

CROSS-CANADA BRIEFS

Prof suspended for turning tricks

BY DAVID ALAN BARRY

TORONTO (CUP) — Gerald Hannon has filed a grievance against Ryerson Polytechnic University because he was suspended before an investigation took place.

The suspension was announced on Nov. 26, after it was made public in the Toronto Sun that Hannon worked as a prostitute part-time. The grievance was filed on Nov. 27. It was submitted by Hannon and CUPE local 3904, which represents instructors at the university.

Union staff representative Angela Ross said that the suspension is unjustified as there has been no workplace misconduct on Hannon's part. She says what Hannon does in his spare time is his own business.

"I feel like I'm working for a cowardly university," Hannon said. "They've violated the collective agreement and are running scared in the face of media attention when I'm doing the job I was hired to do."

The university has launched an investigation into "recent media statements related to his alleged conduct and activities," according to a Ryerson University press release. Ryerson officials refused to comment on either the suspension or the investigation.

At the time of his suspension, Hannon was already under investigation by the university for allegations about comments he made regarding adult-child sex in his magazine writing class.

Hannon says that he believes what he calls "inter-generational" sex is not always harmful, and says the issue was not the subject of a class discussion, but was mentioned only in passing.

He says he never advocated this behaviour to his students, and students support this claim.

"Chilly climate" report critic wins seat on UBC Board of Governors

BY MATT THOMPSON

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Outspoken McEwen report critic Phil Resnick has been elected to the University of British Columbia's Board of Governors (BOG), the university's highest governing body.

Resnick, who received widespread media attention for his condemnation of the university administration's decision to suspend graduate admissions in political science, was one of two candidates to win a BOG seat in a faculty-wide vote.

The university suspended graduate admissions to the political science department after Vancouver lawyer Joan McEwen released a report saying the department is rife with racism and sexism.

Throughout the election campaign, Resnick was highly critical of UBC president David Strangway and his administration.

In a position paper circulated to faculty, Resnick wrote of "a deep sense of alienation" between the faculty and administration, and repeated his charge that the political science suspension had "denied due process and put a serious chill on academic freedom."

Resnick said he wanted to ensure UBC's next president, who is scheduled to take over in June 1997, is "someone who, unlike David Strangway and his entire administration, will stand up for academic freedom and for the core values of a liberal university."

Resnick says his BOG bid was a direct result of the political science controversy.

"I wouldn't have run, if it hadn't been for the suspension of admissions that occurred in my department and the larger controversy that developed out of that," Resnick said.

Rowdy students trash Parliament Hill

BY SAMER MUSCATI

OTTAWA (CUP) — Canada's most dignified and respected building turned into a frathouse when up to 400 intoxicated and rowdy university students trashed through Parliament Hill.

An annual formal dinner and dance held in the Peace Tower turned ugly when the Carleton University students became drunk, smashing glasses and trashing a historic committee room on Nov. 17.

The drunken students then vomited near the Chapel of Remembrance at the base of the Peace Tower, and on a computer near the entrance in the rotunda. Angry work-crews who had to clean up the mess the next day were not impressed.

The event was organized by the Rideau River Residence Association, which represents students who live in residence at Carleton University.

Mike Peters, a third-year arts student who attended the event, says that the amount of debauchery that night was less than on typical association functions.

"The party wasn't any more rowdy than usual," said Peters. "I guess the puking on the war memorial offended some people. It's in a glass case, they can just wipe it off."

Although Peters admits that the location was inappropriate for the raucous behaviour, he hopes that the association will be allowed to continue their annual function at the Hill.

Parliament is currently conducting an internal report and officials will not comment until the report is finalized: The three rooms were booked for the students by former NDP leader Audrey McLaughlin, who did not attend the event.

McLaughlin told the Ottawa Sun that she "was not aware" of the ruckus. She added that MPs routinely sponsor groups so they can use facilities on the Hill.

"It is a public building and we like to have access for the public," McLaughlin told the Sun.

