

NEWS BRIEFS

Quebec financial aid intact despite other cuts

MONTREAL (CUP) -- Financial aid to students was one of the few areas of the Quebec education budget not cut, according to a department of education statement released recently.

The statement reports that \$194 million in loans and bursaries will be distributed to about 78,000 students this academic year. That represents a \$28 million increase over 1980-81, distributed to 1,500 more students.

The statement indicates that the average amount of financial aid awarded to students increased from \$2,165 last year to \$2,484 this year. About 37,500 university students are receiving government assistance, representing 46 per cent of total university enrolment.

Conciliation is still awaited between Dal and Staff

The Dalhousie Staff Association, representing the non-academic staff at Dalhousie, is still waiting for the Minister of Labour to appoint a conciliator to continue the negotiating process with the administration.

The DSA broke off talks two weeks ago, claiming the talks were not progressing fast enough and the administration was stalling. The DSA has been without a contract since July 1st, 1981.

This is the third time since 1975 that the DSA has called for a conciliator. Salary is one of many outstanding issues, and the two parties are "far apart" said Executive Director of the DSA, Delphine du Toit.

"We have to take into account what we can realistically afford to pay," said Michael Roughneen, spokesperson for the administration.

Students hold teach-in at Saskatchewan University

SASKATOON (CUP) More than 1,000 showed up November 4 to the biggest demonstration at the University of Saskatchewan in a decade.

The students stayed for a six hour teach-in and protest against cutbacks in post-secondary education funding expected in the November 12 budget.

University President Leo Kristjanson cited the many detrimental effects cutbacks have had since 1976. He stressed that "besides the phasing out of three departments, the quality of learning is going down at this university."

Donald Savage, Executive Secretary of the Canadian Association for University Teachers, said that the Established Programs Financing (EPF) cost-sharing agreement was "originally adopted to allow for flexibility in the provincial budgets, but now it seems to effectuate underfunding."

The teach-in was the biggest demonstration at the U of S since the protest against American nuclear testing on Amchitka Island in 1971.

Evan Thornton, Vice-President External of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union and teach-in organizer, said "The teach-in was a success, but only the first step in awareness on this campus about government cutbacks."

"If the Federal cuts come down in Thursday's budget," he said, "there will be a rally and a march on Friday."

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