

Voluntary or mandatory fees becomes issue

VANCOUVER(CUP) --- Lawyers for the student union at Capilano College may file suit asking for an injunction against the College Council decision to make student activity fees voluntary.

The suit arose from a November 18 College Council decision which made the student union fees

"voluntary" instead of "mandatory" as they had been.

Student president Bill Bell said the suit alleges the college administration is violating an "implied" contract between the college and the student union by not collecting fees from every student. He had said the council was trying

to cripple the student union to silence student criticism.

The student union recently attacked the council for its "lack of visible action" in protest over community college budget restrictions imposed by the provincial government.

A compromise reached earlier between students, college council chairperson Jim MacDonald, and principal Peter Spratt fell apart before the first day of registration November 24.

It was decided that students not wishing to pay the \$15 student fee could fill out a waiver form when registering.

But Spratt dropped the waiver forms about noon November 24 after Registrar David Allen complained they were causing administrative difficulties.

Meanwhile, the BC Students' Federation conference in Kamloops voted to condemn the Capilano

College council for making the fees voluntary, and asked each member institution to send a telegram of support to the Capilano student union.

The National Union of Students (NUS) also sent a telegram which said the national organization "reacts with shock and anger to the attack upon the Capilano College Student Society. The decision to have a mandatory fee must only be made by the students of a college through their forms of independent student government."

BC student delegates to the Kamloops conference said the council's move may set a dangerous precedent.

Because of this sentiment a motion was passed to fight to have a clause inserted in the proposed BC Colleges Act to force administrations to collect mandatory fees for student unions.

Ho-hum, another new leadership candidate

by Nigel Allen

Brian Mulroney lashed out at plans to convert a squadron at CFB Greenwood to a French one, and called for a re-examination of government programs Tuesday.

Speaking at a reception organized by the Halifax P.C. Assn., the Tory leadership candidate admitted that he had never held elected office, but pointed out that Robert Stanfield was not a member of the N.S. legislature when chosen leader of the N.S. conservatives, and not a member of parliament when chosen as federal conservative leader.

Mr. Mulroney said that it was important, but "not indispensable," that the candidate who is chosen as Conservative leader be able to communicate with all segments of the population. Mr. Mulroney, a Montreal labour lawyer, is fluently bilingual.

He is in "complete favour" of bilingualism, and wants those affected by bilingualism to be its advocates, not its opponents. The Greenwood situation, he said, was a result of the insensitivity of the Ottawa bureaucrats who speak only to each other.

When asked about government spending, Mr. Mulroney said that we were locked into various programs, and that although no one person knew all the answers, the P.C. party should ask the right questions.

Mr. Mulroney, who announced his candidacy Nov. 13, is a native of Baie Comeau, Que., son of an

electrician. He was vice-chairman of the youth for Diefenbaker Committee in 1956. He attended Dalhousie Law School before transferring to Université Laval, Quebec City, where he obtained a law degree in 1963. In 1974, Mr. Mulroney served on Quebec's Cliche Royal Commission into violence in the construction industry.

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graduate students' case.

The major error, of course, was the claim that the DAGS referendum was ever intended to contain three options. This claim is sheer invention. The referendum was intended to sound out graduate student appraisal of the DAGS council position; a position which the graduate students had the choice of either supporting or rejecting.

A second serious error was one of implication. The editorial stated that graduate students are being "ripped off" by the DAGS executive. How does DAGS "rip off" the graduate students? If the writer of the Gazette editorial had taken time to look at the DAGS budget, she / he would have discovered that the DAGS council has an acute feeling of responsibility for its membership and spends their money on projects that clearly benefit graduate students. Far from "ripping off" the graduate students, the DAGS council provides a number of services for graduate students which have not been made available by the Student Union.

In closing, I would like to add that the Gazette claim to fairness and objectivity on this issue is ludicrous in light of this slanderous and misinformed editorial.

Sincerely,
Marnie Mitchell



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