Humans against homophobia meet justice minister

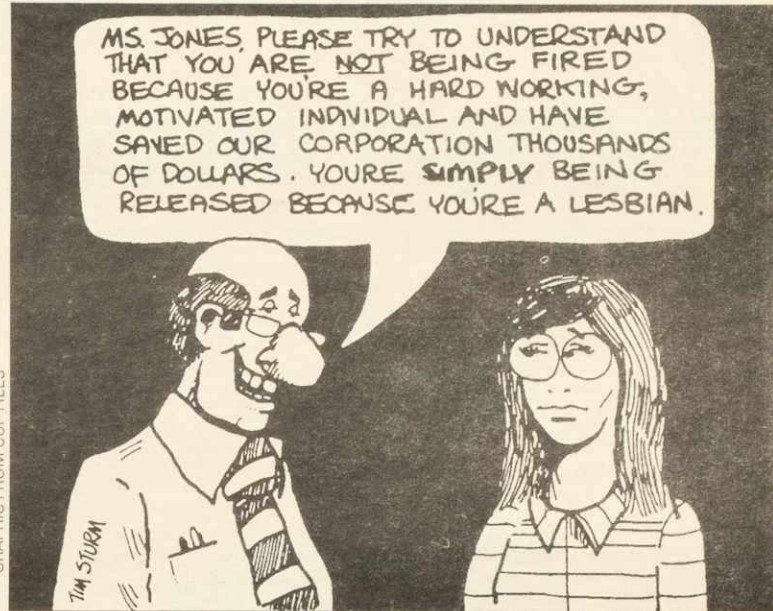
BY DAVID CAMERON

After meeting with Humans Against Homophobia (HAH), Nova Scotia Justice Minister Bill Gillis asked senior justice department officials to conduct appropriate training on sexual orientation issues as soon as possible.

Gillis said that being fully informed is important for "justice workers."

The request came shortly after his meeting on November 22 with HAH, a working group of Dalhousie University's Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG). The group presented him with a petition that had more than 1,100 signatures protesting a probation order that seemed to draw a link between pedophilia and homosexuality.

The order, stipulating that Randall Dignan "have no contact with children under the age of 18 unless accompanied by a heterosexual adult," was proposed by Crown Prosecutor Sandy Fairbanks and ordered by Amherst Provincial Court Judge David Cole. Made over a year ago, the order was put in the spotlight two months ago when Dignan was charged in provincial court for soliciting two 12-year-old boys for oral sex.



GRAPHIC FROM CUP FILES

"The minister wants to work with the group (HAH) to ensure justice workers are trained, aware, and sensitive to sexual orientation issues," said Michelle McKinnon, a Justice Ministry spokesperson.

She also said, however, that justice workers include support staff and correction facility employees, not judges. She said whether judges will receive sensitivity training to sexual orientation issues is a question only the province's Chief Judge, Elmer MacDonald, could answer.

MacDonald could not be reached for comment.

"Because of the independence of the judiciary, I advised the group that I could not comment upon the actions of the court," Gillis told the House on Nov. 29 when he tabled the petition.

Besides presenting the petition to the justice minister, HAH is serving formal complaints to Chief Provincial Judge MacDonald, Director of Public Prosecutions Jerry Pitzul, and the Nova Scotia Barristers Society.

Provincial ministers outline future of education in Canada

BY SAMER MUSCATI

OTTAWA (CUP) — The face of Canada's educational system is on the brink of some drastic changes.

Just as they do today, students in the future will still wake up, take a shower and head for class. However, "class" may only be across their bedroom — on a computer screen.

Logging on to their computers, they will be able to download lectures, participate in study groups, and even "chat" with fellow classmates. And what they can't get on the computer, will be sent to them by mail.

Gone are the days of direct human interactions, and getting involved with campus activities. These days the class-room comes to the privacy of your own bedroom.

It may sound like an evil plot for some futuristic science-fiction movie, but for Canadian students it will become reality all too soon. Welcome to the new government model of post-secondary education in Canada.

The Council of Ministers of Education released its first national report on Nov. 24, a snapshot of education in Canada. It concludes that it is no longer possible for all candidates to find places in post-secondary institutions due to high costs, and fewer available spaces.

"Reductions in federal funding for post-secondary education have an impact on the [educational] systems. Despite student aid programs, an increased debt load will deter some people from pursuing an education at the post-secondary level," it says. "One response must be to rethink the way programs are delivered."

And one proposed response is revolutionizing accessibility through the use of new technologies in long distance education, open learning programs, and correspondence courses. Recently, Alberta

funded an additional 10,000 student places for their long-distance education program.

Guy Caron, chair of the Canadian Federation of Students, says that educational frameworks and strategies should not be implemented on the basis of how much money they will save.

"Let's face it, distance education won't replace the contact between professors and students. It must not be seen as a replacement to the current system."

— CFS PRESIDENT GUY CARON

"Let's face it, distance education won't replace the contact between professors and students," said Caron. "It must not be seen as a replacement to the current system."

But the report maintains that changes to the current system are inevitable if they are to meet the challenges of the next century. Demand for post-secondary education has grown over the years, and dwindling government funds have stretched resources to the limit.

According to Statistics Canada, in 1976, nearly 18 per cent of Canada's 18 to 24 year-olds were enrolled in university, either part-time or full-time. By 1993, enrollment had increased to almost 31 per cent for that age group.

There have also been similar increases in enrollments at colleges and technical institutes. Currently, there are 1.5 million students enrolled in post-secondary programs.

The report also indicates that job prospects increase steadily with education level. Unemployment among adults was about 5 per cent for university graduates compared with about 10 per cent for high-school graduates and 15 per cent for high-school drop-outs in 1992.

Canada spends \$56 billion a year on education and training, which is second in expenditures after health, which costs \$66 billion annually.

The federal government plans to cut \$7 billion in transfer payments to the provinces for education, health, and welfare, by 1998.