

Common front rally in Ottawa

OTTAWA (CUP) — The only way things are going to get better for university and college communities across Ontario is if the Davis government changes its education policies, or is dumped in the upcoming election.

Politics was the pre-occupation of the Common Front Rally held Thursday night (March 6) at Ottawa's Glebe Collegiate. From the tone of the invited speakers, and the reaction of the audience of over 200, all indications are that political action is only beginning.

The "Common Front for the Preservation of Education" was formed recently in Ottawa to publicize and oppose the financial cutbacks in education which the provincial government in Queen's Park have been implementing.

The speakers at the rally represented all the constituent groups of Ottawa's three post secondary institutions -- student, faculty, and staff -- though not a single academic or non-academic administrator was present to join cause with the Front.

Also invited were the local provincial members of Parliament, Albert Roy (L.), Michael Cassidy (NDP) and Claude Bennett (PC). Bennett declined the invitation and sent his executive assistant John McDermid to "listen and report back".

Martin Loney of the Carlton faculty was the first speaker, and delivered an

animated talk on the economic context and meaning of the educational cut-backs.

Ontario is in the grip of the combined forces of inflation and recession, he argued, and the Davis government's decision to cutback on spending on social services will result in increased hardship for low and middle income people of the province.

Not only are the people who are least able to get through inflationary periods denied basic services such as quality education, but "to cut back public spending is to deliberately increase unemployment," according to Loney.

He said that Davis government, through "slight of hand" economic policies, was leading Canada's richest province into a situation where future students will have a "third rate education."

Anne Wells, representing the support staff of Algonquin College, stressed that the "very real

crisis" now facing post-secondary education was largely the result of a lack of long-range planning by the Davis government.

She said that what was needed was "positive planning for the future" and the development of long range goals for post-secondary education by the government, and the development of a governing structure which ensures that "students, faculty and staff are involved in decision-making."

The student president at the University of Ottawa, Robert Besner, underscored the point in his bi-lingual address. He said that students of U of O "don't even know what options are going to be offered next year."

"Uncertainty is the word now. Students don't know where the government is going" he added.

Keith Sparling, an executive of the Ontario Teacher's Federation, was the next to the podium. Cur-

rently representing the Ottawa high school teachers in their two week old strike, he described himself as "a veteran of government controls".

He emphasized the lack of concern about the deteriorating quality of secondary education, which the Davis government had demonstrated in their dealings with the teachers, and outlined the point of the current strike.

Wages, he said, were an issue, but not the only issue.

"We're tired of having to work in classrooms that are not conducive to learning, and we're tired of seeing our students short-changed" he said, referring to the 30-1 student-teacher ratio common in local high schools.

According to Sparling, the cut-backs in secondary education have the same root cause as those in post-secondary sectors -- the Davis government in Queen's Park.

Grace Hartman, Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, spoke strongly in favour of the common front approach. Students and faculty have much to learn from history of the Trade Union Movement and the strength that comes from collective political action.

"As one who has led a number of delegations to Queen's Park" she said, "let me assure you that the battle won't be easy. This is not a sympathetic government".

Through Queen's Park is unsympathetic to teachers and students, she said they do seem to have a lot of sympathy for big business and corporations. "not only do they have sympathy for them, they also seem to have money for them."

Hartman concluded: "Stay together. Remain united. Go prepared. Good luck."

