

# International Women's Year van met over 100,000

VANCOUVER (WCWN-CUP) — The federal government's International Women's Year travelling information van in six months has visited 91 communities in British Columbia and its staff has talked with more than 100,000 people about the status of Canadian women.

said Lynne Pearson, co-ordinator of the B.C. program, "broadening the base of support for status of women issues, by providing factual information on the social, political and economical status of women, thereby dispelling myths and prejudices about them".

"We were able to help women with their problems directly by referring them to resource, services and women's groups in their own communities which they were not aware of. Also we assisted communications between women's groups by linking them up to sister groups so they could work together" Pearson said.

Legal and economic rights for women were of most concern. Discrimination in employment, lack of childcare, the need for more female politicians and the isolation of rural and northern women were also of prime concern.

Abortion, rape and lesbianism were seldom discussed, Pearson said. The IWY Secretariat, which funded the van, will soon be disbanded.

Determined not to let the actions and interest they have sparked fade away after 1975, the staff of each provincial van in Canada recently recommended that secretary of state, Hugh Faulkner continue funding the program the 1976.

They propose that travelling resource women be paid to continue developing community awareness of women's issues and help organize women's groups.

"The federal government considers the program quite successful, but in light of proposed cuts in budgets it seems unlikely they will commit enough money to make continuing worthwhile. As it is, they have offered us tiddley-winks for the new year," said Pearson.

## Carleton students plan boycott

OTTAWA (CUP) — Carleton University students plan to boycott classes and join a province-wide march to Toronto to protest "massive and regressive revisions" to student-aid programs and the dropping of the federally-sponsored Opportunities for Youth program.

with the quality and access to post-secondary education.

It is expected buses will be rented by CUSA to get the students from Ottawa to Toronto for the January 21 march.

Student president Dunn sent a telegram to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, lashing out at the federal government's dropping of the OFY program which created 24,000 jobs for students last summer.

"The direction of wage and price controls and government expenditure cuts seems aimed at placing the burden of your war against inflation on those who can least afford it", stated the Dunn telegram.

"We find this totally unacceptable."

"The end of OFY means the end of many students' opportunity to continue their education," stated the telegram.

The telegram attacked provincial proposals to increase university and community college fees by 65 per cent and to wipe out the grant section in the student aid program.

The students also demanded the federal government make public Fiscal Transfer Act negotiation. This act includes money the federal government gives the province to finance student aid programs and post secondary education programs.

Carleton has established an office to co-ordinate and promote student political action, and it will be this office which will monitor the January boycott of classes and the province wide march on Queen's Park.

Determined not to let the actions and interest they have sparked

## The rich get richer .....

OTTAWA (CPA-CUP) — The income gap between rich and poor countries is still widening according to the World Bank. The economic growth of the 21 most industrialized countries has surpassed that of 35 of the poorest countries in every way.

145 percent in 1974. Using this standard, the United Arab Emirates became the richest nation in the world with a per capita of \$22,060. Kuwait was next with \$20,700.

The gross national product of the industrialized nations in the period 1968-74 grew by 4.23 percent annually. The wealth of the industrialized nations showed an average yearly increase of three percent on a per capita basis while there was no increase in the poor nations.

Poor countries like Bhutan (north of India) and Mali (north-west Africa) had a per capita GNP of \$70.

Per capita income is the figure arrived at when the total annual income of a nation (GNP) is divided by the total number of people in that nation.

The biggest GNP increase was in OPEC (Oil and Petroleum Reporting Countries). The average GNP of the oil-exporting nations rose by

Per capita GNP is used to measure comparative wealth between nations, but does not take into account inequities of income distribution within a nation.

## Ontario loans to increase

TORONTO (CUP) — Ontario students will have to borrow more money next year under the Canada Student Loans Plan before receiving any provincial grants, informed sources here said January 13.

The increase in the mandatory ceiling - from \$800 this year to \$1000 in 1977 - will not be announced "for some time," the sources said.

A spokesperson for colleges and universities Minister Harry Parrott did not confirm speculation about an increase, and said only some changes in the student aid plan would be announced "within several weeks".

"likely".

The sources said the decision to raise the loan ceiling was privately announced by Harry Parrott at a closed meeting of the special advisory committee now studying the province's student aid system.

Parrott "made it perfectly clear" the decision had already been made, and instructed the members not to reveal the change until formally announced by the government, the sources said.

The sources also said they doubted the government will make its official announcement prior to the province-wide student rally planned for January 21 in Toronto, organized by the Ontario Federation of Students.

