

## University presidents call for cooperation

**OTTAWA (CUP)**—University presidents across the country are calling on the federal and provincial governments to hammer out an agreement ensuring post-secondary institutions are funded adequately.

In a letter to prime minister Brian Mulroney, Andrew MacKay, president of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, urges the federal government to end the bickering with the provinces over university funding. MacKay is also the administrative president of Dalhousie University.

"Our concern is that the policies of the federal and provincial governments affecting higher education are not well co-ordinated. Post-secondary education is caught in the bind," MacKay said in a telephone interview.

MacKay's letter, dated Nov. 1 and sent to Mulroney along with a copy of the AUCC's submission to

the royal commission of the economic union and development prospects for Canada, asks the prime minister to make university underfunding a high agenda item in upcoming discussions with the provincial premiers. MacKay says he wants Mulroney to raise the issue Nov. 13, when the first ministers embark on the first of a series of economic and political talks.

Although MacKay has not yet received a response from Mulroney, he says he hopes the letter will encourage the prime minister to set up a national forum on post-secondary education. He wants both levels of government and University representative to come up with goals for higher education, advise the governments on policies and programmes, monitor the development of the education sector and issue public reports on the universities' status.

In the brief submitted to the royal commission Oct. 31, which was set up to grapple with the problems facing Canada's economy, the AUCC also urges the federal and provincial governments to remove accessibility problems facing students who want to study in regions different than their place of birth, promote the participation of foreign students in Canadian universities and co-ordinate the funding of university research more effectively.

"The single most important danger facing the Canadian university system is the continuing

impasse between the two senior levels of government in resolving appropriate funding for post-secondary education, including universities," the brief reads.

The AUCC says funding under the federal Post-secondary Education and Health Contributions Act, formerly known as the Established Program Financing Act, has deteriorated as some provinces fail to pass on full federal transfer payments to education. The most notable example was B.C., which cut university funding by 24 percent this year and eight percent last year.

Universities were further squeezed for funds when the Liberal government in the spring imposed the six and five restraint program on education payments, causing a loss of \$116 million in the 1983-84 funding and \$250 million in 1984-85.

Although the AUCC's demands are similar to those of the Canadian Association of University Teachers and the Canadian Federation of Students—two lobby groups that want the federal government to offer financial incentives to provinces that give institutions enough money, penalize those that do not and come up with national goals for education—MacKay says the AUCC does not support CAUT's call for a federal post-secondary financing act.

"It seemed more appropriate to suggest a framework for discussion

and then let the government work out the details than the other way around," he said. "Otherwise there is the danger of the government focusing on the details instead of the larger picture."

CAUT's act calls for federal education grants to be earmarked for a post-secondary advisory council comprised of politicians, teachers and students, and for a new parliamentary standing committee on

science, research and education.

The federal government must renegotiate the transfer payments act when it expires in March 1985. MacKay, also president of Dalhousie University in Halifax, which faces a \$25 million accumulated debt this year, said he fears another restraint program will be imposed on federal education transfer payments next year.

"I'm personally very worried," he said. □

## Students concerned about unemployment, education and housing

**U**nemployment, education and housing are among the major concerns of Nova Scotia youth, according to surveys carried out throughout the summer months on behalf of the provincial International Youth Year Committee.

The Committee has been established by the provincial government to co-ordinate the programs and activities of government departments for International Youth Year 1985 and to act as a clearing house for information on other provincial and national programs, including the federal grants program.

To assist in its planning, the IYY Committee through the Department of Development Summer Employment Program employed two student researchers to survey youth groups as well as high school, parent and teacher representatives. Among the suggestions received for special activities to mark International Youth Year was that of a provincial youth conference to deal with the special needs and interest of youth.

The United Nations theme for International Youth Year is Participation, Development, Peace. □

## Snowdon Press

**MONTREAL (CUP)**—Vanier College's Snowdon campus newspaper, the *Snowdon Press*, has collected more than 450 signatures on a petition asking that it be reinstated as a campus paper, and given office space and funding.

The student council "didn't seem terribly pleased," when she presented the petition, *Press* editor Christine Donahue said.

The council, however, hopes to settle the matter without going to a referendum. "It's very unlikely that the *Press* will have an office and a budget," said vice-president John Moore.

Moore said he thought the *Press's* demands were reasonable, "but I don't know how much money we've got to give them."

Council ceased funding of the *Snowdon Press* in October and turned its funding over to a new group calling itself *Alternative*.

Originally, council said it could not fund two newspapers and requested the two merge but the two groups could not come to an agreement.

The *Press* made the closure an issue on campus, gaining much exposure and support from local student papers and students. They also published one issue funded solely by advertising revenue.

"I feel we've received a very positive response from the student body," Donahue said. □



# ARTS & EXPRESSION

Arts is not only in the eye of the beholder, but in the *Gazette* as well.

November the 29th the *Gazette* will be publishing an Arts and Expression issue comprising poetry, drawings, photographs and shorts selected from submissions we receive. If you want to express yourself, bring in your work by Nov. 22 to the *Gazette* offices, third floor, SUB.