

CUP cross-country ramble

CUP is Canadian University Press, a 60-member co-operative of student newspapers across the country.

York study shows visa students hurt

OTTAWA (CUP) — More than half the international students in Canada could not afford to continue studying here if their education costs increased \$750, says a newly-released report.

The nation-wide survey of international students in Canada's post-secondary institutions, says nearly half of the students are looking to their parents to help cover rising costs, and another 16 per cent are depending on scholarships and savings.

And the report adds: "There appear to be about 15 per cent of the foreign students living on rather marginal support. They don't know where to raise any additional funds to cover rising costs, and even a small cost increase of \$250 would prevent them from continuing with their studies."

The survey, commissioned by the Canadian Bureau for International Education, is based on York University's survey research centre interviews of a random sampling of 794 full-time visa students attending 25 postsecondary institutions.

According to the survey, the average annual level of support for an international student is \$3,160 — the average living costs, excluding tuition, were \$200 monthly, or \$2,400 a year. The report says that the \$200 over-all monthly expenses "represent the bare minimum existence levels for foreign students in Canada."

About 62 per cent of the students interviewed said they found living costs in Canada more expensive than they had expected.

More than half of international students are Far East or Asian in origin, with a majority of students in that category coming from Hong Kong. Another 12.5 per cent are of African origin, and just more than 10 per cent are North American, the survey shows.

The report adds: "There is little doubt that foreign students come from status privileged sectors of their own societies...It is evident that the bulk of foreign students are the children of either entrepreneurs or businessmen. This export relationship for entrepreneurial families is especially evident for students from developing nations and Hong Kong."

The most important source of support for international students were their families and friends in their home country. For about 60 per cent of the students, the average support level from family sources was \$3,000. The next most important source is personal savings, followed by teaching assistantships and scholarships, and then support from government agencies and employers.

The report estimates the total population of visa students in Canada when the survey was taken in January and February of this year at 23,450 full-time students.

Considerably more of them were men than women: men accounted for just more than two-thirds of visa students.

There were 13,705 visa student applications to Ontario universities this year, compared to 17,330 in 1976-77.

Gays fight CBC discrimination

OTTAWA (CUP) — Continuing their fight for the recognition of gay rights, the National Gay Rights Coalition has filed an intervention against two Ottawa CBC radio stations for refusing to carry public service announcements for the gay rights organization.

The CBC stations' licence renewals will be reviewed by the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission at hearings beginning November 15 in Ottawa.

NGRC spokesperson John Duggan said the group has filed the intervention on the grounds that the CBC's policy is unjust to a large segment of the population which funds the national radio network.

The CBC announced last January that it would refuse to air gay public service announcements because they were considered too "controversial" for the Canadian public. Duggan pointed out that a Gallup poll in June showed that 52 per cent of the Canadian public supported human rights for gay people.

Public service announcements are free advertisements supposedly available to the general public for publicizing meetings and services.

This is the third intervention that gay groups have filed against the CBC in the last year.

Last year, at hearings in Halifax the CRTC told the CBC to settle the issue internally by establishing a review group. After this "review" the CBC announced that it would not accept gay ads.

Other radio stations, along with some television stations and newspapers, also refuse gay advertising — paid or unpaid.

According to the national gay magazine *Body Politic* Toronto's new radio station, Q107, refused and ad from the magazine in August on the grounds that the ads were not in their best interest "at the present time". In September the *Globe and Mail* refused a paid quarter page ad after publisher Richard Malone said he "preferred not to publish" the ad.

IQ tests foster US segregation

SAN FRANCISCO (CUP) — IQ tests, long considered useful indicators of a student's educational potential, are on trial in the United States because of their uncanny ability to discriminate against Blacks.

A suit comes to court this week on behalf of six Black children who wrote IQ tests that placed them in the "educably mentally retarded" category, after they scored less than 75 on the test. When the same students were tested by Black psychologists, they scored 17 to 38 points higher. The Black group's tests included language and other elements more familiar to the Black students.

The six Black students are among the 66 per cent of "educably mentally retarded" students in the San Francisco area who are Black. Over-all Black enrolment makes up only 28.5 per cent of the city's school system.

School use of the tests was suspended in California when it was found that 27 per cent of the students in the "educably mentally retarded" classes were Black, while the over-all, state-wide Black enrolment was 9.1 per cent.

The San Francisco school system defends the use of the tests, because "there is a poor genetic pool for all races in the inner city." It also contends there are more Black retarded children because of poor health care in Black communities, a higher birthrate, more teenage pregnancies and other similar reasons.



But the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, which is filing suit, says the tests violate the rights of Black children to be "evaluated within a culturally appropriate framework, to be assessed as a multidimensional human being, and to be fully educated."

Study shows Pill users die earlier

NEW YORK (LNS-CUP) — A recent study of the effects of oral contraceptives on women spon-



sored by the British Royal College of General Practitioners has concluded that women who take the pill have a 40 per cent higher death rate than women of the same age who never used the pill.

This most comprehensive study to date of pill-related deaths was based on an analysis of 101 deaths that occurred among 46,000 women involved in the study since 1968. Half of the women taking part in the study had never taken the pill.

The study attributes the increased death rate to circulatory diseases, including heart attacks and other heart ailments, high blood pressure, blood clots, strokes and brain hemorrhages.

The new finding also suggest that the risk of death associated with the pill may increase with the length of time a woman takes the pill, and that this risk may remain elevated for some years after pill use is discontinued. Combined with cigarette smoking, the dangers of pill use were said to escalate further.

The study has prompted British medical authorities to recommend that women over 35 stop using the pill.

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