

# National student magazine approved

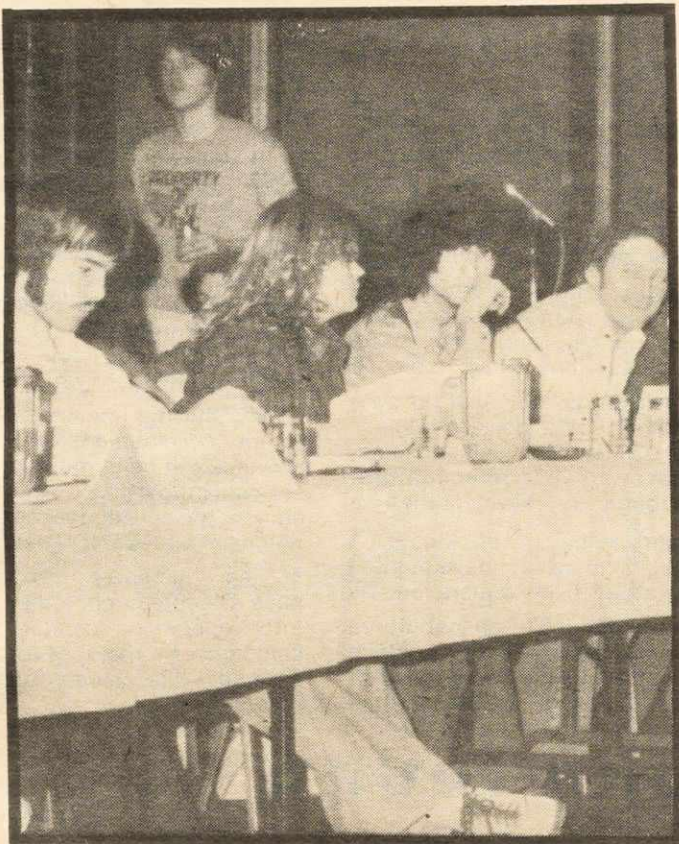


Photo by Moran (MSVU)

Over a hundred student journalists gathered in Toronto for the 42 national conference of Canadian University Press.

by Tom Regan

A national magazine for students, the cutting of an already tight budget and the expulsion of the University of Toronto Grad Post were the main area of concern for delegates at the 42nd annual conference of the Canadian University Press (CUP) in Toronto over the Christmas holiday.

The Canadian University Press, of which the Gazette is a member, is an organization of Canadian university and college newspapers that exchange news and pool their resources to provide services such as regional fieldworkers, to give papers technical expertise and a national office to co-ordinate news and a budget.

Many member papers were worried about having to pay more for less so much of the conference centered around the question of how to cut back on costs without sacrificing services. Cut-backs in the budget and a national student magazine written by and for

students that could turn into a money making venture were some of the directions explored by the delegates.

Fee-formulas and a national advertising contract were also debated during the 8-day conference.

The national magazine, probably the most heated debate at the conference, was passed at the final plenary by a vote of 31 in favour 6 opposed and one absention. The large majority in favour of the magazine did not accurately reflect the tone of the plenary as delegates argued over editorial structures, a statement of purposes, whether or not the magazine was financially viable or not, and whether or not Youthstream, the CUP advertising agency, had too much control over the financial aspects of the paper.

The national magazine, which will make its first appearance beginning in the fall of 1980, features an editorial board made up of two staffers from the magazine,

two members elected at large and a member of the CUP executive, most likely the vice-president/features writer. Regional liason workers will keep in contact with the main editorial staff to insure the editorial board is aware of the feelings of the different areas of the country towards the magazine.

The magazine which is as of yet unnamed, will operate on a break even basis and will not print if it can't financially break even. Start up costs will be provided by a loan from Youthstream to be repaid within three years.

CUP sees the magazine as a money making venture that could make as much as \$150,000 a year within ten years. The magazine could insure a greater degree of financial stability for CUP and also serve as a valuable service for member papers and their readers.

Facing an estimated deficit of over \$2500 during the 1979-80 fiscal year, the services committee recommended harsh measures in order to cut the deficit. The term of office of the national bureau chief was reduced by 4 weeks, the president's term by two and the staff dental plan was suspended for the 80-81 fiscal year.

A move to suspend the cost of living allowance for staff members was defeated as most papers seemed to feel this would be too much of a strain on an already overburdened staff. These cuts insure all CUP services will be maintained over the 80-81 year.

The Grad post, a graduate newspaper from the University of Toronto was expelled at a meeting of the plenary that lasted through the night and into the next morning.

The main issue of the Grad Post question centered around the lack of staff democracy and staff control over the editorial content of their paper, due to an overwhelming student council. The membership commission recommended expulsion of the Grad Post because they saw no immediate change possible in a paper which severely violates CUP's journalistic principles.

Acting on the advice of the membership commission, the

member papers voted by a 2/3 majority to expel the paper. Most papers did express the hope that the Grad Post could clear up its problems with the GSU, at which time the Post would be welcomed back into CUP.

A new fee formula featuring a percentage levy with a fee ceiling and floor was decided upon by the membership at the final plenary. The new formula provides a more even distribution of fees yet insures that the large papers do not end owing more than they can pay.

The new fee formula is particularly good for the Atlantic region. The region which previously paid 11.7% of its total budget for CUP fees will now have to pay 8.9%.

Sexism was an area that also came under heated discussion as delegates tried to draw up guide lines for sexism in advertising. Although delegates had a hard time coming to a general consensus about definite rules to follow, all agreed that sexism was a subtle yet ever present danger that all CUP papers had to be

on the watch for.

A new CUP executive was also elected at the conference.

Mike Balagus from the Projector, a community college paper in Manitoba, was elected president. Mike McEvoy, from the Uniter (University of Manitoba) was elected vice-president/features writer and Cathy Smith, present bureau chief in Quebec, was elected as national bureau chief. All three ran unopposed and were elected on a yes-no ballot.

Elections for the two cooperative council positions and their alternates were also held. James Weaver from the Lambda (Laurentian University) and Brian Topp from the McGill Daily were elected with Lorraine Graves elected as alternate.

The conference, which was generally conceded to be of a dull nature (especially by those attending previous conferences) still proved to be extremely valuable to CUP and its members as the student press prepares to meet tough financial times in the 80's.

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## Summer job hunt starts

by Paul Clark

You may still be burping up Christmas turkey or wearing off a holiday hangover, but it's back to school and, perhaps even more depressing, time to start thinking about a summer job.

On the fourth floor of the SUB, Don Lawrence, employment counsellor and recruitment coordinator for the Canada Employment Center at Dal, soon expects 100 to 150 students a day streaming into his office, all looking for summer work.

"This time of year, from January to the end of March, we get a heavy number of summer job applicants", Lawrence says.

"It's satisfying going into your finals knowing you have a summer job."

Lawrence says pessimism about summer job possibilities now exists because of the "myth" that a B.A. is a disadvantage in job hunting, something like the previous belief that a university degree provided an "automatic key" to the future. He says both

views are false.

Unemployment rates for university graduates are lower than the national rate and lower than that for people between 16 and 24 years old.

"A B.A. in sociology or philosophy is better than grade 10, though granted it's not like technical school training", says Lawrence.

"The job market was never terribly easy in the past, people still had to go out and beat the bushes."

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