

# CROSSCANADA

## Santa gives CFS new plan

OTTAWA (CUP)-Delegates to the annual general meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students sent a strong message to federal and provincial governments about post-secondary funding.

CFS delegates from across Canada soundly defeated a motion to withdraw opposition to the principle of an income-contingent loan repayment plan at its Nov. 17-22 meeting.

An income-contingent plan allows students to repay their loans according to a fixed percentage of future income after graduation.

In a report released last June, CFS said such a plan would give universities greater autonomy from government, giving them the right to increase tuition fees. The report said that would create an unmanageable debt load for students.

Delegate Shawn Rapley, president of Carleton University's student council, said only about 10 out of 52 university delegates supported the principle of income-contingent loan repayment. "That's a strong message to the federal and provincial governments," he said.

## Suede denim secret police

MONTREAL (CUP)-The classmate you borrowed a pen from last week may not have been a student. In fact, he or she might have been a plainclothes security guard casing your class.

That sounds like fiction, but Concordia University's security director Michel Bujold says it's not. Bujold says it's common practice for security guards at Concordia to go undercover, posing as students attending classes, to get information about students and others suspected of criminal activity.

But student council co-president Charlene Nero says campus security is not mandated to do plainclothes surveillance. "The department is called CSS (Campus Security Services) not CIA," she said. "They're not supposed to be in there trying to collect intelligence. "We have the director repeatedly telling us he doesn't want to turn the university into a police state, and we find that we have undercover cops in our classrooms.

## The right burn to your bra

TORONTO (CUP)-Five Ontario women are on trial in Kitchener, Ont. this week for baring their breasts at a rally last summer.

The women-including a secretary at the University of Toronto-were charged with committing an indecent act after they bared their breasts during a protest in support of University of Guelph student Gwen Jacobs at a Waterloo, Ont. park last July 18.

Jacobs was convicted of the same charge last year after she took off her shirt in the streets of Guelph, Ont.

"The issue is not about taking a blouse off in a park," Anne Hansen, the U of T secretary, said in an interview. "It's about equality under the law, and taking ownership of our bodies. I feel that I have the right to define my own sexuality."

The trial began Nov. 24. Final arguments will be heard Dec. 14

## This bud's for you

ST. JOHN'S (CUP)-Memorial University spent \$18,000 this fall maintaining an on-campus rose garden. And two campus administrators say it's been a wise investment.

The university wouldn't be giving students the fullest university experience possible if projects like the rose garden didn't exist, said Ewing Miller, director of university works, and Victoria Collins, the director of university relations.

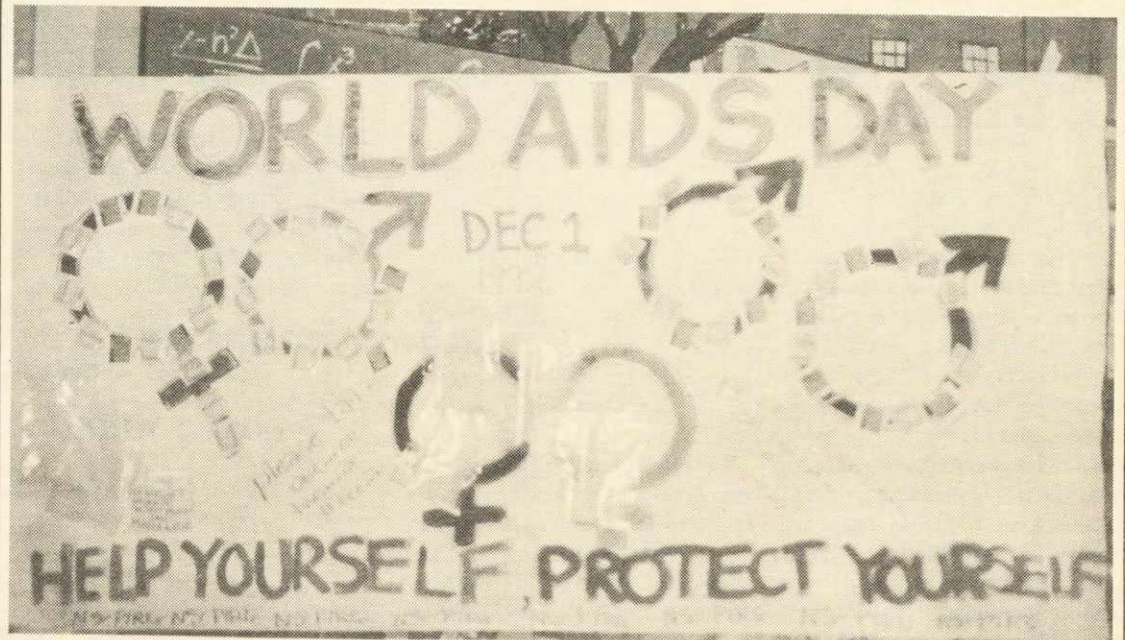
Collins said the area the rose garden is located in looked "untended." The university hoped that by upgrading that area, the campus atmosphere would be enhanced, and a place where students and faculty could gather would be created.

