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# KAMPUS KRONIKLES

By ZENA  
McBRIDE

## And they wonder why we won't join CUP . . .

Canadian University Press (CUP) was shaken by the controversial resignation of President Diane Dyson, and elected former Ontario fieldworker Donna Mayer as interim during its 49th annual conference in North Bay over the winter break, with three *Cord* delegates in attendance.

The elected six member hiring commission refused at first to divulge information detailing the circumstances surrounding the resignation, which had to be accepted by a majority of members present.

"You can't stick 120 journalists in a room, and tell them 'well, you have to accept this, because we say so,'" said *Cord* News Editor Bruce Arculus, who along with Entertainment Editor Anne-Marie Tymec and Copy Editor Mike Wert represented *Cord*.

After hours of procedural wrangling, the three national office staff and other CUP staffers were forced to give their reasons on the plenary floor.

A large number of delegates were bitter, feeling it was an invasion of privacy and a breach of trust, since the disclosures to the hiring commission were made in confidence.

Many of the reasons why Dyson's resignation was accepted centred on financial mix-ups and personal relations between the national office staff.

The agenda for the collective was set for the coming year in three marathon plenaries (the final exceeding 19 hours).

Ontario Bureau Chief Michelle Lalonde was elected National Bureau Chief, Beth Ryan from the *Muse* was chosen as the next Vice-President/Features writer and Gilbert Dong (from the *Manitoban*, at the University of Manitoba) will become president as CUP, the oldest national student organization in Canada, begins its 50th year.

A second bureau chief was added in the western provinces, and the weekly graphics change was reinstated.

A detailed proposal for computerization of all bureaus, enabling the quick and efficient transfer of news, was accepted.

National Bureau Chief John Gushue and Dyson were thrown into the hotel whirlpool at 4:30 a.m. by drunken delegates.

"No comment," said the *Cord*'s Mike Wert.

"That's our story, and we're sticking to it," said Arculus.

During the conference, running from Dec. 26 to Jan. 2, the delegates were also bombarded with technical advice on how to put a newspaper together (from advanced graphic design to editing), seminars identifying the role of the student press in society, consciousness raising workshops and discussions about media images, gay and lesbian issues, women's issues, and others. Ann Medina, from CBC's *The Journal*, was the keynote speaker.

The *Cord* delegates attending the conference all agreed their ideas of what a student newspaper should be were challenged.

"I believed that the *Cord* was striving to be true to the principle of responsible social change. But now I question whether we've been unconsciously attempting to emulate the commercial press, and just paying lip service to the concept of social change," said Arculus.

"For the whole week, we were working with delegates from across Canada with different political views, weighing them, and attending seminars that constantly challenged us to explore different possibilities for the student press," said Wert.

"I think the *Cord* is a haven of conservatism," said Tymec. "I guess I'd advocate a non-hierarchical approach. A paper staff has to function as a unit. If a paper staff can't work together, a paper can't work."

Canadian University Press (CUP) is a collective of 53 members, spreading from St. John's, Newfoundland, to Victoria, British Columbia.

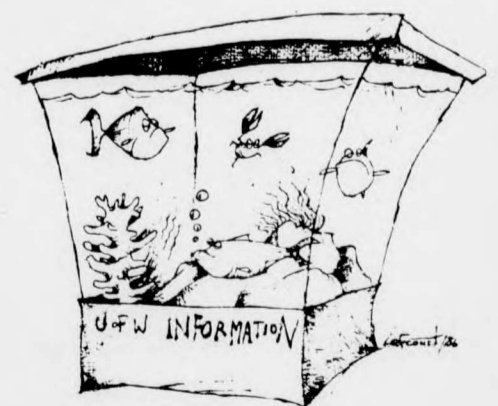
It operates a weekly news exchange service, a bi-weekly feature service, and (as of this conference), a weekly graphics exchange. Stories are compiled by five regional bureau chiefs across the country (Vancouver, Saskatoon, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax) and sent to the national bureau in Ottawa, which compiles and edits the copy for distribution to members.

CUP is also the sole owner and operator of a national advertising agency (Campus Plus), with annual sales of over \$1 million. Arculus was elected alternate representative for the Ontario region for a one year term.

The *Cord* has been a member of Canadian University Press since 1963.

Reprinted from *The Cord Weekly*,  
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