

CROSS-CANADA BRIEFS

Québec reduces the number of ethnics entering the province

BY SAMER MUSCATI

OTTAWA (CUP) — After blaming Québec's narrow referendum loss on the "ethnic vote," Québec Premier Jacques Parizeau's Parti Québécois are allowing less ethnics into the province.

Québec will be accepting less immigrants in 1996, while immigration in the rest of the country is expected to rise, announced Immigration Minister Sergio Marchi in the House of Commons on November 1.

The province has cut its quota for next year by one-third, from 40,000 to 27,000 immigrants and refugees. Canada however, is forecasted to take in between 195,000 and 222,000 immigrants and refugees for 1996 — an increase of 5,000 people, according to an annual immigration report released by the minister.

Under the Canada-Québec accord signed in 1991, the province advises the country on how many immigrants it wishes to receive. Québec is the only province in the country that has sole responsibility for the selection of immigrants destined to that province.

"Canada needs immigrants," Marchi told the Commons.

"Immigrants as well as refugees become some of the best, brightest, most self-motivated, and hard-working Canadians. These are the people who will work with us to build a stronger, more economically-dynamic country."

Roger White and Pam Cullum from Citizenship and Immigration Canada could not explain why Québec unilaterally decided to decrease immigration.

Natives played big role in No vote

BY BRENDA GOLDSTEIN

TORONTO (CUP) — Québec's Native peoples, largely ignored in the referendum campaign, made the difference between a sovereign Québec and a united Canada, said native leaders.

Bill Namagoose, the executive director of the Cree nation, said native peoples were successful in bringing to light the reality that unceded native lands would become Québec territory had Québec voted yes.

"Why should they be able to kidnap the Crees and the Inuit to be part of a state they do not want to be a part of?" he asked.

Last week, Crees and Inuits in northern Québec held their own referendum and voted an overwhelming 96.3 per cent in favour of staying in Canada.

"The native people in the end saved Canada again. We always seem to manage to squeak [Canada] in the right direction," said Kehn-Tineta Horn, president of the Canadian Alliance in Solidarity with Native people, and a citizen of the Mohawk nation from Kahnawake.

She says during the campaign, native people were treated as though they didn't exist, despite the fact Québec wanted to set up a separate nation on their land.

"The Crees and the Inuit decided they didn't want to be part of a separate Québec, their territory is half of Québec in the north. We weren't going to allow them to take that.

"Double standards prevail, their right to self-determination extends far more than aboriginal peoples. It's unacceptable. Somehow we are considered less of a people than they are.

"When it's about them it's all clear, [but] when we want to stress the same things for aboriginal people, they say it is more complex because they say aboriginal people themselves don't know what they want."

Economist bans film for 'artistic' reasons

BY LORI COOLICAN

REGINA (CUP) — A University of Regina student can't make his major film project for the semester because an economics professor, turned dean of fine arts, thinks the film is pornographic and misogynist.

Tony Elliott, a fine arts major, planned to shoot his film *Betrayal* for a third-year class this fall. The film tells the story of a young couple's sexual indiscretions and the bizarre revenge tactics they use to get back at each other.

After Elliott's casting call, the mother of one of the auditioning actors saw the film's screenplay and complained to Elliott's professor, Bernie Lavigne. Lavigne informed Elliott of the complaint, and Elliott decided not to audition the actor. He thought the problem was solved.

On September 28, he received a letter from Michael Rushton, dean of fine arts. Rushton had obtained a copy of Elliott's screenplay when he heard about the complaint.

In his letter, Rushton called the screenplay "pornographic, degrading, and without a shred of academic or artistic merit."

Rushton also warned Elliott that he would take the case to the university's discipline committee if Elliott continued with "this behaviour."

Elliott says he thinks the decision is a violation of his academic freedom and right of expression.

The decision worries some students because Rushton is an economist by training, not an artist. He was only named dean of fine arts last summer when no suitable candidate could be found within the department.

Some students question how someone from a conservative area of study can judge the academic merit of artistic projects in a traditionally liberal faculty.

Judge's 'homophobic' order prompts calls for increased awareness

BY DAVID CAMERON

An August 1994 provincial court judge's probation order that seems to draw a link between pedophilia and homosexuality has sparked calls for increased awareness about homophobia and sensitivity toward societal stereotypes.

Amherst Provincial Court Judge David Cole told Randall Scott Dignan to "have no contact with children under the age of 18 unless accompanied by a heterosexual adult." The 1994 order was put in the spotlight recently when Dignan faced charges in provincial court for violating it by soliciting two 12-year-old boys for oral sex.

"I was absolutely appalled that any judge would make that homophobic stipulation," said Wilson Hodder, chairman of the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia. "The judge obviously fails to distinguish between pedophilia and homosexuality. It is irresponsible and just incomprehensible that a person who is supposed to be as learned as a judge would make that remark in 1994."

"One of the main stereotypes that's directed towards gay men is that they're child molesters," said Aaron Wright, a public educator with Community Pride Outreach, an organization committed to promoting community awareness and sensitivity to sexual orientation issues.

Wright said the fact that over 90 percent of child abuse cases occurs in a heterosexual relationship usually within the family is often overlooked.