The money used to maintain the garden came from the university's general operating budget. The university decided to use surplus funds in the budget on the garden, said Ewing.

Collins said the garden upkeep should not be considered a frivolous expense. "One has to maintain things that they own. If you made an investment in anything like buildings or grounds, you are losing money if you don't maintain it."

The rose garden is now part of the university's "normal" landscaping budget. Its general upkeep-approximately \$2000.

# news



## Global campaign hits home

December 1st marked World Aids Day. Among the events were No Art Day, whereby galleries were closed to commemorate lives lost due to AIDS in the arts world. At Dalhousie NS PIRG-Dal (Public Interest Research Group), sponsored skits promoting safe sex and awareness focussing on women and AIDS.

## Reflecting upon reflections

by Judy Reid

*Think about the six women closest to you. Now think about which one will be raped this year.*

This was just one poster that could be viewed in the SUB during Week of Reflection. From November 23rd to November 27th, the Dalhousie Women's Collective in co-operation with NS-PIRG, Dal Men for Change, Dalhousie Women and the Law and the Dalhousie Sexual Assault Education Team, organized many events starting with an art exhibit on Monday in the Green Room of the SUB and ending with an open-mike session on Friday.

All discussions, films and workshops commemorated the fourteen women who were murdered on December 6th, 1989 in Montreal as well as informed students of the different forms violence against women could take.

From Monday to Friday in the SUB, below a banner that reads "Whether Words, Blows or Bullets, Violence Kills" the Dalhousie Women's Collective handed out purple ribbons and encouraged students to sign several petitions. Money donated by students in exchange for a purple ribbon, totalled over \$500 and will be distributed by the Women's Action Coalition to various women's shelters in Nova Scotia.

Approximately 750 signatures were collected from men and women. The petitions showed support of Dalhousie having a Women's Centre, asked the provincial government to provide better services for sexual assault victims and called upon the United Nations to address women's human rights and gender violence during the first world conference on Human Rights to be held in 25 years.

Dana James of the Dalhousie Women's Collective was thrilled with the number of people who participated in Week of Reflection. "I was really amazed at the attendance. About 500 people stopped by our table to get a ribbon or just to chat." She adds, "To me that means a lot. It renews my faith in university people."

One student wasn't as enthusias-

## hope and strong voices for women



tic with the amount of involvement of the student body. "Sure it's good to see 80 people attend a film on pornography. But when you realize that Dal has 10,000 students, that's a very small percentage of the population."

Tryna Booth of the Dalhousie Women's Collective, on the other hand was pleased with the amount of participation. "You have to remember that it's a busy time of year and people are budgeting their time."

Adam Block is a first year Dalhou-

sie student who in his political science class and in the SUB cafeteria collected 61 signatures for the petition addressed to the UN. Block remembers as a high school student coming into the SUB and seeing a Week of Reflection display. "Last year I overheard students here in the cafeteria. They said that any idea such as this promotes hatred against women when it's put up in the forefront." He did not agree. "These people are just not thinking and/or ignorant."

Some students found the Week of Reflection to be intense and emotionally draining. Anthony Roberts, a member of BGLAD!, described his reaction to *Not a Love Story*, a film about pornography. "That's when I lost it. I had been told it was very disturbing, but it was much more disturbing than I anticipated."

The various events affected each person differently. Tryna Booth said the vigil on Thursday night meant the most to her. "A lot of the week is educational which is excellent, but the vigil reaches people on an emotional level."

Sarah Schmidt, also a member of the Dalhousie Women's Collective, said she enjoyed the Open Mike on Friday because it was a good way to end the week. "It offered hope and strong voices of women." Nine women and one man shared songs, poetry, dramatic presentations and personal experiences to an extremely appreciative audience.

Most students do seem to agree that Week of Reflection is needed. "Deaths of women is an extreme form of violence and people have to understand that women face violence everyday," explained Schmidt. "Until violence is eradicated, this has to be an annual event."