

CUP Briefs

Guelph students elect 'nobody'

GUELPH (CUP)—Students at the University of Guelph decided last week that nobody was better than anybody else in their presidential election, and gave the nod to the "no-candidate" option.

Out of 2417 students voting, 1080 favoured the no-candidate option, which will force the Central Students' Association to hold new elections. Runners-up to nobody in the contest, in which students voted for both a president and vice-president on one ballot, were Gerry Theoret and Ross Parry with 990 votes.

Students dissatisfaction with the candidates was cited as the main reason for the no-candidate's stunning win. The election cost the CSA more than \$1000 to run.

PQ CEGEP plan opposed

MONTREAL (CUP)—Four anglophone CEGEPs have decided to oppose the Parti Quebecois government's White Paper on CEGEP Education because proposed mandatory courses on Quebec history and the province's economy are an attempt "to socialize students towards separation."

According to Mayssa Risia, secretary general of the Students' Union of John Abbott College (SUJAC), CEGEP representatives from John Abbott, Marianopolis, Dawson and the St. Croix campus of Vanier were all opposed to the policy paper at a meeting Mar. 3. A second meeting to discuss the method of publicizing their opposition will be held Mar. 13.

Lecturers close university

MONTREAL (CUP)—Although l'Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) will remain closed until Mar. 12 because of a strike by university lecturers, the university has promised substantial counter-proposals to the lecturers' demands.

The union began the strike Mar. 5 to force the university to negotiate seriously in talks for their first collective agreement.

The key points in the dispute are salaries, class sizes, and hiring practices. According to the lecturers' union, its members provide 45 per cent of all courses offered, constitute more than half of the teaching staff, and yet receive less than 10 per cent of the teaching budget.

Women cause unemployment

OTTAWA (CUP)—Canada's high unemployment has been partially caused by too many women looking for jobs, according to Finance Minister Jean Chretien.

Chretien told a Toronto audience recently that the shortage of jobs was partially a result of the unexpectedly high participation of women in the labour force in the last few years. However, he said he expected "this rapid increase to taper off in the future."

However, Carol Swan, an executive member of the National Action Committee for the Status of Women, says this statement only confirms the government's attitude that women are to blame for unemployment.

"Presently, it's a very fashionable approach to blame women for the unemployment problem, when it's clearly the economy's inability to respond to the needs of a growing work force that is the culprit," she said.

Feds support Canadian books

OTTAWA (CUP)—After taking away their protective tariff, the federal government has now announced it will give an average of \$6.7 million a year to Canadian book publishers for the next three years.

Textbooks will be especially singled out, with a \$1.5 million block grant for their development in the first year. Secretary of State John Roberts said he hopes this would reverse the trend of many foreign texts in Canadian schools and universities.

It is not expected, however, that the grant will substantially alter Canadian publishers' current 15 per cent share of the Canadian market. When asked, Roberts said he did not think it would bring Canadians' share of the market to 51 per cent.

Law students protest exams

MONTREAL (CUP)—Francophone law students in Quebec are protesting a final evaluation system for notary students which they say is much too harsh.

Students at l'Université de Montreal, Ottawa, Sherbrooke and Laval last month all protested the system, which requires notary students to write exams for two days in June which are worth 50 per cent of their fourth-year mark. At the U de M, students are also writing 30 exams and 10 papers over the two terms of their fourth year.

All U de M law students walked out for four days in February to try to force la Chambre des Notaires du Quebec to replace this "double-evaluation system" with an internship in a notary office. Students at Ottawa, Sherbrooke, and Laval also walked out or manifested their support for the Montreal students. They have not yet received any concessions from la Chambre, although they have met with its representatives.

Job vacancies down 19%

OTTAWA (CUP)—The number of job vacancies dropped 19 per cent in the three months up to the end of January to 41,400, or one opening for every 20 unemployed Canadians.

The Statistics Canada job vacancy survey released Mar. 1 revealed there were almost 11,000 fewer job openings by Jan. 31 than there were at the end of Oct. Unemployment stood at 977,000 in Jan. according to Stats Canada.

This job vacancy survey will also be the last one produced, as it has fallen victim to the government's budget slashing spree in Sept. At the time, opposition critics said the survey was cut to spare the government embarrassment over the non-existence of jobs.

Body Politic acquittal appealed

TORONTO (CUP)—The Ontario government is seeking to overturn the acquittal given the Body Politic magazine in what a spokesperson for the gay magazine termed government harassment.

Ontario Attorney-General Roy McMurtry said Mar. 6 his office would appeal the Feb. 14 court decision finding the magazine's publisher and three of its employees not guilty of transmitting indecent, immoral and scurrilous materials through the mails.

The charges were laid after the magazine published an article in Dec. 1977, entitled Men Loving Boys Loving Men, describing sexual relations between boys and men. Also charged are Gerald Hannon, author of the article and Edward Jackson, Secretary of the Pink Triangle Press.

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