

Whites only scholarship

TORONTO (CUP) — The terms of a university scholarship which awards funds only to white Protestants have been ruled valid by the Supreme Court of Ontario.

Judge William McKeown ruled in mid-August that the Leonard Foundation scholarship, which has dispensed about \$115,000 a year since 1923 to students of "the white race," did not violate Ontario's Human Rights Code.

Further stipulations of the Leonard Will say that only 25 per cent of each year's money can go to women, and that no one "owing allegiance to a foreign government, prince, pope or potentate" can receive funding. It is a private scholarship, available to students regardless of what university they attend.

In his decision, McKeown ruled that "evidence was submitted to me of numerous educational scholarships in Ontario designed to benefit students of restricted classes defined by race, ethnic origin, sex, creed, and so on."

"The Leonard scholarship is, in essence, but one more example of such an educational scholarship," he said.

Silvilyn Holt, Toronto region supervisor with the Ontario Human Rights Commission, said the Commission will seek legal advice before making a decision to appeal the ruling.

"The (Supreme Court) decision is a major issue with us," said Holt, adding the Commission initiated an investigation into the ruling after

"a number of concerns were brought to the Commission's attention."

Holt said the Commission will meet September 20 to decide whether to appeal the lower court's ruling to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Rabbi Moishe Silverman, Director of B'nai B'rith Hillel Jewish Student Union at U of T, said the Leonard scholarship should not be categorized with other ethnic scholarships and the university should not consider changing its policy.

"The wording bothers me very much," he said. "I would cringe if the scholarship maintains that kind of language."

Meanwhile, at University College trustees of another will have been told they can ignore a phrase which stipulates only students of "Anglo-Saxon" origin can receive the scholarship.

Students jailed over fees

MONTREAL (CUP) — Five University of Montreal students will appear in court this month to face charges that they obstructed the law while demonstrating against incidental fees last term.

The five were among a group of U of M students who occupied their rector's office for five days last spring. They were protesting the imposition of a \$40 per term fee for "educational materials."

Alain Garnink, Sylvie Gervais, Mario Jolivet, Marc Pinot, and Luc Trepanier were arrested on March 13 when students were evicted on the fifth day of occupation by the police.

"The university was asking for an additional fee of \$40 per term, but that sum wasn't really covering cost

of services," said Martin Lefebvre, an executive for the university's federation of student councils.

"Even the rector publicly admitted during the summer of 1986 that the fees would be used to finance the school's deficit."

According to administration vice-rector Jacques Lussier, the fee was made necessary by the recent provincial cutbacks to university funding.

"The university has a lot of financial problems," said Lussier. "When it is possible to take from governmental subsidies we do, but there have been a lot of government cutbacks and students have to share the problem."

"The only other alternative would be to reduce the services and that would mean lowering our educational standards," he said.

"Students are not against the \$40 fee — providing that it is matched with corresponding services," said Lefebvre. "There is a financial effort that is being asked from students, but the rest of the university community doesn't have to share it."

"The financial management of this school is very weak, there is still a lot of rationalization that could be done to the budget," said the student executive. "There are still a lot of services that are badly managed or duplicated, like the cafeterias, the parking lots, the lack of a centralized audio-visual service."

"We have done everything we could," said vice-rector Lussier. "The university has made great efforts to cut costs: we have cut 425 employees and 125 faculty positions while taking in a 15 per cent enrollment increase."

According to Lefebvre, students at the university engaged in a year-long campaign against the fee during the 1986-87 semester.

"We tried to fight this within the university committees. We denounced the fee at press conferences. There was a demonstration in September with over 2,000 students. Then we tried to encourage students to refuse to pay the fee," said Lefebvre. "The boycott was a last resort, but an issue like this creates a display of strength from each side."

The five students, who pleaded not guilty at preliminary hearings on July 15, will appear in court at the end of September or early October.



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