

cross-canada briefs

McGill students to sue Quebec gov't

BY RACHEL FUREY

MONTREAL (CUP) — Students at McGill University are planning to sue the Quebec government over a recent decision to charge higher tuition fees for out-of-province students.

Quebec boasts the lowest tuition fees in Canada, but in November Education Minister Pauline Marois announced that fees for students from outside the province will be raised to the national average.

At McGill University this means full-time undergraduates who come from Quebec will pay the current fee of \$1,668 per year, while fees for the 31 per cent of the student body who come from other provinces will jump to \$2,800.

Don McGowan, the fourth year law student who is leading the charge against the government, says this is simply unacceptable.

"I see this as the thin edge of the wedge. If it can fly in Quebec, governments in other provinces will probably try it," said McGowan.

Christianne Miville Deschenes, spokesperson for the Minister of Education, defends the government's decision to introduce differential fees. "It's fair that fees for students living in Quebec and paying taxes in Quebec should be lower than the fees of other students," she said.

McGill anthropology professor Bruce Trigger disagrees. He says the government's argument is a weak one because students who come from other provinces also put money into the Quebec economy.

"This is a very short-sighted argument (on the part of the Quebec government)," said Trigger.

New aboriginal media program

BY CHRIS BODNAR

OTTAWA (CUP) — A new aboriginal media studies program is challenging traditional methods of postsecondary education in an effort to get more native voices into Canada's large newsrooms.

The program, currently being developed at the First Nations Technical Institute in Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, will focus on teaching students interviewing, researching, writing and coverage techniques.

According to Susan White, one of two people developing the program, only four of the approximately 4,000 journalists working for Canadian daily newspapers are status Indians.

"This program certainly has national potential," said White. "We (expect to) see our graduates working in a variety of jobs across the country."

The skills taught won't be exclusive to journalism fields. Students will be taught how to present issues to society, which could lead to jobs in public relations, research and the civil service.

"Aboriginal people will be the biggest story in the next century," White explained. "It's important that they get their messages across to the mainstream media."

The new media program is expected to begin this September.

Nfld. government keeps 1-900 line

BY SEAN RYAN

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CUP) — Despite numerous student complaints about expensive phone bills, Newfoundland's Department of Education won't replace a 1-900 student aid information line with a toll free number.

Instead, the government says, it will use the Internet to help deal with the problem. The provincial student aid division operates a 1-900 number that charges callers 50 cents for the first minute and 40 cents for each additional minute.

"(The Internet would) remove dependency on the 1-900 number," said Frank Marsh, the assistant deputy education minister.

But while Marsh says the 'Net may be the solution to an inefficient system that often leaves students on hold for as much as 15 minutes, all the while being billed for their time, student leaders aren't quite as optimistic.

"How many students have access to the 'Net around Newfoundland?" Memorial University student councillor Zaki Saleemi asked. "You have to realize not everybody has instant 'Net access."

Saleemi said New Brunswick tried to use the Internet to solve the same problem, but it never caught on.

"Out of the 8,000 people (New Brunswick) has on their student aid program, 40 used the 'Net access last year," he said.

"They did not have major advertisements, or awareness campaigns," Marsh said of the New Brunswick plan, saying Newfoundland has learned from those mistakes.

But as for implementing a toll free 1-800 number, Marsh said it is absolutely out of the question.

"At this stage of the game we are not discussing putting in a 1-800 number," he said. "The cost would be tremendously high."

Meeting mess-up

BY MONICA GILLIS AND TIM COVERT

With only a couple of months left in their mandate, the Dalhousie Student Union council has managed to botch the only official face-to-face meeting they are required to have with the people who elected them.

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) Annual General Meeting (AGM) was called off early Tuesday night because of a failure to follow the DSU constitution.

Law Representative Jim Rossiter noticed during the meeting that proper procedures had not been followed with respect to most of the motions being considered at the AGM. As a consequence, any decisions concerning those motions would have been considered invalid.

