



Refresher Course

Man does not live by books alone. So, gather the group together and head for the Corkscrew Restaurant for a little refresher. Start by

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or come as a group, but do come and give yourself full credit for a full course.

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Canadian University Press

National Notes

Money doesn't mean quality

OTTAWA (CUP) — The quality of education isn't related to government funding.

That's what Ontario Education Minister Bette Stephenson told the Ontario Colleges Commission Mar. 21, according to commission chairman Don Francis.

"She refused to acknowledge any relationship between quality of education and the amount of funding. When we talk about the increase in teacher-student ratios, she said there was no relationship between quality and class size."

Class size was so pivotal in Stephenson's argument, Francis said that she "sluffed off" any other examples the commission college students leaders gave her.

"The discussion didn't go too far at all."

University administrators, faculty, and students have linked inadequate funding with a gradual decrease in the quality of higher education in Canada in the last five years. They point to inadequate research grants, faculty salaries that are too low to prevent the best professors from being lured abroad, equipment that cannot be replaced or repaired for lack of funds, inadequate library collections, and too few teaching assistants and instructors as some obvious examples.

More nuke horrors

WASHINGTON (CUP) — A recently-closed U.S. nuclear station is 500 times as likely to be hit by an earthquake than the nuclear industry had previously estimated, according to a member of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Victor Gilinsky said Mar. 20 an earthquake strong enough to surpass stress limits of the James Fitzpatrick reactor station at Scriba, N.Y. could happen as frequently as every 20 years. Industry officials and individual members of Congress recently put chances at one in 10,000 years.

Gilinsky was appearing before the House Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment, which was holding hearings on the NRC decision Mar. 13 to close down five reactors in New York, Maine, Pennsylvania, and Virginia because their resistance to earthquakes was inadequately determined.

Representative Steven Symms (R-Idaho), a subcommittee member, said the NRC decision was "asinine". Several other members of Congress said the commission had failed to consider the potential economic impact of closing the reactor plants down.

OFS encourages two-tiered fees

OTTAWA (CUP) — Ontario could develop a "two-tiered" post-secondary education system if individual colleges and universities are allowed to set their own tuition fees, according to the Ontario Federation of Students chairperson Miriam Edelson.

If tuition were unpegged, as suggested in the P.S. Ross report, there would be schools offering no frills education, and premium schools with premium fees, she predicted.

Edelson was speaking at Carleton University Mar. 19.

The P.S. Ross report, a consultant's report released in January by the government, surveyed three alternative tuition schemes, including having tuition set by individual institutions according to the cost of education.

If the government adopted that proposal, Edelson said it would be harder for students to afford post-secondary education. By 1985 it could mean tuition rising to \$1,400, (about double the current level), she said.

Assiniboia Hall from page 1

residence, was converted in 1964 to university office space. At that time it underwent about \$300,000 worth of rewiring to upgrade the facilities. In the last few years Assiniboia has housed grad student offices and several smaller university departments. It was vacated in December.

Since its closure many have assumed that like Athabasca, Assiniboia Hall would be redesigned inside and preserved outwardly.

Political Science professor Grant Davy, who sponsored Tuesday's motion at CDC, has been convinced that such a restructuring would be an inefficient use of resources.

"I supported the preservation of Assiniboia at one stage," he explained, "but now I'm sure it doesn't make sense."

Davy listed several reasons for his change in attitude:

- The building is in much worse shape than either Pembina or Athabasca
- It is not the same architecture as the others

- It is blocked by the V-wing from the Physics building
- It doesn't have the sentimental value
- It won't free up enough office space.

"And even if the cost of rebuilding wasn't so high, added, "I think I'd still be opposed. It's a waste of money to maintain Assiniboia Hall on purely traditional grounds."

There is strong opposition from other CDC members. Ustina of the Mathematics Department finds Davy's arguments "hardly convincing."

"Assiniboia Hall should be rehabilitated," he said. Ustina cited a consensus of campus opinion to support his claim.

Another CDC member, student rep Manuel Miles, said it "absurd" that the motion passed "when enrollment is declining." He said it was only sighted to consider the effect only over the short term—the high costs of the renovation.

"Assiniboia Hall has a much historical significance to this campus to be destroyed utterly," he said.