



—Fraser Smith photo  
**"GEE, GOSH, I'M A FROSH"**—University president, Dr. Walter H. Johns, becomes first freshman of the year when Dan Thachuk, director of freshman introduction week, pins the freshman badge on him. The week will be topped off by the Joe College Dance in the Ed Gym Saturday.

## Technicality In Election Act Likely To Cost Student Vote

An estimated 1,000 students on this campus will lose their vote in the Nov. 8 federal election says students' union president Richard Price.

An unusual fall election and a long-forgotten section of the federal election act have combined to disfranchise the students.

A CUS bulletin requesting council presidents to take action on the matter notes: "This particular situ-

ation has not arisen since the section was inserted in the act in the mid-1930s because no elections were held this late in the year. Spring and summer elections provided ample opportunity for the students to get on the voters' list at their university residence."

Section 14, sub-section 1 of the Canada Elections Act states: "Except as hereinafter provided, every person in Canada, man or woman, is entitled to have his or her name included in the list of electors prepared for his polling division in which he or she was ordinarily resident on the date of the writ ordering an election."

This has been interpreted to mean students who won't be in their home riding on election day can't vote.

CUS has sent a delegation to the Prime Minister who referred the hassle to the Justice Department for interpretation Pat Keniff, CUS national president, says the Prime Minister believes students have been done an injustice.

"There is relatively little he can do about it, says Keniff.

Chief electoral officer, Nelson Nelson Castonguay is a law unto himself and he merely interprets the Canada Elections Act, adds Keniff.

At the moment CUS lawyers and lawyers from the Dalhousie law school are searching the elections act for flaws, says Price.

"If we can act to let students vote then well and good, if not we will definitely press for changes in the

Elections act at the next session of parliament", he said.

"Right now we are waiting for the CUS lawyers to finish examining the act and make their report", said Price.

"If all else fails, our last means of recourse is direct student action before the election", he said.

"This will give students an opportunity to show their concern as full participating citizens in a democracy".

## Students Claim Citizens' Rights In Community

LENNOXVILLE, Que. (Staff)—Students' unions cross Canada now have a document which could become part of a future student charter.

The 29th annual Canadian Union of Students Congress here passed a declaration of students' rights and responsibilities intended to enable less-powerful student organizations to achieve autonomy in their own affairs.

The declaration sets out the rights and responsibilities of students in the running of democratic, representative student associations.

# CUS Congress Plans Protest

## Day of Awareness To Support Concept of Universal Accessibility

By DON SELLAR

LENNOXVILLE, Que.—Canadian university students will hold a national "day of awareness" this fall as part of a long-term plan to achieve universal accessibility to higher education.

Decision to hold the protest day was reached earlier this month at the 29th annual Canadian Union of Students congress here.

CUS, which represents about 138,000 university students attending 45 member institutions, has not set the date for its protest, but the day will be held before the Nov. 8 federal election.

About 200 student leaders who attended the congress will be returning to their campuses this month to prepare for the protest, which will take different forms across the country.

Some students' unions will present briefs and petitions to municipal, provincial and federal governments. At other universities, boycotts, demonstrations rallies and teach-ins are planned.

A last-minute compromise at the CUS congress resulted in the concept of "free education" being dropped from the organization's long-term goals.

Instead of embarking on a suggestion by McGill University to achieve free education, congress delegates decided to achieve the goal of "universal accessibility to post-secondary education."

The congress decided to set the elimination of tuition fees as the first target in its new education policy.

Delegates also approved a detailed program of study to eliminate all social and economic barriers to education.

This program includes:

- study of economic implications of free education
- continued study of student summer employment possibilities and earning power
- improvement of existing student aid schemes
- maximum utilization of both public and private sectors of university finances
- study of social reasons why students quit high school when they have the academic requirements to go further in their education

• community conferences on education

• comparative socio-economic studies of rural and urban communities

• student participation in social welfare programs and other areas of social concern.

With passage of this sweeping plan, came compromise on the original McGill resolution which called for elimination of room and board and tuitions fees, as well as provision of government grants for travelling costs to and from university and money for books.

Had the congress met these demands, CUS policy would have fallen just short of "free education" in that the organization would have

been asking for all university expenses except personal living expenses.

A total of 17 universities said they would have refused to support a "free education" policy.

But the amended plan passed after two days of formal and informal discussions.

The only dissenting voice on the plan was from the host delegation of Bishop's University.

Fred Allen, Bishop's students' union president, said his delegation could not accept the resolution because students, "as responsible citizens in society," should be required to provide as much as they can toward their own education.

"We do feel of course that no student should be denied an education because of lack of finances—we are simply opposed to across-the-board free education," said Allen.

Allen expressed the fear that free education could have a detrimental effect on academic freedom in the university community, and suggested money given to a student who does not necessarily need financial assistance would be "more profitably used in the capital expansion of university facilities."

U of A's delegation, headed by students' union president Richard Price and local CUS chairman Bruce Olsen, supported the amended motion.

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## Unanimous Support For CUS Policy

Students' council Sunday night ratified the Canadian Union of Students policy on education, when they voted unanimously to seek ways of abolishing tuition fees.

They were asked to approve the principle of "universal accessibility" to post-secondary education, which was passed earlier this month at the 29th CUS congress held in Lennoxville, Que.

Secretary-treasurer Eric Hayne originally opposed the national CUS policy, saying it would be a "move towards total socialism" and "we should use the carrot and not the stick."

He later voted for the motion, when students' union president Richard Price called on council to approve the policy unanimously.

## Council Loses Three Members Over Summer

Resignations from Students' Council will necessitate elections in the Faculties of Education and Science this fall.

Bruce Olsen resigned as the representative of the Faculty of Education to accept a Students' Council appointment as CUS chairman. Tom Landsman is the acting Education representative.

Doug McLean resigned as the representative of the Faculty of Science because he is now a law student.

Students' Council appointed Lance Richard as president of men's athletics. This position became vacant when Bill Miller resigned due to academic pressures.