County medical officials said. Both deaths were ruled homicides.

The accident happened Tuesday evening in the middle-income Oakland neighborhood on Chicago's South Side after the victims' rental van veered over a curb and crashed into a stoop filled with people, injuring three women, one critically.

Detective Phil Cline said the men were using the van to move furniture and it wasn't known what caused the van to swerve.

The group beat the two men with their hands, feet, bricks and

stones, police said. The size of the group wasn't immediately known.

Both men lived in the area.

"They hit them with bricks that came off the side of the building," Taquana Mixon, who lives on the Chicago Tribune. "They didn't have a chance. It was a beat-down."

Julia Mitchell, 29, who lives across the street from the accident scene, said she arrived and made eye contact with one of the men, lying on the ground.

"His eyes were big and he was scared. He looked at me, blinked once and exhaled, and knew that he had died," she said.

Virginia Stuckey said her son was moving Moore from an apartment that would not have been driving because he did not have a driver's license. She said her son was an unemployed day laborer and factory worker who had lived with her since January.

"I really can't believe that anyone would kill someone like that," said Stuckey, 72. "I hope they send them to prison."

Toni Preckwinkle, a city alderman who represents the area, said the neighborhood has been improving over the past several years.

*"I really can't believe that anyone would kill someone like that."*  
— Virginia Stuckey, mother of one of the beaten men

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Justice Department investigates AOL. Time Warner accounting practices**  
NEW YORK (AP) — AOL Time Warner Inc. said Wednesday the Justice Department is looking into its accounting practices, raising the possibility of a criminal case against the world's largest media company.

AOL Time Warner did not detail the Justice Department's probe and agency officials declined comment. Securities regulators are already investigating the company's bookkeeping.

**Authorities say man who allegedly sold fake IDs to hijackers fled the country**  
PATERSON, N.J. (AP) — A man who allegedly sold fake IDs to two of the Sept. 11 hijackers apparently fled the country for Egypt just before authorities came to arrest him in a raid on his home and businesses Wednesday, investigators said.

Interpol was notified to be on the lookout for Egyptian immigrant Mohamed El-Atriss, who faces charges of manufacturing and distributing fraudulent documents and conspiracy.

El-Atriss, 43, sold a fake ID card to Khalid Almihdhar, who was on the airliner that crashed into the Pentagon, and one to Abdul Aziz Alomari, who was aboard one of the planes that destroyed the World Trade Center, said Sheriff Jerry Speziale.