

Hi Mom, I'm at University and a great new!! ☺

# Students battle over sexist banners

by Ian Jack

TORONTO (CUP) — Hundreds of Queen's University students could be facing disciplinary action for sexist banners they displayed from their residence rooms.

The banners were put up to mock the Canadian Federation of

Students' "no means no" anti-date-rape campaign. Slogans such as "No means tie me up", "No means kick her in the teeth", "No means harder", and "No means dyke" appeared in residence windows during homecoming week this year.

"Three hundred to four hundred" of the posters were up

by Thursday of Homecoming, Queen's residence director Elspeth Baugh said. She ordered residence dons to direct students to take them down.

"The explicit violence in these slogans is very upsetting to me," Baugh said. "They say they're meant as jokes. It's hard as a woman to read them and find any humour."

Originally only about five posters went up, Baugh said. But on either Tuesday or Wednesday evening of Homecoming a group signing its work ROFF (Radically Obscene Fucking Feminists) spraypainted "no means no" on the side of residence buildings.

The group allegedly also telephoned threats to the men who had put up the posters. They wrote letters to the parents of the students, telling them what their sons had done.

"That," Baugh said, "produced a huge reaction against this feminist group. The content of many of the posters by the end of the week was anti-feminist."

Queen's residence council is meeting to decide what action to take. It can assess fines, force students to post bonds guaranteeing good behaviour, and recommend expulsion from residence.

"I hope Queen's takes strong action against these students," said CFS women's officer Nancy MacDonald. "I'm outraged."

Both MacDonald and Edith Garneau, Ontario Federation of Students chair, say the Queen's reaction to the date rape campaign is unprecedented.

"We didn't have any problem last year (when a similar campaign ran)," said Garneau. "I can't believe you can find people like that at a university."

Heather Allen, a vice-president with the Queen's student council, said the reaction on campus to the posters was mixed, but "there were a lot of men and women who thought they were offensive."

The student council is "appalled at the signs. Period," said Allen.

Third-year student Rachel Houpt said the posters have been "a hot issue on campus."

"I'm sure it's affecting a lot of women on campus who may have gone through an experience like that," Houpt said.

The banners were not confined to male students. Baugh said many women also hung out posters. Some read, "No means it's too small."

Baugh said the university's residence code does not contain any direct references to sexism, though it does ban acts that would give offense to another resident, or actions that would bring



the residence into dispute.

"I think probably we're going to have to develop something more explicit," Baugh said.

Garneau of the OFS said what

happened at Queen's "is an exception. It's not like that at Queen's."

"I hope I'm not wrong when I say that," she added.

## CUP Briefs

### Vinnie's butts out at the Mount

HALIFAX (CUP) — Mount St. Vincent University's new anti-smoking policy will kill revenue from the student pub, a student leader says.

As of May 1, 1990, the Mount will be a smoke free campus. For now, smoking is only permitted in a few areas.

"How will we generate revenue?" said student council vice-president Mark Conran. "How can we attract people to Vinnies?"

Mount VP-Administration Lois Dyer-Mann said the policy has strong support from faculty and staff.

She said the new policy won't affect bar profits because it is within easy reach of the outdoors.

Conran disagreed. "How do you tell 200 people who have had a few drinks that they can't smoke, or tell them in December that they have to go outside."

One bar employee said "If they stopped Winston Churchill from smoking cigars we would have lost the bloody war."

The policy can be altered under special circumstances, "to accommodate external groups, where a facility is being used for other than its normal use," Dyer-Mann said.

### Enrolment is up . . . but not enough

WINNIPEG (CUP) — Undergraduate enrolment at Canadian universities went over 500,000 for the first time this year.

But fewer students at the University of Winnipeg, may cost the university an extra \$300,000.

The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada reports full-time undergraduate employment in Canada was up 3.3 per cent over last year, with all provinces experiencing an increase.

University official Linda Simpson said U of W students are taking 3.2 per cent fewer courses, while the total number of students has dropped 1.2 per cent.

U of W VP-academic Ross McKormick said the university had budgeted for a two per cent increase in course enrolment.

The drop means an effective five per cent deficit. McKormick said.

McKormick said the university will be able to cover part of the shortfall with a \$100,000 contingency fund, but they will have to make cuts to break even.

"Thus we may be able to, we hope, balance the budget," he said.

"Certainly it will be a very nice balancing act throughout the year."

He said "certain supply budgets, utilities and the like," would be subject to restraint.

Student councillor Kyle Briggs, said students will probably see effects of the shortfall in areas like new books in the library.

"When we see books no longer being purchased, our university can no longer stay up with the times, and the quality will decline," he said.

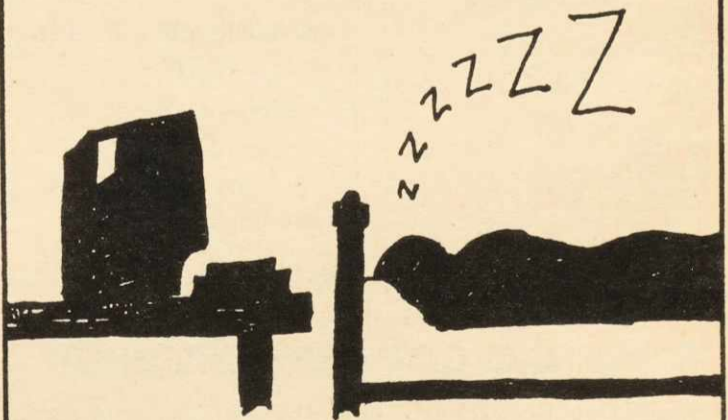
Briggs warned that declining enrolments, declining revenue and declining quality can form a "vicious circle."

Simpson said 4,560 part-time students registered at the university this year, while there are 2,790 full-time students.

Enrolment in Manitoba increased 1.2 per cent from last year, the AUCC reported. At 6.8 per cent, the University of Prince Edward Island had the largest enrolment increase.

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