

Oldest university in Americas

By JACOB KATSMAN

With tuition at \$17 and books at \$4, the University Autonomous of Santo Domingo (UASD) may not be Ivy League but it is an example of the changing face of the Dominican Republic.

Established in 1538 by Pope Paul III, what was then known as the University of St. Thomas de Aquino is the oldest university in the Americas.

Today UASD is subsidized by the government of the Dominican Republic and is the only public university in that country, according to UASD director of sociology, Victor Hugo de Lancer.

Tuition fees are divided into three categories to accommodate different student income levels. Most Dominican students spend around \$17

Canadian per year for university tuition, said Lancer.

In the UASD cafeterias students are able to eat breakfast and dinner for only five cents. And in the book stores, books which would cost Canadian students \$25 are available for \$4.

Lancer said, "Students cannot afford to pay more for food and books because minimum wage in the Dominican Republic is roughly \$80 per month."

University professors are well-paid in the Dominican Republic. After a 1966 revolution, the new Dominican government encouraged more people to get involved in the teaching profession by paying teachers well above minimum wage. Lancer said that professors at UASD

work 31 hours a week and are paid about \$6.50 an hour.

Lancer also said the UASD is famous for its medical school. "Many foreign student come to study medicine at our university."

"Most students come from the United States, Pakistan, Puerto Rico and Iran," he added.

According to the UASD department of admissions, foreign students are not subject to the same entrance fees as Dominican students. A foreign student must pay a US \$300 entrance fee and US \$1,500 yearly tuition.

For most of its history the university served as a religious institution of the Catholic Church, and admittance was restricted to the elite. But by the 1930s the influence of the Church was defused by the country's dictator and the university's name was changed from St. Thomas de Aquino to University of Santo Domingo, according to Lancer.

Lancer also said that before the democratic reforms, selective enrolment based on political biases and bureaucracy kept the student population in the low thousands. After 1966, the government cancelled mandatory entrance exams, allowing greater access to the public.

Today 47,000 students are enrolled by UASD.

The reforms brought on by the revolution in 1966 also gave students the freedom to participate in government politics and form their own student government.

In fact, what was once a traditional, old world, university is now commonly acknowledged as a training ground for politically active youth.



Jacob Katsman

LET'S ALL MOVE: Most Dominican students pay around \$17 Canadian a year for tuition.

Question ENGINE

Question Engineers
Howard Kaman and Babak Amirfeiz

asked Tuesday, March 14, by the Administration Studies Building.

Question One: Who is your choice for CYSF president and why?

Question Two: What steps are you taking to prepare yourself for major league baseball's opening day?

John Guglielmo, third year Chemistry

1) Stephanie Infurnari. She's the only candidate I know. She's going to hate that comment!

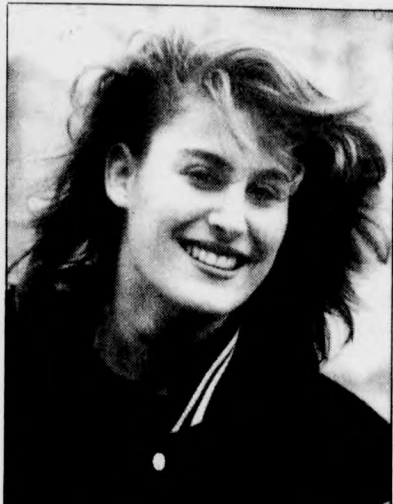
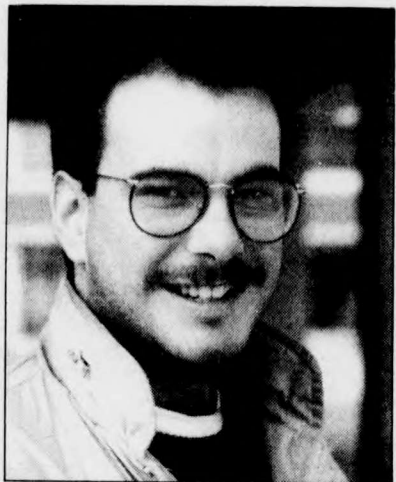
2) None. I'm not going to any baseball games.

Dwight Daigneault, second year Political Science

1) At this point I haven't decided. Love those cookies though. A.B.N.!!!
2) I've been looking around for Dome tickets.

Debra Snider, first year Osgoode Hall

1) Give me some hints!
2) I got my padded cushion out from the storage room.



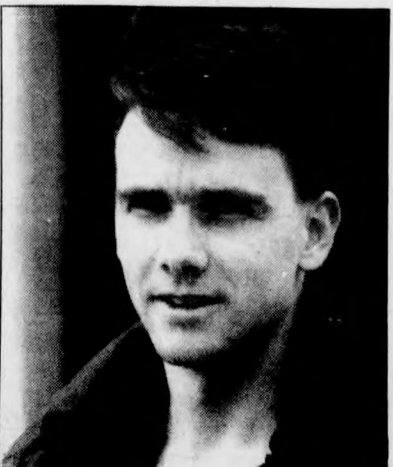
Paul Monkman, first year Psychology

1) Ha ha ha! To tell you the truth, I haven't had time to think about it. I saw the signs, I just didn't take note.
2) Looking for a job.

Lea Morgan fourth year English
1) Too bad Tammy isn't running again.
2) I don't know. Don't ask me these questions!

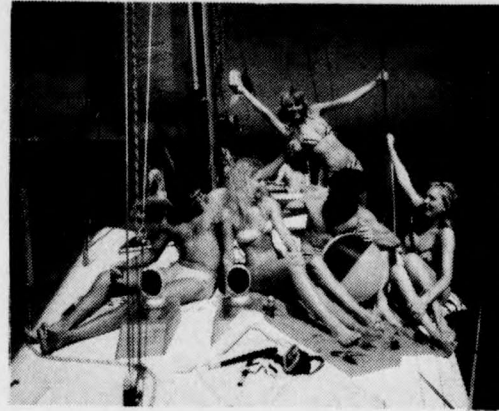
Andreas Von Gramon, third year Osgoode Hall

1) I don't even know who's running for president.
2) Reading the newspaper.



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