Leaky Brands

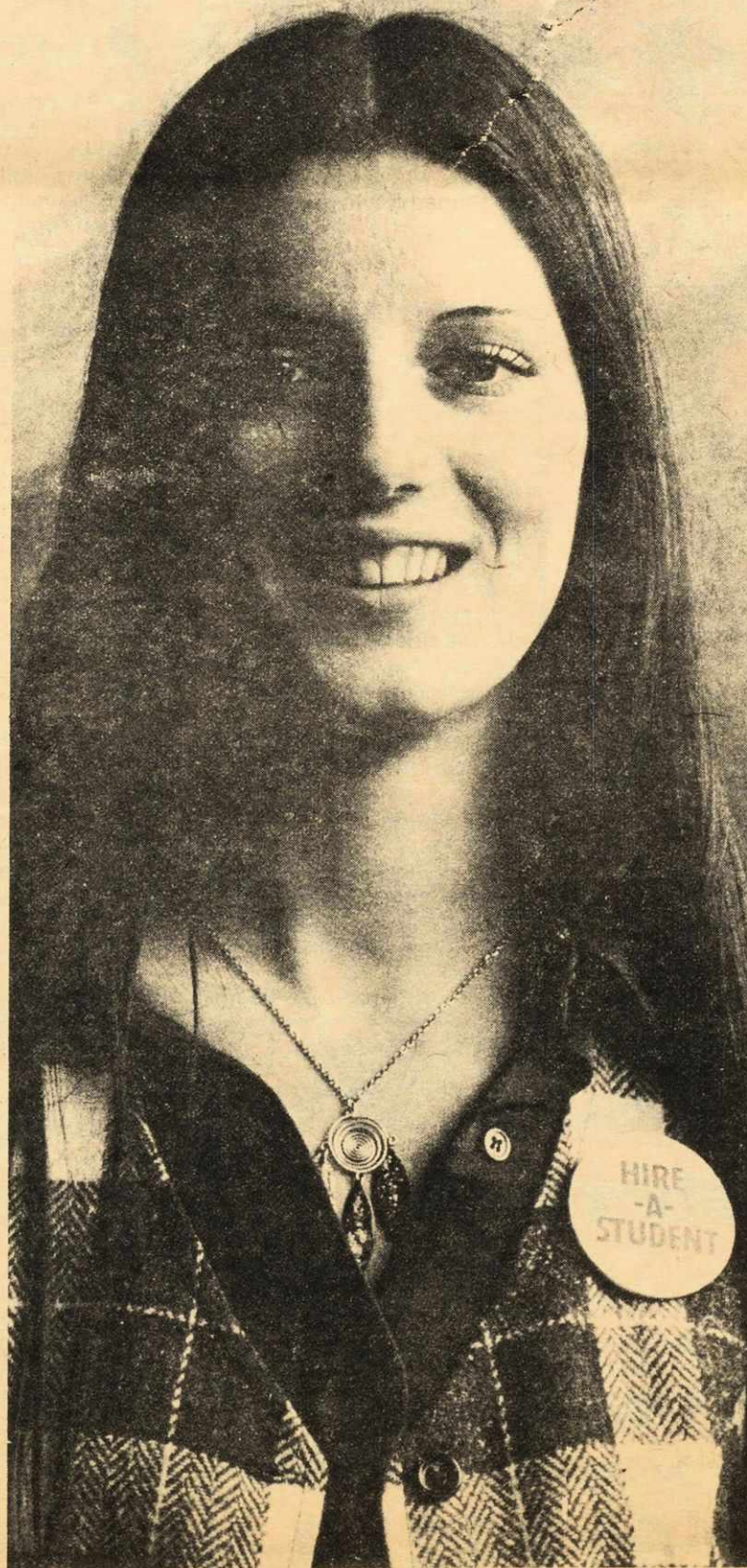
OTTAWA (CUP) - There could be bad news tonight. If you bought a condom recently it just might be defective.

In a test by the Department of National Health, 60 brands of prophylactics were examined for tensile strength, dimensions, and probability of leakage. Eight brands were found to be unacceptable due to the leakage factor.

The brands in question are: Immun, Gold Ring, Non-Stop, Export, Sahara, Nipple-End, Moko, and Silverstar. All of these are made in Germany and Denmark.

Rene Mercier, of the Department of National Health said there are over 100 brands of condoms on the Canadian market, and that tests are continuing on the remaining 40 brands. If any fail to pass the tests, they will also be removed from the market.

If you have the misfortune to be in possession of any of the eight brands of condoms which were cited by the study you should return them to the place of purchase, destroy them or be very, very careful.



YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE A CAREER OUT OF A SUMMER JOB.

Once upon a time there was a student who selected herself out of a summer job. (Oh no, we're not just picking on girls. We've seen guys do it, too.) She wanted to be an architect, this kid. So she held out for a job that had something to do with architecture. None came along that year, and by the time she decided to settle for something else, it was too late. All the jobs were gone. So was her first year's tuition.

Moral: Don't hold out for the impossible dream.

Who knows Your Canada Manpower Centre might introduce you to a whole new field. Maybe you'll like your summer job so much you'll want to make a career out of it someday.

HAVE A YOUNG SUMMER.

Manpower and Immigration / Main-d'œuvre et Immigration
Robert Andras Minister / Robert Andras Ministre

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