

U of T

# W-5, report misused statistics

OTTAWA (CUP)—More protests have been lodged against the public affairs program W5 that claimed foreign students are crowding Canadians out of university programs.

The association of universities and colleges of Canada (AUCC) has filed a strong protest with the president of the CTV network and the producers of the W5 show.

The show, which was aired Sept. 30, claimed that international students are forcing thousands of Canadian students out of post-secondary education programs such as engineering and medicine and are costing Canadians millions of dollars.

And a spokesperson for the University of Toronto International student centre said W5 "misused the statistics we

gave them".

Figures released in a report "Citizenship of students and faculty in Canadian universities" prepared by the Council of Ontario Universities for AUCC indicate that in 1977-78 less than 5 per cent of total university admissions were visa students. The statistics, which are based on actual enrolment figures, indicate that in 1976-77 21.5 per cent of the 18,304 visa students were from Hong Kong, 20.4 per cent from the United States and 15.2 per cent from the United Kingdom.

"The program was built around a particular case which was entirely unfounded," said Alan Earp, president of Brock University in St. Catherines and current president of AUCC.

W5 interviewed a Canadian student from St. Catherines who was not admitted to the University of Toronto's pharmacy program. The implication was made that she was refused admission because the space was taken by a foreign student. In fact not one single visa student had been admitted to the pharmacy faculty, he said.

The program also implied that there are large numbers of "foreigners" in medicine at U of T when there are only two visa students in a class of 256, he said.

Much of the problem, according to AUCC, lies in the confusion between landed immigrants and those with student visas. Under human rights legislation landed immigrants cannot be differen-

tiated from Canadians for the purpose of post-secondary admission.

The president of the Chinese students' association at the University of Toronto said they are concerned about the program's implicit assumption that all students

of Chinese descent are "foreign".

She said she has approached the Ontario human rights commission but the electronic media is not under its jurisdiction. The association is currently seeking an apology from CTV.

## Accessibility drive: Grass roots campaign

REGINA (CUP)—"It's time for students to stop reacting and start taking the initiative."

That was the rallying cry as delegates to the 14th semi-annual National Union of Students Conference met here to evaluate the progress of their accessibility to post-secondary education campaign and make plans for the rest of the year. NUS Central Committee chairperson Alex Daschko told about 100 delegates that the accessibility campaign, formulated at the NUS annual conference in Vancouver in May, is starting to gain momentum.

But he said NUS is facing a great challenge in making the accessibility campaign successful because it depends on grassroot organization and participation by students.

NUS Central Committee member Bill White said a crucial phase of the accessibility campaign, which ties together issues such as tuition increases, education funding cutbacks, student aid and unemployment, will come

in November, when NUS will coordinate on-campus general assemblies to discuss accessibility.

At the conference, delegates passed motions calling on the federal government to make a commitment to establish a new student aid plan which would take into consideration the socio-economic background of students and potential students and real student costs in the post-secondary education system.

They also asked that until a new plan can be established, the current Canada Student Loan Plan be changed so that:

- required student contributions to studies be based on actual savings rather than according to the current arbitrary formula
- applicants be classified as financially independent at the age of 18
- required parental contributions be reduced, especially those from lower income brackets
- part time students be eligi-

ble for student aid —post-secondary students enrolled in a period of study of at least 12 weeks duration be eligible for student aid

Delegates also passed a motion categorically rejecting any increase in the student loan ceiling, arguing that an increase would ignore the fundamental problems affecting student aid and adding that the incurring of large debts is a proven disincentive to students attending post-secondary education institutes.

## NFLD strike closes theatres

HALIFAX (CUP)—A strike by approximately 30 employees, mostly students, has closed Famous Players Theatres throughout Newfoundland for over two months.

"The strike is shaping up to be a long drawn out affair," said union negotiator Mac Smeaton. Talks between Famous Players and the union ceased seven weeks ago.

The theatres are operated by Newfoundland Amusements, which is 50 percent owned by Famous Players Theatres and Sobeys Ltd.

Wages are everything, said Smeaton, but other issues include accumulative sick leave and the duration of the contract. The company is seeking a three year agreement.

Smeaton said, "The company is not willing to give the students a raise since the money will probably be wasted on chewing gum, cigarettes, and nylons."

George Destounis, a company spokesperson, refused to comment on the firm's position.

Strikers at the Avalon Mall cinema in St. John's are picketing only during regularly scheduled show times, about five hours a day. A picketing schedule has been drawn up to January 1980.

Famous Players operates theatres in St. John's, Gander, and Corner Brook, and has a virtual monopoly over movie distribution rights in the province.



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