

NEWS

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DEADLINE: Noon Wednesday

Forum looks at problems

By MARK STEVENS

Canada's post-secondary education system came under scrutiny at a forum held in Saskatoon last week.

David Crombie, Secretary of State, described the forum as "the turning point when Canadians forged - or began to forge - a new consensus on the importance, the acceptance and the excellence of post-secondary education in this country."

Sponsored by both the federal and provincial governments, the forum came at a critical time for Canada's institutions of higher learning. According to Larry Hansen, UNBSU Vice-President Internal, certain recommendations were made that could have a profound influence on the future of post-secondary education.

"One of the most important conclusions of the forum was that a national consultative body be created to offer direction to Canadian universities," said Hansen. "It was encouraging to see that there was obvious collaboration between the federal and provincial governments." Tony Macerollo, the Canadian Federation of Students Chairman, was more outspoken: "We can no longer have federal and provincial governments fighting over funding," he said. "There's no choice - they have to work together."

University of Regina president Dr. Lloyd Barber had his doubts about the forum. "Unless the governments are prepared to come to grips with some of the fundamental questions they have been playing with, or avoiding, or playing lip service to, then I'm not sure what the forum will accomplish," he said.

But the forum was not solely restricted to academics, student leaders and government officials. Representatives from the private sector voiced their concerns about higher education. Despite the recent trend towards specialization, Canada's Captains of Industry affirmed the need for a liberal arts education. "Businesses need people who can communicate," said Hansen.

Generally, it was felt that universities should play a more important part in society. Accord-

ing to Hansen, many delegates complained that the educational system wasn't responding to problems in society. Rosemary Brown, a professor from Simon Fraser University, stressed the need to promote equality and world peace. She talked about the importance of preparing

people to deal with social issues.

Also high on the agenda was the delegates' recommendations to encourage what Hansen describes as "basic research." Hansen thought such a commitment would promote more abstract work - particularly in the humanities and the sciences.

Delegates also acknowledged the contribution made by international students - not only in an academic sense - but in a social sense as well. "They enrich our cultural life and increase our knowledge of the world," said Hansen.

He added that universities are

important to the social, economic and cultural life of Canada. But at the moment he felt that they were falling short of this ideal. "Universities aren't representative of the Canadian mosaic," he said. "We've come a long way, but there's still a long way to go."

What is the SDC?

The Student Disciplinary Code (SDC), which has been in force since first approved by the Board of Governors in 1980, provides students with a means of self-discipline. It is not a replacement for the laws governing the community as a whole, but an alternative whereby the University has recognized the special environment it creates and has developed its own Code accordingly.

The Campus Police, a student organization, has the main responsibility for enforcing the Code. Infractions are reported to the Student Disciplinary Committee - except for one member, all students - who are empowered under the Code to hold hearing and apply sanctions (penalties) on those found guilty of offences. The Code clearly lists the offences covered, including drinking under age or in unauthorized places, assault or disorderly conduct, damage to property, theft, refusal to show student identification to a C.P., obstruction of a C.P., falsification or misuse of fines up to \$200, restitution for damage, suspension of social privileges and recommendation for suspension or dismissal from the University.

The Code also provides for an appeal mechanism to the Board of Deans, which, under the University Act, has a special responsibility for discipline.

The disciplinary structure provided by the Code establishes a Supervisory Board, which includes representatives from the Board of Governors and from student groups, a Commissioner for Student Discipline (the University Secretary), who is "responsible for the implementation and administration of the Code," and a Technical Advisor, who is usually a member of the Faculty of

Law. It also details the membership of the Student Disciplinary Committee and the procedures to be followed in the laying of charges and conduct of hearings. Copies of the Code are available from the office of the University Secretary, Old Arts Building, Room 110.

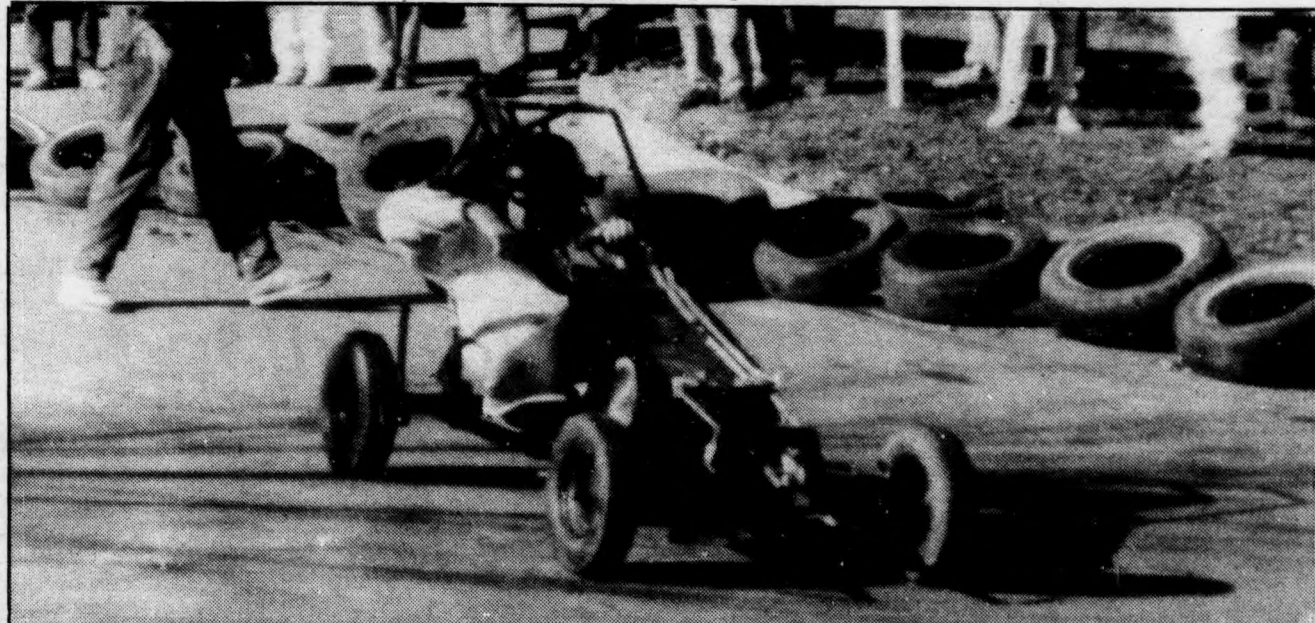
DISCIPLINARY REPORT 1986-87

The 1986-87 academic year

was notable for the increase in under-age drinking offences. Twenty-five students were found guilty (a few more than once) of such offences and fined \$25 or more each. A further fifteen disciplinary cases involved alcohol (e.g. providing alcohol to a person under age), and similar fines were levied.

A number of other cases were also dealt with through the student disciplinary procedure.

These included such offences as falsifying I.D. cards, misuse of fire protection equipment, damage to University property, obstructing Campus Police and acting in a disorderly manner. Penalties for these offences included restitution for property damage and fines ranging from \$10 to \$125; several added suspension of social privileges (e.g. access to SUB events).



Two competitors are seen streaking down the hill in their coasters, during the coaster derby last Friday. Mike Sargent, ME V, won with a time of 1:14 and had a best time of 1:13. Glen Frites, BED II, came in second and Bob Swyers, BED IV, grabbed consolation honours.

