

Campus newspaper hit by depression

Gauntlet: going weekly

by Mark Roppel

Due to a lack of money, the University of Calgary student newspaper, *The Gauntlet*, is going weekly.

Right now the *Gauntlet* comes out every Wednesday and Friday. Starting March 1 it will come out only on Thursdays.

"It's cheaper to print one 24 page paper than two twelve page papers," says *Gauntlet* co-editor Stewart Cunningham.

The decision was made at the last meeting of the *Gauntlet* Publishing Society two weeks ago. The *Gauntlet* has a \$2100 capital deficit and a \$5000 operating deficit.

The Society felt that cutting back to one issue a week "was one of the ways to save money in a short period of time," says Cunningham.

Co-editors Cunningham and Stephen Downes have also taken a ten per cent pay cut, from \$900 a month to \$820.

The *Gauntlet's* financial problems are a complicated affair but Cunningham cites three areas in particular: The paper's old ad agency, bad debts and a recent lawsuit.

Youthstream was the ad agency for the Canadian University Press (CUP) but in 1980 the two had a falling out and CUP set up its own advertising agency, Campus Plus.

The *Gauntlet* withdrew from CUP and stayed with *Youthstream*. But *The Gauntlet* was the only major paper in Western Canada still with *Youthstream* and the agency wasn't able to sell many ads for the region.

Last year, *The Gauntlet* rejoined CUP and Campus Plus, but the wounds are slow to heal.

"We got stung," says Cunningham.

Cunningham also says the paper has advertisers who do not pay their bills. The Evelyn Wood's Speed Reading Course did not pay for several thousand dollars worth of ads in their last campaign.

Finally, the paper published an editorial last year calling U of C Students' Union President Dave Singleton unprincipled.

Singleton sued and *The Gauntlet* settled out of court for \$2000.

Unlike *The Gateway* which is published by the Students' Union, the *Gauntlet* is an autonomous newspaper and any money it can not get from ads, it must get from a direct levy from students.

The *Gauntlet* receives six dollars from each of the more than 14,000 students at the University of Calgary.

But the levy is received in two installments - one each term.

"Twice a year we have a lot of money coming in, and a lot of money going out equally fast," says Cunningham.

"We have an irregular cash flow... a lot of the year we're just

Cutback on grant

The University of Alberta is closer to receiving a supplemental grant from the Provincial government.

"We haven't heard anything," says University President Myer Horowitz.

But despite the late date, Horowitz is still optimistic that a grant will be forthcoming. "We heard just about this time last year," says Horowitz.

Although at this late date there really isn't anything to spend grant money on, Horowitz says it still is very important.

"We'd like to get it (the grant) early, but we're not turning it down," says Horowitz. "We've already created sections in anticipation (of a substantial grant)."

Horowitz also says that if the grant is large enough, the University can "leave some of it for next fall."

Last year, the University received a supplemental grant of one and a half million dollars. This worked out to approximately \$925 per additional student, and the University was able to put some of it aside.

SU VP Academic Barb Donaldson is less optimistic than Horowitz.

"We haven't got one by now, which means the Minister (Advanced Education Minister Dick Johnston) is thinking about something. I think the Minister is making us sweat so that whatever we get next year will look good," says Donaldson. "I don't think we'll get anything."

Supplemental grants, or soft funds, are supplied by the government on a year-to-year basis, to compensate for enrollment surges and the like.

The University has already received one supplemental grant of \$2 million this fall.

The problem with soft funding is that since it is not included

scraping by."

When *The Gauntlet* becomes a weekly, there will be only six papers in the CUP chain that publish more than once a week: *The Link*, at Concordia University; *The Varsity*, at the University of Toronto; *The McGill Daily*, at McGill; the University of Manitoba newspaper *The Manitoban*, *The Ubysey*, from the University of British Columbia; and *The Gateway*.

in the base budget, the University has no idea of how much it will get each year.

Thus, soft funding can not be used for creating permanent academic positions - only for hiring sessional lecturers.

Informative Black History Month

February is Black History Month.

"We would like to let people know that the Black community has something to be proud of," says Bernadette Swan, chair of the Edmonton Black History Month Committee. "It's an educational experience."

Swan says the highlight of the event will be the International Fashion and Food Fair on February 25 at the Vega Hotel.

"We'll be having special foods and costumes from different countries," says Swan.

"We'll have food from Ghana, Uganda, Botswana, Trinidad, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and St. Kitts."

"The festival will prove to be very colourful," says Swan.

Negro History Week was started in the US by Dr. Carter G. Woodson in February 1926.

By the 1960's, Negro History Week had become Black History Month and was first celebrated in Eastern Canada in the early 1970's.

The celebration started in Alberta in 1980.

