

CROSS-CANADA BRIEFS

NDP leadership choice draws mixed reviews

BY CRAIG URQUHART

OTTAWA (CUP) — The election of Alexa McDonough as leader of the federal New Democratic Party has drawn mixed reactions from the youth wing of the party.

McDonough became party leader Saturday, October 14, at the NDP leadership convention in Ottawa. She is the former leader of the Nova Scotia NDP.

She defeated British Columbia MP Svend Robinson and former Saskatchewan MP Lorne Nystrom for the leadership.

Though Robinson won the most votes on the first ballot, he decided to drop out of the race and support McDonough, who had come in second. It was clear he could not win when Nystrom gave his support to McDonough after being dropped from the ballot because of his last-place finish.

Doris Dirks, a youth delegate from the University of Calgary and supporter of Robinson, says she is furious with the party's choice of McDonough as its next leader. She says the choice will cost the party a great deal of youth support, saying Robinson has done a lot to attract young people to the party.

"Youth support will go into the toilet with this. This process stinks. All of the old fucking white men and labour took over again today," said Dirks.

She says without Robinson's ability to attract disaffected youth, people of colour, and gays and lesbians to the party, it will continue to do poorly in the polls.

Race and salary related: study

BY DOUGLAS QUAN

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Race might play a bigger role in determining your future salary than education or intelligence, according to a new study.

The study reveals that on average, white, male immigrants earn two per cent less than their white Canadian-born counterparts, while immigrant males of a visible minority earn fifteen per cent less than white males.

Krishna Pendakur, an assistant professor of economics at Simon Fraser University, co-authored the study with his brother Ravi, who works in the federal government's Canadian Heritage Department.

While Krishna "expected to see that immigrants earn less," he says he didn't expect to find such a large gap between white immigrants and those of a visible minority.

He says that it is not a new fact that visible minorities earn less than white people in Canada, but "[the differences] have commonly been blamed on immigration status. The natural test of that is [to ask] do Canadian-born visible minorities earn any less [than white Canadians]?"

Krishna expected no differences, but the research proved otherwise. The Pendakurs found Canadian-born males of a visible minority earn 10.2 per cent less than their white counterparts.

Journalist could lose degree for faking story

BY DANIELLE LALIBERTE

REGINA (CUP) — A graduate of the University of Regina's school of journalism has lost his job, and could lose his degree for fabricating a story which was published while he was a student.

Greg Godard's problem began last winter when his source for a print assignment fell through just before deadline.

His article, "Let's talk about sex (but don't talk dirty)" centred around a ten-year-old boy's confusion about his own sexuality as a result of his exposure to explicit information contained in a sex education class taught in his elementary school.

"I had two options when the situation arose — either to make up a source or deal with it honestly. I chose the wrong one," said Godard.

Questions of impropriety were raised last May after the story was printed in a journalism school publication.

"The article wasn't originally intended for publication," Godard said. "I tried to object by making excuses and hoped it wouldn't be used, but eventually it was."

The Regina school board and provincial education department were quick to take notice when Godard's article appeared in the magazine.

Paulette Van der linde of the provincial education department became concerned when comments made by her staff members were wrongly attributed to her.

Van der linde sent a letter outlining her concerns to the director of the journalism school, Bryan Olney.

When confronted, Godard confessed to fabricating the story.

"I just wanted to be straight up about it, not run from it. I just want to face the consequences," said Godard.

The university has told Godard that they will review his degree, with the possibility of revoking it. Godard feels the review is necessary, yet he feels revoking his degree would be too harsh.

Since his problems became public, Godard chose to resign from his job as a reporter for the *Medicine Hat News*. He hopes the incident won't keep him from pursuing a career in journalism. "I'll try to go on in journalism, I've done well [in the past] and I know I'm a good journalist."

Protests disrupt election forum

Chief Returning Officer confronted by International Socialists

BY KRISTIN MCNEILL

The candidates forum in the Student Union Building (SUB) on Thursday, October 5 brought with it spirited protests from some members of the International Socialists (IS).

Andy Doyle, the chief returning officer, was verbally harassed by several members of the International Socialists as he escorted them from the building late that afternoon.

The IS, which has a chapter at Dalhousie University, actively campaigned on behalf of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) during the October 11 to 13 referenda, plebiscite and senate by-elections. The organization is also involved in other social causes and can often be found with petitions outside the SUB.

However, it seems that their efforts to downplay CASA, CFS's main adversary, were cut short on the afternoon of October 5 because they were accused of failing to become officially registered to campaign during the referendum.

