

CROSSCANADA

Restricting blood flow to brain

FREDERICTON (CUP) — Several student groups at the University of New Brunswick may no longer be funded by the student council because their memberships are discriminatory, the council says.

The student council introduced several motions the week of January 25 on the advice of their lawyer to stop the student council from funding "any club, organization, or group which restricts its membership, or discriminates within its membership on the basis of gender, race, religion, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, age, family status, mental or physical disability or political belief."

"In a practical sense, it's a restricted membership because you're not going to feel welcome, and these are groups you're a member of because you feel that you're part of that, and it's part of your definition of who you are," said student council Vice-President of External Affairs.

"We're not saying those groups shouldn't exist because they certainly have an important function on the campus and in society," she said. "But the student union probably shouldn't be involved with them."

A letter distributed to councillors by vice-president University Affairs Anna MacDonald named several groups that would be affected by the motions including political youth parties, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance, and the Muslim Student Association.

But Gay and Lesbian Alliance vice-president James Whitehead said in a letter to MacDonald that "GALA is not exclusively gay, as gay-positive heterosexuals are also welcome to the events."

Customs on the firing range

MONTREAL (CUP) — Customs Canada has traditionally hit mainly lesbian and gay venues, but their opponents say that recently they've expanded their scope.

"Up until a year ago, you could be about 90 per cent sure it was stuff going to lesbian and gay bookstores. Since then, it has been spreading into other political shops and women's shops," said Nancy Flemming of the Books and Periodicals Council.

In the fall, a slew of shops had material seized or detained for the first time. *Le Dernier Mot*, Pages in Toronto and three left-leaning bookstores across the country were hit. Hothead Paisan (the adventures of a "homicidal lesbian terrorist") was stopped on its way to the Toronto Women's Bookstore and Everywomans Books in Victoria, B.C.

Womansline Books in London, Ontario, had a book of humour called *Weenie Toons* held up for two weeks and then sent through, with no explanation.

It is becoming more and more true that "We do not target anyone," as Don LaBelle of Canada Customs' prohibited importations unit in Ottawa insisted. But he acknowledged that individual customs officials, noticing certain stores which carry things often thought obscene, might then target those stores. With the wider range, Customs has also apparently become more active.

"It happens more and more often now," said Stefan Gelinas, a co-owner of *Le Dernier Mot* bookstore in Montreal.

Students lose state of grace

OTTAWA (CUP) — Students with Canada Student Loans are about to lose their six month interest-free period after graduation. Until now, the government has paid interest on the loan while students are in school and for six months after they graduate or quit. But in a decidedly undemocratic move Feb. 4, a House of Commons committee adopted Bill C-76 — which eliminates the interest subsidy.

The Canadian Federation of Students had hoped to appear before the committee to argue against the Bill's harsh measures, but Committee chair Don Blenkarn and Conservative MP's David Bjornson and Greg Thompson passed a motion stating there would be no public hearings.

When Liberal MP Ron Duhamel and NDP MP Ron Fisher walked out in disgust, Blenkarn pulled in a Conservative MP not originally on the committee to make quorum. The four-man Conservative committee then proceeded to do a clause-by-clause review of Bill C-76 before adopting it. The review took five minutes. The bill has now gone back to the House of Commons for the third reading.

"It's a rubber stamp vote," said CFS spokesperson Jocelyn Charron. "As soon as the House of Commons votes on it, it becomes law. (Students) will start to pay the interest (on their Canada Student Loans) as soon as they graduate or as soon as they quit school," he said.

news

HIV: virus unmasked

by Wilfrid Dimnick

A video questioning the popular theory of the HIV virus's origins is now speculated to be CIA contra band.

A group of medical doctors in the southern United States felt their work on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), the HIV virus and its origins was being marginalized. The Strecker Video attributes the origin of HIV to the World Health Organization's thirteen year smallpox inoculation campaign of the 1970s.

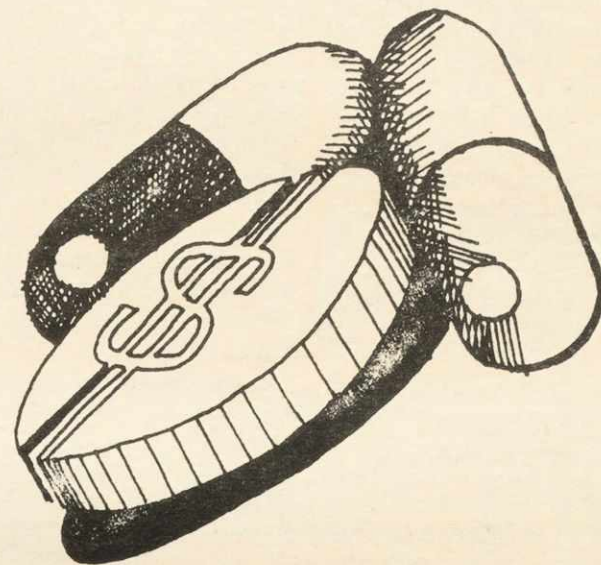
The doctors suggest the deadly Bovine virus was reproduced in smallpox inoculations. This theory is common in Europe and Africa but was totally ignored in the United States.