The Edmonton Black History Month Committee is an amalgamation of six black organizations: the Alberta Black Heritage Studies Association, the African Association of Alberta, the Amber Lodge Heritage Foundation, the Black Women's Association of Alberta, the Congress of Black Women of Canada (Edmonton Chapter) and the National

Sheaf wins battle against Union

SASKATOON (CUP) — It looks like the University of Saskatchewan student union will still have its student newspaper to kick around after all.

A student union committee set up last November to review complaints about the *Sheaf* newspaper has recommended the paper's funding be continued. The committee's report reaffirmed the need for a campus newspaper and rejected claims the paper does not allow students of different political outlooks to join the staff.

But student union president Beth Olley criticized the committee for not soliciting enough student input into its review and for focusing on the funding issue.

Committee chair Brad MacDonald said the committee con-

centrated on funding because the *Sheaf* is a separately incorporated paper.

"If a group is really to look into problems with structure, it has to be set up by the *Sheaf* publications society Board of Directors, or the collective, or have the sanction of the *Sheaf* to have any effect," he said.

Council struck the committee last term after a motion to completely withdraw the *Sheaf's* funding was presented. The *Sheaf* has also come under attack from campus engineers, who stacked the student society general meeting last term and voted to withdraw *Sheaf* funding.

Council voted to refer the committee's report to the paper's Board of Directors.

Black Coalition of Canada (Edmonton Chapter).

Aside from the International Fashion and Food Fair there will be a career day on February 11, a film festival on February 12, a Calypso and Canadian entertainment night, also on the 12th, and a variety concert on the 18th.

The Congress of Black Women of Canada will make a presentation on February 19 and on the 21st the Alberta Black

Heritage Studies Association will hold a panel discussion.

February 26 is the day for a seminar conducted by the African Association of Alberta, at 7:30 that night, the Alberta Black Heritage Studies Association will have a program on QC 10.

Finally, on the 28th, the Alberta Black Heritage Studies Association will show a film about Black history celebrations.

For more information, call 462-5835 or 488-6248.

Plan X for troubled CFS

KINGSTON, Ont. (CUP) — The Ontario section of the Canadian Federation of Students has a contingency "Plan X" to protect itself if the national organization disintegrates.

CFS-Ontario chair Ian Nelmes said "Plan X" will ensure the survival of the provincial organization if the national one disappears.

"I don't think it's necessarily doomed, but CFS is having problems — problems inherent in its structure and the way things have been proceeding towards the formation of the national student organization," Nelmes said.

He discussed "Plan X" at the Jan. 18-22 meeting of CFSO, which was held at Queens University in Kingston.

Nelmes said many members

of the national organization are prospective and do not pay full fees, forcing CFS to service more members than it can afford.

"Currently there are 21 CFS members in Ontario, and of those only seven are fee-paying, full members," he said.

Currently, a school cannot be a member of the provincial organization without joining the national one. But this could be changed simply by amending the Ontario organization's bylaws.

"We've had a legal opinion on the relationship between (CFSO) and CFS. So, the investigation has been done to ensure that if — and it's a big if — the CFS were to run into trouble, the provincial organization would not run into the same trouble," Nelmes said.

Clean-up the rhetoric

analysis by Gunnar Blodgett

The Centre for Criminological Research recently published two research papers; one called *Age, Perception of Social Diversity and Fear of Crime*, and the other called something equally convoluted.

Both papers are some thirty pages long, filled with references from other works, and neither can be easily read without a course or two in psychology or sociology.

Unfortunately, the amount of information presented in these publications is depressingly scant.

For example, the essence of the first paper can be summed up as follows. If we think there are many different kinds of people where we live, we are uneasy about people who are different, we feel that we are vulnerable, then we will be afraid of crime in our neighbourhood.

Now it is understood in scientific research that we should never take anything as an *a priori*

truth, and that social beliefs are as subject to scepticism as anything else.

Though we might think it self evident that the first three statements above lead to the final conclusion, we must prove it as certainly as Newton's Laws of Motion.

Furthermore, though it may appear that the thesis proposed in this publication is basically simple, the method of testing many simple things may require a lot of time and money.

The real problem, however, is the sheer volume and complexity of style which these and other researchers seem to delight in while presenting their research. The gobbledygook which drowns the essence of such a publication not only hides its objective, but loses the attention of the readers.

Papers such as these seem to lend support to the complaint that sociologists and psychologists are useless, redundant leeches. This

reputation is due more to the appearance than to the content of a paper.

Nowhere in either publication do we find a statement as simple as "we are afraid of crime in our neighbourhood."

Instead, the authors write in terms of "social homogeneity" and "perceived changing social and physical aspects" of the "particular demographic groups." Though these terms may closer define the point of the paper to its authors, they make that point more elusive to the reader, who is ultimately the consumer of the commercial product of the researcher.

Like the popular press, research publications must be accessible to the people who pay for them. Accessibility involves not only physical availability, it requires understanding.

If research scientists hope to improve their credibility with their market, they must learn to write.

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