

# Students ignore education issues

OTTAWA (CUP) — Those best suited to looking out for the interests of post-secondary education — students — ignored the issue during this federal election campaign, Canadian student leaders say.

Members of university student councils from across the country

say their demands to end government underfunding and improving student aid were swept into the political backwash — in favour of an obsession with the free trade agreement.

"All issues but free trade have been lost in this election," said Shawn Rapley, vice president

external of Carleton University's student council. "I'm not going to run into a brick wall."

Rapley didn't bother trying to get students interested in the election, concentrating on a local municipal contest instead.

At a recent forum at Carleton, candidates vying to represent Ottawa-Centre mentioned post-secondary education, but none of the more than 200 students there asked for more information. Free trade was the hot topic.

Karen Bird, president of the students council at Waterloo's Wilfrid Laurier University, said she too was frustrated by the preoccupation with the impact of the Canada-U.S. trade deal.

"We're really taking up the wrong tree if we try to make students aware of (issues) regarding post-secondary education," she said. "We're not talking about issues with a real student perspective."

Bird said there is strong support for the trade agreement at Laurier because one-third of the university's students are enrolled in the school of business.

"I've yet to meet a business student who is opposed (to the agreement). Isn't that frightening?" She said this "pro-Conservative" bias has thwarted her efforts to get students thinking about how the other party platforms might help or hurt higher education.

"We have a less-than-captive audience for those issues," she said. "My job is mobilizing student opinion, but there isn't a lot of opinion to mobilize. It is very frustrating."

With so much free trade rhetoric swirling around the campus, Bird said she was unable to get her own council to promote the interests of students. Like most politicians, she said, her colleagues prefer to ignore student issues. "I'm probably one of the few who are frustrated by it," she said.

Tim Bird, president of the council at the University of British Columbia, said students there botched a chance to give student concerns a national profile when Liberal leader John Turner came to the campus a few weeks ago. Turner's Vancouver Quadra riding includes the sprawling UBC campus.

"We had the perfect opportunity to ask John Turner about post-secondary education," he said "... and we screwed it up. "What bothered me were the trivial questions that were asked. Half the questions I heard, I had to roll my eyes. I was a little bit let down"

But some student leaders don't think focussing on free trade is all that bad.

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## CUP Briefs

### Anthony Griffin is not forgotten

MONTREAL (CUP) — A candle-bearing procession of about 100 walked along the avenue towards police station 15.

Gloria Augustus led the group to the police station parking lot where her son died a year ago. Someone placed a single carnation on the ground where Anthony Griffin's body crumpled — then a police officer ordered them off the premises.

The 19 year old black youth was unarmed and facing Constable Allan Gosset when he was shot in the head November 11, 1987.

The white police officer was charged with manslaughter and acquitted. The verdict is under appeal, and this summer Gosset was fired. But the Montreal's Policemen's Brotherhood recently gave him \$12,000 and a plaque.

"He has committed murder and they're honouring him," Augustus said.

"No one knows the pain and hurt I have suffered. There was no reason for (Anthony's) death."

Griffin's boxing friend Martin Hayes addressed the crowd. "No accidents, no excuses, no justifications," he said. "We can't forget Anthony."

After a brief moment of silence, the group — clutching red carnations and candles — quietly walked around the back of the station to the parking lot.

"You're not allowed on these grounds," blared a police officer through a bullhorn.

"Anthony wasn't supposed to be here either," one woman angrily replied.

Among those at the vigil was Concordia student Nicole Heulihan. She is still outraged by Griffin's death.

"It reminded me of racially motivated brutal acts in Chicago," she said. "Canadians have to take a stand so that the civil rights of all of us will be ensured."

"There is no doubt in my mind it was racially motivated," said Nancy Degraff of the Coalition Against Systematic Oppression (CASO) — one of the groups that organized the vigil.

Daniel Dortelus, a member of Ligue des droits et libertes de Quebec (rights and liberties league), urged the black community to band together against racism.

"The victim on this day is the one who got killed and not the one who pulled the trigger," he said. "If we're not vigilant, they will try to make us believe otherwise."

Toronto politician-activist Lennox Farrell said blacks won't sit back and allow the racism to continue.

"There has never been a time when we haven't confronted our oppressors — racists," Farrell said. "As we stand here thinking of Anthony Griffin, we will never run up a white flag."

While police chief Roland Bourget studies a Quebec Police Commission's Findings on the Gosset case, the slain teenager's mother is pursuing a civil suit against the Montreal police and Gosset.

### UBC baits filmgoers

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Eat a live fish and get in free.

The University of British Columbia Film Society promised just that on a poster advertising its upcoming presentation of A Fish Called Wanda.

Lane Dunlop notified the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The film society's ads referred to a scene in the movie during which one of the characters eats live fish.

Said treasurer Mary Hsi, "The main objective was to have (an ad) that catches the eye. (We) had no intention of anybody eating a live fish."

"I cannot believe the fact that the film society would stoop so low and not realize that they were condoning the killing of these animals in the name of a joke," said Dunlop.

Michael Week, executive director of the SPCA in Vancouver, was initially concerned about the ad but said he was assured by UBC students council president Tim Bird that fish-eating would not take place.

**THIS WEEKEND!**

Friday 3 & 9 pm

### The Swell Guys

So swell they're back again! Good humour, good music, the Swell Guys make for an entertaining time anytime! Join them in The Grawood for one swell show this Friday!

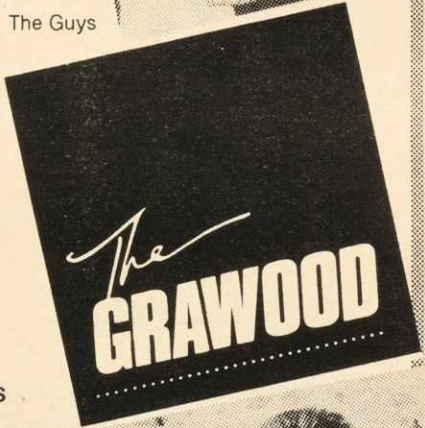


The Guys

Saturday 2 pm

### The Backstreet Boys

The sounds of the eighties are matched with the fevered energy of the fifties to make this act one very fine way to spend your Saturday afternoon.



The Boys

Also this week:

**Monday 28**

3 pm -- Soaps

10 pm -- VIA's Game of the Week: NFL Football: Raiders @ Seahawks  
The World Beer Tour

**Tuesday 29**

3 pm -- Soaps  
Games Night

**Wednesday 30**

3 pm -- Soaps  
9 pm -- CKDU Night

**Thursday December 1**

3 pm -- Soaps  
Grawood Xmas Bash!