

cross-canada briefs

Med students want choice of where to practice

BY SARAH JANE WILSON

TORONTO (CUP) — Medical students are opposed to an Ontario government's proposed method of getting doctors to under-served communities.

A section of Bill 26 entitled Physician Eligibility gives the provincial government unilateral power over determining where new doctors will be allowed to practice.

When medical students finish their residencies they apply for a billing number, which they must have in order to bill the province for their services. Currently doctors can use this billing number wherever they choose to work in the province.

In order to address the needs of under-served communities, the ministry wants to apply restrictions on qualifying for a billing number.

The Ministry of Health will list places where new family doctors cannot get billing numbers and, once a doctor receives a billing number for a particular area, he or she must remain in that area.

Prostitute prof back in classroom

BY VANESSA BENEDEK

TORONTO (CUP) — Controversial journalism professor Gerald Hannon is back in the classroom.

Hannon was suspended from teaching duties by Ryerson Polytechnic University in November after revealing to the Toronto media that he worked part-time as a male prostitute.

At the time of the suspension, he was already under investigation by the university for comments he made in his freelance journalism class relating to paedophilia.

Following the prostitution revelation, a second investigation was launched into Hannon's behaviour.

The investigation found that "Mr. Hannon's decision to raise this issue [of his prostitution activities] at this crucial juncture" was "conduct unbefitting the status of a member of the teaching community of an academic institution."

Consequently, the university issued Hannon a letter of discipline, but it also said he was allowed to resume his teaching duties until his contract expires in May.

CUPE local 3904, the union representing part-time instructors at Ryerson, has filed a grievance against the second ruling and the disciplinary letter.

"Had Hannon just said that he was a prostitute, that would not be unbecoming conduct. But because he described particular acts in explicit detail, the administration thinks this impinges on its reputation and effects their ability to do business," said Angela Ross, staff representative for the union.

Montréal Massacre survivor led fight for gun control bill

BY KEREN MARKUZE

MONTREAL (CUP) — Amidst a clutter of boxes and surrounded by a massive backlog of papers and files sits the woman responsible for last month's passing of Bill C-68, Canada's new gun control law.

Tired and relieved, Heidi Rathjen is in no rush to organize her office, nor is she feeling pressured to do anything at the moment. She is simply relishing the accomplishment of a goal which has been her sole purpose for the past six years.

Rathjen, president of the Coalition for Gun Control, will soon renounce her position after a lengthy and draining battle for gun control legislation that began in June, 1990.

At that time, former Justice Minister Kim Campbell's proposed gun control bill was sent to a special committee for review. This usually means that a bill will not be considered seriously by the government.

For Rathjen, who had been present at the École Polytechnique on the day of the 1989 Montréal massacre, in which 14 women were murdered by Marc Lépine, Campbell's weak proposals stirred in her an urgent need to take action.

Despite her persistence, Rathjen does not consider herself an idealist.

"It is not my mission to better society. I just wanted to right a wrong. We deserve gun control. It is part of who we are as Canadians," she said.

This conviction, rather than a prolonged state of mourning for the victims of the massacre, was the motivating force in Rathjen's passionate campaign.

"A lot of people expect me to be a lot more traumatized than I am. They put me in the same light as the victims' families, but it doesn't affect me that way," she explained.

She admits, however, that her active involvement with the coalition did start as a reaction to the massacre, and in a sense ended as a tribute to the victims.

"It does make their death not in vain, because they became martyrs for a cause," she said. "I think the government is committed to stringent regulations and eliminating loopholes (regarding the bill)."

FEATURE

... cont'd from page 1: "APATHY"

Apathy rules at Dal in the '90s

"We [DSU Council] have competent and active student representatives who represent an incredibly diverse university community," said Lydon. "Everyone is represented on the council and everyone has a voice."

David Cameron [no relation to the author], a Poli Sci professor at Dalhousie, said no amount of information from external sources will inform students if there is no interest shown.

"Students have an obligation to inform themselves on the issues if they are to be active citizens of the community, whatever community that is," said Cameron.

First-year occupational therapy student Cynthia Scammell, who also stayed away from the polls last October, said she feels detached from the DSU and is not aware of the student body's activities.

"It's partly my own fault though, because I don't take the time to find out what's happening," said Scammell.

Master's student Janice Yates admits the adjective that best describes her when it comes to stu-

dent politics is apathetic.

"I could become informed if I wanted to, but I'm not interested," she said.

Although cringing at the use of the adjective and its negative connotations, DSU's Chief Returning Officer Andy Doyle said, "Part of it [poor voter turnout] is apathy. Probably about half of the students on this campus just don't care."

