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Who screwed up?

Government bankrupts students

SASKATCHEWAN (CUP) — Fifty-four former and current University of Saskatchewan students are facing possible personal bankruptcy and garnishment of their wages because of a bureaucratic error.

The students participated in a training program designed to financially assist people from Northern Saskatchewan while they furthered their education.

Revenue Canada decided that student allowances in the Options North Program were non-taxable but reversed that decision in the fall of 1981. Students were notified that they owed up to three years of back-taxes.

"We've been trying to deal with both the provincial and federal governments, hoping to come up with a settlement," said program partici-

pant Larry Ahenakew. "But we've been going nowhere. The feds have gone so far as to issue garnishee letters to students."

Ahenakew received a letter Sept. 23 from R. Purdie, deputy minister for the Department of Northern Saskatchewan (DNS), stating that "the provincial government takes the view that the Options North students are responsible for the payment of income tax."

"In addition, the students are responsible for the employee portions of unemployment insurance premiums and Canada Pension Plan contributions." But Purdie admitted that Revenue Canada's original advice was that the allowances were non-taxable.

"When I started this program I met with the upper echelon in DNS to

find out the best program to enter. I chose Options North because it was non-taxable," said Ahenakew.

"Now the average tax repayment is about \$5,000."

Only two of the affected students are still attending the University of Saskatchewan. They recently spoke with U of S Students' Union president Simon Johnson to enlist support.

"This is a typical Canadian bureaucratic run-around," said Johnson. "The provinces blame the feds and the feds blame the provinces, and it is the people that suffer."

"We are presently going through the background information on the program to see who screwed up".

Says Ahenakew, "We just want the government to go back to its original promise."

Carleton nuke free

Old weapons best?

OTTAWA (CUP)—A Carleton University club is circulating a petition they hope will end arms research on their campus.

The International Socialists' petition demands the university senate declare Carleton a "nuclear and defense-free zone."

The club maintains that \$500,000 is spent each year at Carleton on military research.

A club spokesperson said the petition is to make students aware of "military research going on in their own back yard and to allow people to get involved in the disarmament movement in a small way."

The four point petition calls for:

- * A campus free from defense and nuclear energy contracts;
- * an end to on-campus recruiting by the Armed Forces and the atomic energy industry;
- * an end to the military using the university as a convention center;
- * and no jobs be cut as a result of the demands.

John Apsimon, associate dean of graduate studies and research, said the defense agencies are "just another source of funding for fundamental research as is any government department. And if a research proposal is profitable and valuable to the faculty concerned, the university is happy to

Apsimon said that equating research funded by defense organizations with arms "big bang" research is sensationalist.

Student senator Irwin Elman said the International Socialists' demands are "somewhat idealistic," but defense funding requires greater attention on campus.

Any research applicable to building a better missile should not be carried out, Elman said.

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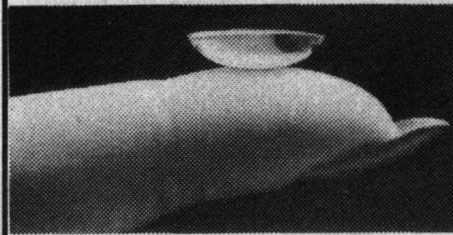
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