

# Who is detente?

VANCOUVER (CUP) - What does the word detente refer to? If you answer that it's a country where former States state secretary Kissinger spent his vacations, you're closer than 82 per cent of first-year Simon Fraser University sociology students surveyed — who had no understanding of the term.

The survey was conducted last year by Herbert Adam, a professor in SFU's anthropology and sociology department.

"There is a growing public concern over functional illiteracy," Adam said at a meeting sponsored by the SFU Alumni Association, "but hardly any discussion of the equally disturbing problem of political illiteracy."

"It is not my intention to blame anyone. The individuals involved are, after all, products of political culture," he said.

The survey involved about 200 students enrolled in a first-year anthropology-sociology course in late 1975 and a second group of 200 students in the same course a year later.

About 40 per cent of the students surveyed could not define the concepts "right" and "left" with reference to the political spectrum.

Entertainers such as Elton John and Barbra Streisand were recognized by considerably more students than were political figures.

Jean Jacques Rousseau, one of the leading political philosophers during the enlightenment, was identified by 32 per cent in 1975 and 32 per cent in 1976 — but was characterized as everything from Quebec politician to a scuba diver.

In a section of the survey dealing with attitudes, a majority of students agreed that Quebec has the right to separate if the majority of its citizens decided to do so. Students also considered the federal policy of bilingualism to be reasonable.

About 70 per cent of students said "most trade unions got completely out of hand in recent

years" and 80 per cent that "the physical difference between male and female has often been exaggerated and the inequalities in opportunity overlooked."

In response to a question about class background, about 50 per cent of students said they were upper middle class, 25 per cent said lower middle class, and 20 per cent working class.

## 12 Science Students Needed

To sit as voting representatives on the Council of the Faculty of Science for 1977-78.

The Council meets several times a year and decides upon Academic Policy for the Faculty of Science.

Application for these positions can be obtained from the Students' Union receptionist in Room 256 of SUB. Further information can be obtained from the Vice-President (Academic) of the Students' Union in Room 259D or by calling 432-4236. Deadline for applications is March 21st, 1977.

Thursday, March 3

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# attention all science students

Presently the Faculty of Science is the only faculty on campus without an undergraduate faculty association. Attempts are now being made to establish one and we need your help.

The association would among other things, coordinate the representation of Science students on faculty, students' union and general university policy-making bodies. It would also arrange for a counselling and information service, forums of interest to science students, certain social activities and so forth.

Please attend a meeting of all Science students on **Wednesday, February 23rd in Room 142 of SUB at 7:30 p.m.** to discuss plans for the establishment of this association. With just a little input and assistance from you a good idea can become a reality. For more information contact the Students' Union offices at 432-4236.

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