The problem began during a speech by Alex Usher, the National Director of CASA, who had travelled from Ottawa to speak on the issue of CASA and its funding policies. During this time, Doyle observed three members of the IS heckling Usher. When the floor was open to questions, each of the members took a turn at the microphone.

According to Doyle, they "ranted and raved for two minutes and shouted 'CFS rules'" at Usher, who responded to some of these comments.

"Some people will make a minute-long speech and then ask a question," said Doyle. "This was a rant. There was no question and no intent of a question."

When asked about the nature of his remarks during the forum, Sandy Ryan, a member of the IS, said, "I only made one comment, and I should have put it in the

form of a question. It could have very easily been taken as a question."

And as for being accused of disrupting the election process, Ryan said that this was what forums are for.

"It's not out of the ordinary. I don't understand how someone could be so uptight. It's incomprehensible to me — that bureaucratic mind-set — that rules are more important than democracy. The DSU's election rules are more important than freedom of speech?" said Ryan.

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— INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST SANDY RYAN

Doyle said the group was conciliatory when he asked them to leave the forum. Doyle explained that he was worried that more unruliness would occur when the forum turned to the Students Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) question. Members of the IS had approached him on October 4, two days after registration to campaign had closed, with concerns that SUNS was not adequately represented in the referendum.

According to Doyle, the group began shouting political and personal threats at him when they reached the lobby.

"At the time, there were political threats and threats I took as personal. I was just doing my job. I gave them another chance, and that's when they got all agitated. I think I dealt with them fairly and explained to them what they could and could not do, and they went ahead and did it anyway," said Doyle.

In view of the confrontation, Ryan explained, "They (the DSU) are attacking all of the progres-

sive forces in the SUB. And so we figured sooner or later they would come after the IS. And so I figured this was it."

He added, "We're not going to sit by and not fight back...it was nothing physical."

When asked to comment on their campaign against CASA, Ryan replied, "We were excluded. The whole election is very undemocratic. It's basically a small clique of individuals who know what's going on and nobody else is informed."

The problem, according to

Ryan, was that they figured the question would provide the choice of whether or not to join CASA. He said because they didn't know the form of the question, they did not register.

Bylaw X of the DSU Constitution stipulates that a "referendum or plebiscite shall present two or more options from which those voting must choose."

CASA had asked its affiliate student unions across the country to submit the funding question as a plebiscite in their referenda. The council then passed the question to Doyle who subsequently submitted it to *the Gazette* for publication.

According to Doyle, the IS could have become properly registered in the referendum if they had wanted to present their position against CASA.

"There were notices in *the Gazette* ever since, I believe, probably the first edition of the year saying that by-elections were coming up and that the date for nominations would be September 25 to October 2."

Work/study programs

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for bursaries. SWIF applications are reviewed three times a year and must be submitted by November 1, March 1, or July 1.

DAL Outreach/Student Exchange Coordinator Catherine Hebb can be contacted at Lester Pearson International for more information on SWIF.

John Tomlin, a second-year exchange student from the University of Brighton in England, is currently participating in the department-based exchange through the School of Recreation, Physical and Health Education at Dal. He chose Dalhousie mostly because of his desire to train with swimmers at his own level, but his classes also provide a new challenge.

As for the exchange, Tomlin said, "I would recommend it to anyone."

Since the program is only for one term, John should be returning home in December. However, he does not want to leave, and he is "hoping to transfer here after Christmas."

The Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP) is possibly the most recognized international student program on campus. A non-profit organization coordinated through Travel Cuts, SWAP

basically gives you a "hunting license visa" to go to a foreign country and work. Students are expected to find their own job and accommodation but are given plenty of guidance from SWAP agencies to help begin the search. Most countries require that students attend school at least part-time, but several are open to new grads.

The Australia and Japan SWAP programs do not require any student status. SWAP facilitates employment for students abroad for a duration of three months to two years, depending on the country of residence. SWAP Britain is the largest and best-organized program, accommodating 550 Canadian students last year. The majority of students work in pubs, clothing stores, temp offices, and restaurants.

In Japan, students have the opportunity to make great money by teaching or tutoring English or other areas where English language work is required. Although students are expected to be completely self-sufficient, in most countries SWAP gives two nights accommodation upon arrival, which is included in the registration fee.

The possibilities for study and/or work abroad are innumerable and should be considered for students who desire adventure and education extending beyond the Dalhousie campus.