There is no indication whether the government will reduce student grants simultaneously, but the sources termed such a move

## Mickey and Donald lose out

SAN FRANCISCO (ZNS-CUP) — Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck have lost their battle to join the actors' union.

The National Labour Relations Board has sided with the Disney empire by ruling that the workers who dress up like the famous Disney characters and wander around Disney world don't qualify as actors.

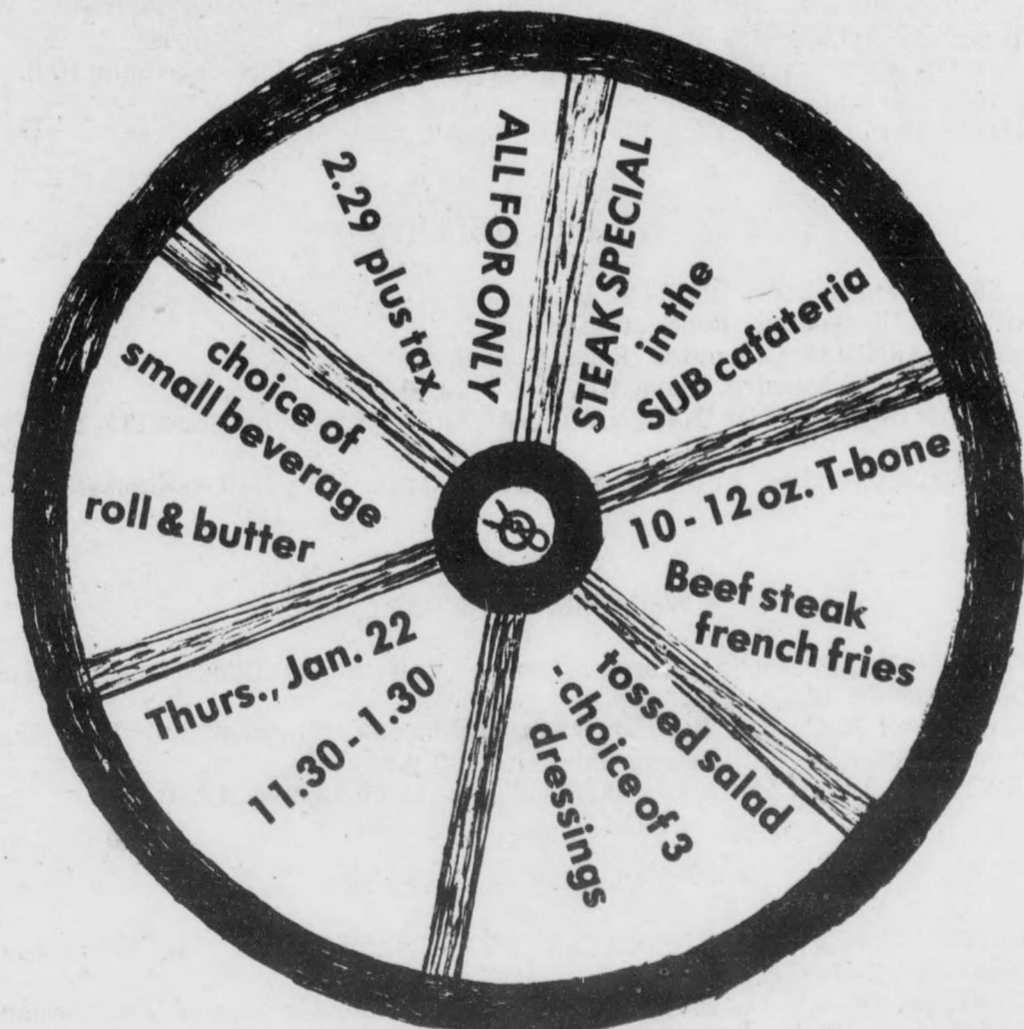
Mickey, Donald and the others had filed suit against Disney world, contending that they encountered all kinds of strange problems on the job at the amusement park which entitle them to special benefits.

As an example, they pointed out that Dumbo was recently shot by

his young fans with a pellet gun; that tourists had stabbed the Mad Hatter square in his fiberglass head; that Winnie-the-Pooh was pushed to the ground and had his nose broken; and that Br'er Bear was even tossed into the jungle cruise river by teenagers.

Despite these hardships, however, the N.L.R.B. had sided with the folks at Disney - ruling that if the characters want to join any union at all, they should forget about the Actor's union and join the shop that already represents Disney's restaurant workers.

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