"Cases where there are gay men molesting young boys always draws big media stories," said Wright.

Wright added that the judge's order was not surprising. "The judicial system in this province is very male, heterosexual, white dominated, and of course it hands down decisions from that perspective."

Both Hodder and Wright said that judges should be required to participate in sensitivity training to sexual orientation and other issues.

"The fact that some people are

given the opportunity to serve by being a judge without having sensitivity training to racism and gender issues such as homophobia and sexism is something that the judicial system needs to address. It's sorely lacking that this training is not provided," said Hodder. "If judges are not acquainted with homophobia and all those other issues, then (those issues) won't be paramount in their minds when considering those judgments."

"The decision was blatantly homophobic and I'm glad that Humans Against Homophobia (HAH) have taken some action," said Wright.

HAH, a working group of Dalhousie University's Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG), is circulating a petition to protest the wording of the judge's order and to demand an investigation into "the blatant homophobic stipulation of the probation." Wright said the petition is a small step toward increasing awareness about the stereotypes raised by the case.

HAH member Aaron Poirier is pleased with the response to the petition. "We've had some petitions that are signed by people from St. John's all the way to Vancouver because people think that it's an important enough issue to bring with them when they travel."

HAH has held two meetings with community members, concerned citizens, and supportive community action groups to discuss ways to take the myth away from stereotypes that surround homosexuality.

"Stereotypes are a social disease and the only way to combat them is through education and positive portrayals in the media," said Poirier.

He said HAH is presently choosing to maintain public support by working through legal channels and the media instead of taking direct public action. He reports that individuals are planning to take action through the Nova Scotia Human Rights Com-

mission and that complaints specific to Judge Cole will be made to the provincial Bar Society and to the province's Chief Judge.

"The issue we are trying to raise is not one of pedophilic rights. We can see that Mr. Dignan should not be around anyone under the age of 18, but homophobic stipulations with the qualifying statement of heterosexual such as the one by Judge Cole cannot be tolerated," said Poirier.

One group attempting to battle negative stereotypes is Men For Change, a pro-feminist, gay affirmative, male positive group that hosts monthly meetings for men who wish to explore and discuss issues relevant to men's experiences. The group was formed after the Montréal Massacre in 1989, when 14 young women at the University of Montréal's engineering school were killed by a man who said he hated women and feminists.

"I didn't know anything about the language of the oppressed and the oppressors five years ago," said group member Don Himmelman, reflecting on what his journey with Men For Change has meant for him.

"On a personal level," said Wright, "I think it's important that the oppressive group or the oppressors take the responsibility to end the oppression."

As a public educator, he conducts participatory workshops in high schools, workplaces, and community agencies in order to sensitize participants to the concerns of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people.

"I always say in my workshops what Martin Luther King once said, 'racism will continue not because of bad people, but because of the silence of good people,' and that goes the same with homophobia. It will continue not because of bad people, but because of the silence of good people."

HAH will present their petition to the Minister of Justice when they and other community groups meet with the Minister in a couple weeks.

DSU redistributes axed GM's duties

BY ANDREW SIMPSON

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) has no General Manager.

This is not late-breaking news — there hasn't been one since September 19 when former General Manager Steve Gaetz was dismissed by the student council.

The DSU Executive have been tight-lipped about the reasons for Gaetz's dismissal and it appears unlikely that this information will be forthcoming.

At present, there are no plans to appoint a replacement to the position which Gaetz held for seven-and-a-half years.

In the interim, the responsibilities of the General Manager have been divided amongst the eight remaining fulltime DSU employees. These responsibilities include: overseeing of financial management, budgeting, building and maintenance, staff, food services, the health plan, student union committees, and any other general duties assigned by the executive.

DSU Executive Vice-President (VP) Lilli Ju feels that the fulltime staff are more than capable of dealing with any extra work created by the absence of a General Manager.

"We (the Executive) met with the fulltime staff soon after Steve's firing to explain the situation. They have the know-how and are aware of the in's and out's of day-to-day operations," said Ju.

Ju would not comment on whether or not Gaetz's job had become redundant but did acknowledge that there was some duplication.

"A lot of the staff were already doing the things which we assigned to them. We are meeting with them on a weekly basis. They let us know what's going on in their end and we let them know what's going on in ours. It's the first time we all have an idea of what's happening."

It is possible that the Executive will choose to have the DSU operate permanently without a General Manager. The DSU constitution gives the President (with consent from council) the power to appoint and dismiss the General Manager. It does not require that a replacement be appointed in any given time period.

DSU President David Cox confirmed that the Executive is seriously considering reforms to the structure of the DSU.

"Steve Gaetz's job was that of a staff lead person. We have a reform package looking at a model without a General Manager. It is important that students manage and run everything about the DSU," said Cox.

None of the DSU employees approached were willing to comment on the issue, most suggesting that any questions be directed towards Cox or other members of the Executive.

Cox feels that the closer links formed between the executive and the staff will help make this, and future changes, easier.

"In an instance like this, there is an element of change and insecurity. Clear lines of communication are necessary. We (the Executive) are only here for a year, so we need this communication to implement our changes," said Cox.