

# Money for single parents

**MONTREAL (CUP)**— The Quebec government will spend \$5 million this year to pay tuition fees and expenses for single mothers who want to attend university, but some say the admission criteria are too strict.

Marie-Jeanne Robin, the press attache for Quebec's minister of social affairs, said the program was designed to "give a hand to women who can't (go back to school) on their own."

Robin said the ministry's statistics show that after two years on welfare, women have an 85 per cent chance of staying there. The program is aimed at these people, she said.

There are 80,000 single parents on welfare in Quebec, Robin said, and there cannot be programs for all of them. "It's a start," she said. Eighty per cent of single parents are women.

The government hopes to sponsor 5,000 women who want to return to school over two years. The program will pay their tuition, books, daycare, and moving costs if the women want to study in another

Quebec city. In the past, Quebec's loans and bursaries policy discriminated against single parents because they would lose their welfare payments if they applied for loans and bursaries. Welfare for single mothers is now \$600 a month with one child, \$634 with two.

But the program is open only to women who have been on welfare for more than two years and want to go to school full-time. The government support lasts for three semesters.

"For many of us, this program is a first victory for freedom of action for our future and that of our par-

ents," Marie-Therese Sevigny, a part-time Universite de Quebec a Montreal student and single parent, wrote in La Presse. "But the admission criteria contain serious gaps."

"One must be on welfare for 24 consecutive months to be admissible," Sevigny wrote. "The is a useless waste of time and an exaggerated delay."

Sevigny also thinks the program should cover the full term of study, three to four years in university, instead of just three semesters.

"We hope that after (three semesters) the women will have acquired independence," Robin said.

# Tuition raise endorsed

**WINNIPEG (CUP)** — For the third year in a row, the University of Manitoba student council is asking for a tuition fee hike to help the university overcome funding short-falls.

This year, it's calling for only four per cent, down from the six per

cent the year before and the 10 per cent in 1983. The move, however, has provoked sharp criticism from student leaders at the neighbouring University of Winnipeg.

"By saying they'll accept an increase in tuition they are making it easier for the government to get away with underfunding," says Gaylene Van Dusen, U of W student council president. "It's not attempting to keep the costs for students down."

A report prepared by the U of M student council calls for a four per cent tuition hike in addition to a four per cent increase in government funding and a freeze in university faculty and staff salaries. The Manitoba government has threatened to freeze university funding next year.

"It's our role to insist the university look for funding elsewhere," Van Dusen says. "I don't think the (student council) has the right to propose a tuition increase on behalf of students."

The council report blames underfunding on the public's negative perception of post-secondary institutions. It says the public sees universities as a drain on the province's resources.

Carol Manson, U of M council president, says the council has too little political clout to force the government to increase funding.

# Honors for Clark

by Susan Sutton

The University of Alberta will be conferring Honorary Degrees to ten people at Spring Convocation this year.

The Chancellor of the U of A, Peter Savryn, recently announced the recipients.

Mary Totman, executive officer of the Senate, explained how recipients are chosen. "The Honorary Degree committee chooses people who have achieved. The achievement need not be academic, and recipients do not have to be Canadian."

Totman said that an Honorary Degree is the University's highest accolade, bringing honour to the University as well as to the recipient.

"We are expressing admiration for a person's lifetime achievement. No profession is excluded," she said.

Among this year's recipients are Mr. Justice D.C. McDonald, formerly of the McDonald Commission on RCMP Wrongdoing, and Madame Justice Bertha Wilson, the first woman on the Supreme Court of Canada.

As well, Alberta's new Lieutenant-Governor, Her Honour Helen Hunley, will be awarded a degree.

"I was honoured to be chosen," said Hunley yesterday.

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, former Prime Minister and Gateway editor, and current minister of External Affairs, will also be receiving an honorary degree.

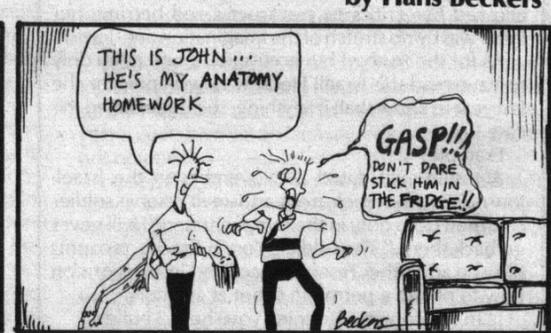
Other recipients include lecturer and critic Sheila Egoff, Donald Harvie, board chairman, Devonian Group of Charitable Foundation, and sculptor Les Mol.

The degree will be conferred May 31 during Spring Convocation.

Yard Apes



by Hans Beckers



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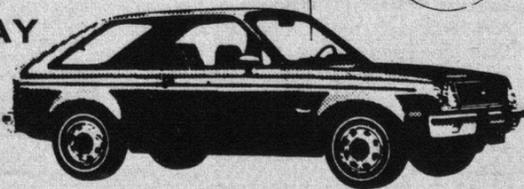
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