

Teaching assistants trying to unionize

WINNIPEG (CUP) ---Teaching Assistants at the University of Manitoba are taking steps to unionize and will soon be laying the groundwork, according to the U of M's Graduate Student's Association president.

Anne Boeck said recently the unionization program is still "just talk". But by February or early March, the Graduate Student's Association could possibly sponsor a referendum to seek support for the move, she said.

Teaching Assistants are usually graduate or third year honours students who do most of the marking of student assignments, demonstration of lab experiments, conduction of seminars, and some teaching at the U of M.

Boeck doubts whether the university would recognize the union before next year.

At the University of Toronto, she said, it took two years for teaching assistants to be recognized as a union, while at York University, the administration is still refusing to recognize the TA union.

Boeck hopes the union will combat the discrepancies in TA's pay scales between the different departments. She said the TA's rate

of pay now depends not so much on the amount of work they do but rather how "rich" that department is.

Many TA's doing the same work are paid differently, she said, adding that no one is sure what qualification are needed to be a TA or what amount of training is required.

Unionization, Boeck said, will ensure that unqualified people do not take on jobs they cannot do, that

qualified people get opportunities to become TA's, and that they will receive "proper remuneration" for their efforts.

Although "It will take time and a great deal of preparation and thought", Boeck said the move to unionization follows concern expressed by members of the GSA over discrepancies in pay scales, as well as unqualified people teaching courses.

Howe Hall Not easy to run

by Paul Zed

Many people in and around Howe Hall assume that the business of running this place is an easy chore. However contrary to this popular belief the position of dean is by no means "slack". He has to arrive at a level of order such that the living conditions are satisfactory to the 562 residents that are housed there. That is no easy talk!!!

David Chanter is this dean. He handles this job with extreme dexterity. This is obvious as housing is the biggest single problem in Halifax and residence is no different. Therefore the pressures are indeed severe especially when some singles were converted to doubles and the doubles in Henderson were converted into triples. But Dean David (as he is commonly referred to) tells us that there are no real major problems and the new accommodations are working out well.

The dean, a very tall and lanky fellow in his late twenties hails from Oakville Ontario and has held this position since June of 1973.

In discussing issues with Dean Chanter his largest problem in any residence is "disrespect shown by the minority". Co-ed housing is a "non-issue", although he helped set up the first cold residence at McMaster University and personally views them with high regard.

When asked about what changes he would like to see implemented is an "improvement to the design associated with the buildings. Because of the poor architecture and design we are forced to work as best one can within the confines of the building. Thus there is not a people problem but a thing problem".

His most recent improvement may be found in the new Resident Assistant scheme that replaces the old don system. The dean feels this new system is "an attempt to make the R.A. work more with all the residents of Howe Hall rather than just exclusively in their respective houses. They will soon be starting to bring in speakers, organize study skill programs and career development programs to advise."

In conclusion, Dean Chanter impresses me as someone young enough to be able to understand the needs of the residence and yet old enough to take on the enormous responsibility his job entails. He is mild mannered and unassuming yet able and qualified (Masters of Education in Counselling from McMaster) to handle the problems and difficulties experienced as dean of men.

Rising concern over student alcoholism

OTTAWA (CUP) --- The staff of a student pub at Carleton University have decided to offer low-alcohol content beer and free coffee at closing time as a result of rising concern about student alcoholism.

Pub manager Steve Chessine described the step "a gesture" by the staff to show their concern over the problems which the pubs are contributing to.

Dr. Juanita Casselman, head of Carleton's Health and Counselling Services, agreed the problem is real.

There are increasing numbers of people seeking counselling for alcohol and alcohol related problems, and the increase is "significant", she said.

Now that Ontario drinking laws have lowered the legal age to 18,

the age of problem drinkers is decreasing. As well Casselman observed that more women than men seek counselling about alcohol problems.

But very few actually seek help because they feel they are drinking too much, she said. Most come for counselling on some other matter, but soon reveal that drinking is at the root of their problem.



CBC FLASH!

Expose Yourself to CBC Radio

Inside from the Outside
Fridays on "As it Happens," 7:30 p.m.

The Royal Canadian Air Farce
Sundays 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Bundolo's Pandemonium Medicine Show
Saturday, 11:30 a.m.

There are more laughs on CBC RADIO than news, weather, and sports. There's humour and satire about Canadians, for Canadians, by Canadians. Check your local schedule for the proper pronunciation of "schedule." And remember... the only difference between a flasher and a stalker is a university education.

860 Radio