HIV is a retrovirus. It is constantly mutating, so identifying its genetic parents is presently impossible. However, demographics may be used to support the theory of the smallpox-HIV link. The Strecker Video investigated countries that received smallpox immunization and compared them to HIV infection rates around the world. Statistics from the World Health Organization's (WHO) reports on AIDS and the *Final Report of the Global Commission for the Certification of Smallpox Eradication* showed parallels.

According to Pearce Wright, Science Editor at the London Times, the allegation linking smallpox to AIDS was investigated by the WHO in the mid 1980s. Wright received a copy of the WHO investigative report in 1987. Shortly after, *The London Times* featured a front page story entitled "Smallpox vaccine 'triggered AIDS virus'" (5/11/1987).

The vaccination's effect did receive some attention in the US. In *The New England Journal of Medicine* of June 1987, Dr. Robert Redfield from the Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington wrote attributed the death of a healthy recruit to a smallpox inoculation.

According to Dr. Robert Gallo, considered the most prominent retrovirologist in the United States,



"the use of live vaccines such as that used for smallpox can activate a dormant infection such as HIV." Dr. Gallo is attributed as the discoverer of the HIV virus as the link to AIDS. Yet, his discovery has been under scrutiny recently by the Office of Scientific Integrity in the US.

Luc Montaigner of the Pasture Institute in Paris discovered a similar virus in AIDS patients in 1983. After sending a strain to Dr. Gallo, Montaigner stressed that the connections to AIDS was not conclusive. Without notice, Gallo held a press conference announcing he had discovered the cause of AIDS. He patented the HIV test which continues to reap millions of dollars in royalties for Gallo's research.

Montaigner threatened to sue Gallo, but US. President Ronald Reagan intervened by persuading the French government to compromise and accept 50% royalties. Consequently, HIV has never been proven to be the cause of AIDS, nor has HIV been proven to mean death.

THE CONSERVATIVE YEARS & HOMOPHOBIA

A general lack of understanding about HIV/AIDS during the Conservative American government years helped exploit the misconcep-

tion that AIDS was a disease of homosexual people. Margaret Heckler, former Secretary of Health and Human Services for the United States announced to the public at the first AIDS Conference in Atlanta, "We must conquer (AIDS) before it inflicts the heterosexual population and threatens the health of the general population."

Liberal sexual attitudes have always been tied to liberal political attitudes in the United States. It has been argued that by dictating sexual attitudes, a Conservative political agenda was furthered. The virus many aspects of people's lives—relationships, marriages, sexuality and homophobia. Thus, it had the potential to be a powerful tool for any government.

AIDS related sicknesses have been around long before the medical community related it to HIV. Malnourished children of developing countries die from many forms of pneumocystis. Kaposi Sarcoma has also been a killer of certain types of older men. How did AIDS become a separate disease caused solely by HIV?

Unmasked

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More than money on the line

by Peter Angione

494-1993. These numbers are still ringing in the ears of CKDU programmers. Thousands of listeners dialed these digits over a ten-day period (January 29 - February 7) to support campus/community radio.

CKDU surpassed its goal during this year's eighth annual funding drive, racking up \$40,978 in pledges over ten days. The figure is well above last year's total of just over \$36,000.

One-third of CKDU's operating budget derives from the annual funding drive. The remainder of the station's funding comes from a nine

dollar fee charged to Dalhousie students, from limited government grants and through paid advertisements and sponsors.

CKDU began in 1969 as little more than a record club for Dalhousie students. Today it has more than 200 volunteers and broadcasts 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, providing a mix of alternative music, news and views not often found on mainstream radio.

Over the years, the station has strengthened the voice of women on the airways, forged important links with the Black community and es-

tablished itself as a reliable forum for the lesbian and gay communities of Halifax and Dartmouth.

As an added incentive to contribute to the funding drive, each person pledging \$25 or more this year receives a "Friends of CKDU" card. This red laminated card with the donor's name on it entitles the person, after the pledge has been paid, to discounts at stores throughout Metro in the upcoming year.

As well, every \$25 pledge, once honoured, enters the donor in a grand prize draw for return airfare for two to London, England.