

# (George) Bush fires

BY SARAH SCHMIDT

TORONTO (CUP) — The University of Toronto's decision to offer George Bush an honorary degree has triggered a series of campaigns to prevent the event from taking place. Bush is due to accept the degree at a November convocation.

"It's one of the broadest faculty protests I'm aware of in quite a while," English professor David Galbraith said.

Within days of hearing the news, Galbraith had helped get over 100 professors to sign an objection letter sent to University of Toronto (U of T) president Robert Prichard.

The Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) also launched an on and off-campus letter writing campaign to condemn the university's choice. OPIRG is a student-run social justice organization.

"I expect the [university] will be overwhelmed by opposition," said Elena Lonero, coordinator of OPIRG at U of T. "There's no redemption in this decision. In the eyes of the community, U of T will get nothing but ridicule."

The university's graduate students' union and the executive of the undergraduate student council have both voted to condemn the honour.

One of the critics of the decision — a recipient herself of an honorary degree from U of T — is world-renowned professor emerita Ursula Franklin.

But while Franklin says granting Bush the degree is inappropriate, it is not the first time that U of T faculty have been outraged over the granting of an honorary degree.

In 1988, some professors walked out of a convocation when German Chancellor Helmut Kohl took the stage to receive his honour. They were protesting Kohl's record of quashing academic dissent.

U of T president Robert Prichard says the decision to honour Bush, which enjoyed the near unanimous support of the university's governors, was based on sound reasoning.

"We are honouring George Bush for his distinguished public service; international and domestic," Prichard said.

Critics say that, internationally, in his roles as director of the CIA, as well as Vice-President and President of the United States, Bush supported oppressive and murderous regimes in

Latin America and the Middle East. They also criticize Bush for his domestic policies.

"The Reagan-Bush years and in particular the Bush presidency were arguably the most harsh of conservative governments," Sylvia Bashevkin, a U of T political science professor, said. "It [was] a measurable erosion not just for what women's groups were arguing, but also civil rights groups and anti-poverty groups. It's quantifiable."

Not all professors are against Bush's degree.

Michael Bliss, a history professor at U of T, says his colleagues and students are overacting.

"These are simply people who are protesting for political reasons. It's juvenile," he said. "We should honour real achievement and it seems like George Bush is a good candidate," he said.

## Bible credits

*continued from page 5...*

environment, Crowell says students and faculty are not required to conform to any religious faith.

While Crowell acknowledges that the religious basis of an institution might affect the way courses are taught, he says secular institutions are no different.

"Every ideology has to struggle with [biases] to some extent," he said. "I wouldn't want to suggest at all that there wouldn't be an issue where an individual's faith doesn't have a way of colouring perspective, but no more so than if I was a Marxist or a feminist or a conservative or a liberal. And professors are allowed to have those opinions," Crowell said.

ABU is privately owned by the Baptist Churches of Atlantic Canada, and has been recognized as a degree-granting institution by the New Brunswick government since the early 1980s. It last inquired about AUCC membership five years ago, but was turned down because the association had placed a temporary moratorium on all new members while it was doing a periodic review of its membership policy.

Crowell says ABU has not looked into membership since then, but will probably investigate it again soon.

Until then, Collins says MUN's position on recognizing ABU courses for transfer will remain the same.

## Liberals pledge money

BY CARLA TONELLI

TORONTO (CUP) — It may be a billion dollar pie but that doesn't mean everyone can have a piece of it.

Prime Minister Jean Chretien's announcement last week of a \$1-billion scholarship fund to be in place by the year 2000 is meeting qualified praise and outright criticism from all corners of the education sector.

While details of a Canada millennium scholarship endowment fund have yet to be disclosed, it is certain that academic merit will be one of the criteria used in awarding these scholarships earmarked for low and moderate-income students.

But some low-income students with already high debt loads say the added academic performance criteria won't provide assistance where it's needed most.

"That is so unfair," said Sherry MacLeod, a single mother in her first year of law school at the University of Victoria who has already accrued a \$70,000 student debt.

"I have to compete in an already highly competitive environment. I work hard for my marks. And there are a lot of parents like me, we don't have the same opportunity to spend all our time on achieving those marks," she said.

Since the Liberals took power in 1993, they have cut \$2.29-billion from post-secondary education and the average debt at graduation for those who borrow has climbed from \$13,000 to \$22,000.

In his speech on September 24, Chretien said there could be "no better role for government than to help young Canadians prepare for the knowledge-

based society of the next century."

But student loans recipient and single mother Tracey Lauriault, coordinator of Carleton University's part-time and mature students' centre says this approach to student aid is unfair and discriminatory.

"What I'd like to hear is \$1-billion...for students in need. Period. Not youth, not scholarly achievement, but based on need," she said, adding that there is a strong correlation between lower marks and parental responsibilities, language barriers, cultural differences and disability.

Preliminary calculations indicate that scholarships of \$5,000 each will be available for about 20,000 students a year — a fraction of the 385,000 students currently receiving Canada Student Loans.

Robert Best, director of government relations and public affairs for the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, says he welcomes the announcement, but has reservations about the academic merit.

"What we have here is a historical announcement," Best said. "Clearly, it was short on details, but the stress on low and moderate-income students is highly significant."

"We'll have to see whether the scholarship fund meets the needs we identified," he said.

Although Chretien specified the program was to be a reward system for academic excellence among low and moderate-income Canadians in his announcement, Pascale Montmigny of the Prime Minister's office says it's too early to talk detail.

"In the coming weeks we should know more," she said.

# Determine Your Future

You Will Benefit  
From Our  
Leadership Position

## The DMR Difference

Employing more than 7,000 professionals in Canada, the U.S., Asia-Pacific and Europe, DMR Consulting Group Inc., Amdahl's professional services company, is a leading international provider of information technology services to private and public sector enterprises. Our services range from IT strategy, re-engineering, benefits realization, systems development and integration, to outsourcing and Year 2000 conversion services.

We are known for providing integrated business and IT solutions that enable our clients to improve their competitive position, market share and productivity. At DMR, we have a quarter of a century of experience in managing large-scale systems development and integration projects, combined with expertise in management consulting, a unique ability to engineer solutions and a suite of proven methods. Our integrated business solutions incorporate industry know-how, expertise in emerging technologies and proven approaches to change management. In short, we offer organizations the reliability they need in these times of rapid change.

## Your Future

Are you seeking growth and challenge in your career? Do you excel in a results-oriented team environment? Do you wish to make your mark on projects in Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver or Victoria? Perhaps even Sydney, Paris, New York, Los Angeles or London? Whatever your area of expertise and career interests, DMR has the right combination of systems, know-how and professional opportunities to help you realize your dreams.



An Amdahl Company



As an international organization with long-term contracts throughout the world, we endeavor to balance the needs of the company with the personal and professional aspirations of our people, so as to provide them with the right platform to reach their full potential. And as part of our plan for your future, we will offer a comprehensive benefits package, a competitive salary, and much more.

Interested? Excited? Want to know more? Let's talk!

Well, we're coming to Dalhousie and we want to meet you!

Keep an eye on the notice boards for more details.

OR — you can E-mail your resume to: [dmr\\_recruiting@dmr.ca](mailto:dmr_recruiting@dmr.ca)

DMR Consulting Group Inc., Canadian Division - Recruiting

252 Adelaide Street East, Toronto, Ontario M5A 1N1

Fax: 416-363-4739

An Equal Opportunity Employer.

[www.dmr.com](http://www.dmr.com)

The Results People

Canada • USA • Europe • Asia-Pacific