"[It was] simply an oversight of a part of the constitution," said DSU president Brad MacKay after the meeting was called to an end.

There was no notice of motion to council for almost all of the

AGM motions. After this notice, the motions heading to the AGM were supposed to have been brought to council to be referred to the Constitution and Policy Committee for approval. Instead,

one of the motions at the AGM. Senate Representative Dan Clark brought up the point that since the need for a second General Meeting had been brought to MacKay's attention, the constitution stipulated that it must be held within three weeks. The problem now facing the DSU is to hold the AGM before Reading Week, which runs from February 24 to the 28.

The next DSU council meeting will be February 9, at which the motions will be referred, legally, to the Constitution and Policy Committee. This gives the committee one week to rule on the amendments before the next council meeting on February 16. That meeting should see the passing on of the motions to the second General

Meeting, which must be held before February 25. To hold a meeting after Friday the 21 would make it difficult to get quorum since most of the student body will be away for Reading Week — including most of the DSU council.

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the motions went straight to the committee — without notice of motion — where they were approved, and were given to council where they were passed on — illegally — to the AGM.

A question and answer period followed the invalidation of all but

George

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the International Copyright Law. As was the case with most publishers of that period, Munro paid no royalties to the authors that he reprinted. Since the Seaside Library was a series of approximately two thousand titles encompassing virtually all of the classics of English Literature, Munro saved a substantial amount of money with this procedure.

However, he was instrumental in financially establishing Dalhousie University. In the late 1870s Dalhousie was on the verge of losing its provincial grant and was in very poor fiscal shape. A. J. Crockett described Dal as "financially embarrassed and unable to pay anything but meagre salaries." (Sound kind of familiar?)

Munro's first gift to Dal was his endowment of a professorship of Mathematical and Experimental Physics in 1879. His total gifts to the university, in the years before his death in 1896, totalled around

\$350,000. (In today's terms that is the equivalent of over 12 million dollars.) "What a blessing," said Principal Grant of Queens at the time, "that he came along when he did! He has saved Dalhousie, and he deserves every honour." Altogether Munro endowed professorships in English Literature, History, Physics, Metaphysics, and Constitutional and International Law. He also endowed tutorships in Classics and Mathematics, and left an endowment fund for competitive schol-

arships. He also endowed the University of the City of New York with several substantial gifts.

George Munro died in 1896. The Dalhousie University holiday to commemorate all benefactors to the university is named in his honour and is celebrated usually during the first week of February

Source: Dalhousie University Archives and *George Munro: "The Publisher"* by A. J. Crockett, Dalhousie University Press, Halifax 1957.

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are in need of money and may be tempted to accept the offer.

Walsh agreed. "[Students are] like hungry rabbits," he said. "\$125 a story was the pay and it didn't matter to them (the government) how many stories they (the students) wrote."

Stephen Kimber is the director of the School of Journalism at King's. He said that he gets calls like the one from Cameron all the time.

"I just pass them on as an option to students and explain what we know," Kimber said.

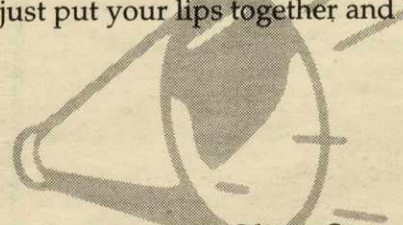
"In all fairness, I think they (the Department of Finance) wanted a balanced story, but a positive account of how the tax would affect someone."

Two students met with Cameron to discuss writing an article, but to date no students have taken up the offer.

Cameron said that he received a phone call from one journalism student stating that she would not be writing a story because she was not happy with the idea of boundaries being set on what she could write about.

ELECTION COUNTDOWN

25 days until the DSU election campaign begins.
If you're gonna blow the whistle on somebody...
...just put your lips together and blow!



Be your own Oliver Stone.
Makes everyone moan.

Write news for the Gazette.