

Profs protest student press injunctions

MONTREAL (CUP)—Recent court decisions to gag two Canadian student newspapers is a threat to all journalists, say three Concordia University journalism professors.

The McGill *Daily* and *The Link* of Concordia University are under separate temporary injunctions to not publish certain information concerning university faculty members.

"What is at stake is their right—and by extension, the right of all our newspapers—to publish material they deem to be in the public interest," said the professors in a February 1 statement.

Director of Journalism Lindsay Crysler and professors Gloria Bishop and Enn Raudsepp find it "equally alarming that this has happened without much of an outcry from the city's mainstream news media."

The *Daily* was served with a temporary injunction last November, preventing it and three reporters from revealing information about a controversial invention two McGill University professors soon hope to market.

A separate court injunction was placed on *The Link* editor and two reporters in January. *The Link* cannot publish "potentially libellous" articles about athletics director Ed Enos, who said the reporters intend to continue attacking him. Seven articles have been printed since mid-November about improprieties in the Concordia athletics department.

But the journalism professors say if *The Daily* and *The Link* have acted irresponsibly under Canadian law protecting individual rights, then the "proper recourse is a libel suit, not a restraining order."

They said the principle in question is the fundamental right of freedom of expression.

"Ever since 1695, when the British Parliament allowed the censorship laws to lapse, freedom of expression ... has meant that the press should not be subject to prior restraint."

American newspapers like *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times* successfully fought court injunctions in the 1970's, but at a cost of thousands of dollars.

"The student press does not have that kind of money and so far few other voices have been raised against the potentially serious erosion of press freedom," the professors' statement said.

"When the Royal Commission on Newspapers published its recommendations on the regulation of business practices in the

newspaper industry, our press raised a great outcry."

"Today, when a real threat to press freedom exists, there is only silence."

The silence is particularly

ironic in the case of the *Daily*. The *Montreal Gazette* revealed information about the two McGill professors two weeks before the student newspaper. The commercial daily was not restrained.

SAHPER conference a success

by Lisa Timpi

About 90 delegates attended the 3rd annual Atlantic SAHPER (Student Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation) conference held at Dal last weekend.

The conference was chaired by Achilles Huczel and Blair Joudrey. Huczel said the conference was "very successful."

Physical and health education, recreation, and nursing students made up the majority of the delegates.

The theme of the conference was professionalism, in terms of keeping up to date on the latest developments within the fields, setting standards of professional conduct, and striving for excellence.

Wendy Dahlgren, president of the Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation delivered the closing address.

The conference was funded by

Dalhousie's SAHPER group, the School of Physical Education, Health and Recreation, and by registration fees. Carlsberg contributed money for advertising and conference kits.

UPEI joins CFS

CHARLOTTETOWN (CUP)—Another campus has joined Canada's national student organization.

Students at the University of Prince Edward Island voted 58 per cent to join the Canadian Federation of Students in a Feb. 8 membership referendum. CFS chair Graham Dowdell said 322 of institution's 1,700 students cast ballots.

The two-year-old federation has now won four out of four

referenda this year. University of Alberta students voted to join in November, while students at the University of Regina and Laurentian University in Ontario voted to join in January.

Lakehead University in Thunder Bay will be the next institution to stage a membership referendum Feb. 28. At least seven other institutions will hold referenda in March.

The federation now has 28 full members.

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