Cameron said that student politics is low on the priority list for the vast majority of students. "Students are here for a combination of academic and extracurricular activities and very seldom do those extracurricular activities include student politics," he said. "Taking part in periodic referenda and electing the big wheels on campus to office is not all that important to them [students]."

But, he reflected, students will be inspired to take the time and trouble to get involved if there are "burning issues that directly affect students."

Second-year law student Dave Joyce said there are few issues that inspire students to participate in student politics.

"The difference between now

and the student movement of the '60s is that then there were huge issues about civil rights, moreso in the United States with Vietnam, and those issues galvanized a lot of students. Now, we're also basically well off and I think that creates a lot of apathy," he said.

Dalhousie History professor Michael Cross, who instructs a course on youth culture and social change in Canada, said that student apathy has always been a part of the student movement and student politics.

"Student apathy exists as the norm because students fundamentally don't see themselves as having a long-term attachment to the university," he said. "They're just passing through."

He added that a peculiarity of society is that the closer political institutions are to the people, the less interest people have in voting.

Both Doyle and Cox hope to build momentum on campus for DSU elections in March. Doyle said the DSU is exploring ways to get people out and he personally hopes to see at least 2000 students vote in the next election.

Universities target Asian-Pacific students for Canadian schools

BY CRAIG SAUNDERS & CAREY FREY

REGINA (CUP) — Wanted: Asian-Pacific students with bags of money to bank-roll Canada's post-secondary education system.

That's the message top university administrators are spreading as they travel half way across the world this month to recruit international students, and meet with high-ranking government officials.

The 11 college and university delegations are accompanying the Prime Minister, Premiers, and business leaders to Asia-Pacific as part of the "Team Canada" trade mission.

In the next two weeks, Team Canada will open a new Canadian education centre in Jakarta, Indonesia, as well as in Bangkok, Thailand. The centres will distribute information on universities and recruit potential students interested in studying in Canada.

"This is totally unprecedented," said Charles Larabie, an official with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. "It's a new twist to have Canadian education promoted at this level."

Larabie says that new foreign students will pump significant amounts of money into the Canadian economy, and that promoting our educational system is one of the main objectives of the trade mission.

The mission has been well received by post-secondary institutions who are scrambling to find new sources of revenue at a time when government cutbacks are crippling university budgets.

Further compounding their financial problems is a decline in enrolment at Canadian universities. In 1995, university enrolment dropped for the first time in two decades, according to a Statistics Canada report released Jan. 8.

Increasingly, rich international students are becoming a lucrative commodity for the cash-strapped institutions.

International students studying in Canada are not subsidized by the federal government, meaning they pay much higher tuition fees, and are more cost effective for universities.

The federal government expects the number of

Asia-Pacific students seeking university education to increase from 17 million in 1990, to 45 million in 2010.

Last year, of the 81,000 international students studying in Canada, more than 50 per cent came from the Asia-Pacific region.

The University of Saskatchewan is one of the "Team Canada" players, and will be signing agreements with private institutions in Malaysia and Thailand, as well as participating in the grand opening of the two new centres in the region.

"We are interested in getting more students from that part of the world," said Asit Sarkar, director of the U. of S. department of international studies.

But for poorer nations in Africa and South America, students may be out of luck when it comes to studying at a Canadian school. These days money

is the magic password.

Of the six Canadian educational centres to open within the next two years in the world, every one of them will be located in the Asia-Pacific region where the economy is blooming.

However, Denis Leclaire, director of international activities at St. Mary's University in Halifax, says that money is not the only motivation for his university to participate in the mission.

"St. Mary's has been working in Asia for the last 15 to 20 years," said Leclaire. "It certainly isn't only an international education recruitment exercise. We're looking at things like student exchange programs, faculty exchange, joint research, assistance programs, and working with partner companies in other countries."

Speaking from New Delhi, a tired University of Regina President Don Wells said that he has a vision of a strong future between the U. of R. and the Asian-Pacific region.

"I'm meeting with some people from a number of universities looking for some exchange opportunities for our students and faculty," said Wells. "My perspective is not to go visit the people we already have relationships with rather [it is] to develop new opportunities."

THE ACADEMIC TEAM CANADA

- **Dal** / Dr. Don Patton, Professor, School of Business
- **St. Mary's University** / Dr. Kenneth Ozmon, President
- **Technical University of Nova Scotia**
- **U. of Regina** / Dr. Don Wells, President
- **U. of Sask.** / Dr. George Ivany, President
- **UBC** / Dr. David Strangway, President Larry Sproul, Director International Liaison Office
- **Mount Royal College** / Thomas Wood, President
- **University College of the Caribou** / John Harper, Chair of the Board
- **U. of Western Ontario** / Dr. Michael Powell, Professor, Dept. of Earth Sciences