

cult notes

by Eric Cohen of *Balcony Square* at Scarborough College, Ontario

Over the Christmas holidays I had a new experience. I think I was indoctrinated into a cult called CUP (Canadian University Press). It is a cooperative made up of 51 student newspapers from across the country.

CUP held its 44th national conference in Bolton, Ontario from Dec. 26 to Jan. 3. I went there representing *Balcony Square* and I knew very little about CUP before I got there.

One of the seminars they held dealt with cults, and during the discussion a speaker from the Council on Mind Abuse listed a number of techniques of psychological coercion that cults use. These included such things as: isolation, change of diet, peer group pressure, removal of privacy, sleep deprivation and fatigue, confusing doctrine, chanting and singing, and guilt. This made me think, aren't all these things happening to me? For example:

Isolation - We were kept at Cedar Glen Conference Centre, in a Conservation Area, miles from anywhere, losing all contact with the outside world.

Change of Diet - It was catered by Beaver Foods. Everyone here knows what it is like to eat Beaver Foods for lunch a couple of times a week, but if you eat it 3 times a day for a solid week, you start to lose your mind, let alone your appetite.

Peer Group Pressure - I was surrounded by 150 other student journalists, supposedly the cream of the crop, all telling me the proper CUP way of producing a paper.

Removal of Privacy - We were kept in rooms with other people during the night and kept busy in seminars and plenaries all day. We had no time to be alone and think.

Sleep Deprivation and Fatigue - During the 9 days that I was there, I averaged about 3 hours sleep per night. They kept us up partying and working on the conference newsletter all night.

Confusing Doctrine - They kept drilling the CUP doctrine into us. Student newspapers are not around just to report on campus clubs and activities. They are "agents of social change, assisting students in understanding and mobilizing against exploitation and injustice wherever it may be found, and emphasizing the rights and responsibilities of the student". We heard this about 25 times per day.

Chanting and Singing - There is something called a CUP songbook, and the tunes are sung at all hours of the day and night. An example of a CUP song (sung to tune of Meet the Flintstones) is:

Dino
 We am Dino
 We am into alcoholic fun
 Dino hate their brain cells
 Dino am be the lowest type of scum
 (Note: Dinosaurs are cuppies that have been around more than 4 years).

Chinese dragon re-emerges

by Mary Ruth Olson

Does Coca-Cola and political soap operas constitute a state of modernization for China?

The country that for centuries proclaimed itself as the "Middle Kingdom" and was considered as the pinnacle of society is developing in areas that do not necessarily conform to Western theories.

Dr. Brian Evans, professor of Chinese History at the U of A gave a brief historical background of China and its current moves toward modernization at a forum Tuesday night.

Although China's economy is growing stronger with the implementation of free-enterprise and modern technology, it faced enormous set-backs in the past decade in the form of floods, droughts, and earthquakes, with the inevitable aftermath of disease and famine.

Yet the major problem facing China's development is its vast population. China is attempting to combat this with incentives to postpone marriages and to limit families to one child, says Evans.

With 30 per cent of the population under thirty years of age, China is projected to stabilize at 700 million people in the year 2110.

China's leaders see the need for modernization, but who do they look to as their role model?

After being "bombed, doped and displaced" by the West in the 19th century, one would hardly expect them to take the West as a role model, says Evans.

"China's ideas of modernization is not necessarily Westerniza-

tion, but the ability to maintain a stable, self-sufficient country," he says.

Agriculture, science and technology, and defense are major areas that China wants to develop.

Although the introduction of tax free zones, like those bordering the North territories in Hong Kong, have been labelled by some as "treaty ports", the implementations of free enterprise and tax breaks have acted to boost China's withered economy, said Evans.

"Western technology and superiority have been brief in the comparison with the long history of China," he said.

With China's move to establish itself as a thriving, modern nation, perhaps it is time to dispel the myth of the "paper dragon".



Pool rules

Re: Proper use of the SU swimming pool.

We have been experiencing numerous problems when people use the SU pool.

- The pool must be used in it's proper spot.

- In the cold weather it must be plugged in.

- The pool can be reserved in the same location as room bookings are made.

- The pool is only available from noon on. Staff use it before noon on a regular basis.

- The time you book should be followed as closely as possible. Someone may be inconvenienced greatly if you are late.

- The pool is not to be used for personal reasons nor left at a private residence over night.

- The pool is not to be used without the lap sheet filled out properly.

- The plug must be returned immediately. If it is after hours then either drop the plug on the desk through the slot for filled out bookings or give it to the caretaker on duty.

- If the water is low, purchase a couple of dollars with and submit a receipt for it. Normally water is filled by Building Services but if it is low don't try to use it.

- Report defects, etc. to facilities.

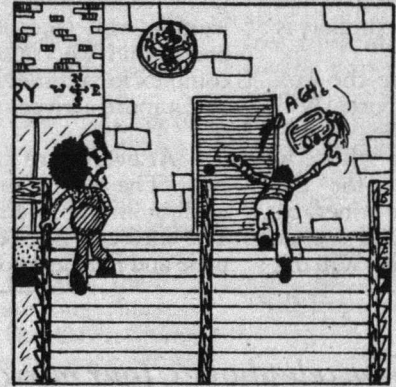
- Accident forms are inside the bleachers. Accident instructions are on the deck and on the accident form. A complete follow-up is your responsibility in case of accident or damage.

- Violation of the above or improper swimming methods and care will result in your area losing the use of the SU pool.

Sincerely,

A.W.L. Ouet.

Life at the U of A by Brownie



Wanted

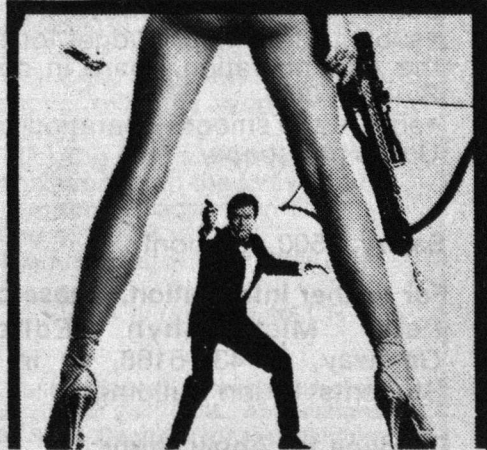


Staff person wanted for housing registry located in S.U.B. Flexible hours, interesting and varied office responsibilities. Knowledge of rental market desirable.

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THIS WEEK'S ENTERTAINMENT

PATCH

Renford Inns

10620 82 (Whyte) Ave.

• No cover Mon-Tues
 • Wed. is Ladies night & U of A Pub Night
 (Admission free to U of A students with I.D.)