

Response to restraints

OTTAWA (CUP) - What will be the impact of the federal government's wage controls on universities and colleges in Canada?

Rick Deaton, spokesperson for the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), which represents over 10,000 university and college staff, said on October 6 the 10 per cent wage freeze meant members of his union would "get the gears put to them" in upcoming contract talks.

He said the federal guidelines would likely apply to most post-secondary institutions since most employed more than 500 persons, and predicted that university administrators would welcome the wage restraints as a way of controlling costs.

CUPE National President, Stan Little, has already described the government's economic program as a Halloween stunt in which the workers get the "trick" and the employers the "treat".

CUPE's official position, however, on whether to fight or buckle under the controls won't be decided until the upcoming national conference in Toronto planned for October 20.

The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) reacted to the federal plan by pointing out that universities come under provincial jurisdiction, and by questioning whether the guidelines would be made to apply to them.

CAUT Executive Secretary, Walter Sim, said university administrators may welcome the 10 per cent maximum wage increase allowed under the program, given their present financial problems and the fact that over 75% of their operating expenses are taken up by salaries and wages.

"But this would be true only if the provinces decide to apply the guidelines to universities," he stressed.

If they do apply, Sim said the effect will be to freeze faculty salaries relative to salaries which are already lagging behind wouldn't be rectified," according to Sim.

Pay increments based on faculty promotions won't be affected.

The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), the national organization of university administrators, took a slightly different approach. According to spokesperson, Rosemary Cavan, "While universities come under provincial jurisdiction, they do not come under provincial control."

She said AUCC was not sure if the guidelines will apply to the 'autonomous' university

sector or their employees. She was also uncertain if faculty "would want to be described as employees."

Whatever collective response the universities might want to make regarding the restraint program will be decided at the upcoming national conference planned by the AUCC for the end of the month.

Notwithstanding the decisions of the provinces, she said, the university presidents "will likely make a statement independent of any provincial prompting."

BC loan plan discriminates against women students

VANCOUVER (CUP) - The British Columbia government student loan plan discriminates against women because it assumes equal earning power for men and women.

At least that's the opinion of University of British Columbia Alma Mater Society coordinator, Lake Sagaris.

According to Sagaris the Loan plan assumes that students will be able to work in

the summer and contribute a minimum of \$720 to their educational costs.

"If students don't save that \$720, they won't qualify for the program," she said.

Sagaris said that women do earn less than men, and therefore more women will fail to qualify for the program.

A recent report shows that undergraduate men students earn a median amount of \$2,190 while undergraduate women students have median earnings of \$1,480.

The report also shows that 44.5 percent of female students saved less than \$800 as compared to 29.2 percent men saving less than \$800.

"Since women can earn less than men, it is obviously discriminatory to expect them to meet the same requirements as men," Sagaris said.

B.C. student services coordinator Dean Clark said that although women earn less than men, they are not discriminated against by the loan committee.

"Because they earn less, they will be given more money in grants and loans," he said. "Their needs will be greater so they will receive more money."

In Alberta the minimum savings required for women is still less than that for male students.

"Do-it-yourself" car repairs

WATERLOO (CUP) - The student federation at the University of Waterloo has set up a new co-op student service - a "do-it-yourself" garage.

The garage will accommodate three vehicles at a time and will be equipped with an axle stand, welding machine, compressor and chain hoist.

Any student can use the garage by paying a \$2.00 per semester fee and signing up for as many time slots as is needed.

The garage cost around \$7,000 to set up, with the student federation paying \$5,000 and the engineering society paying \$2,000.

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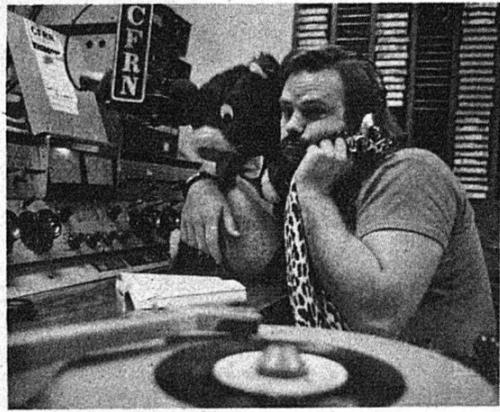
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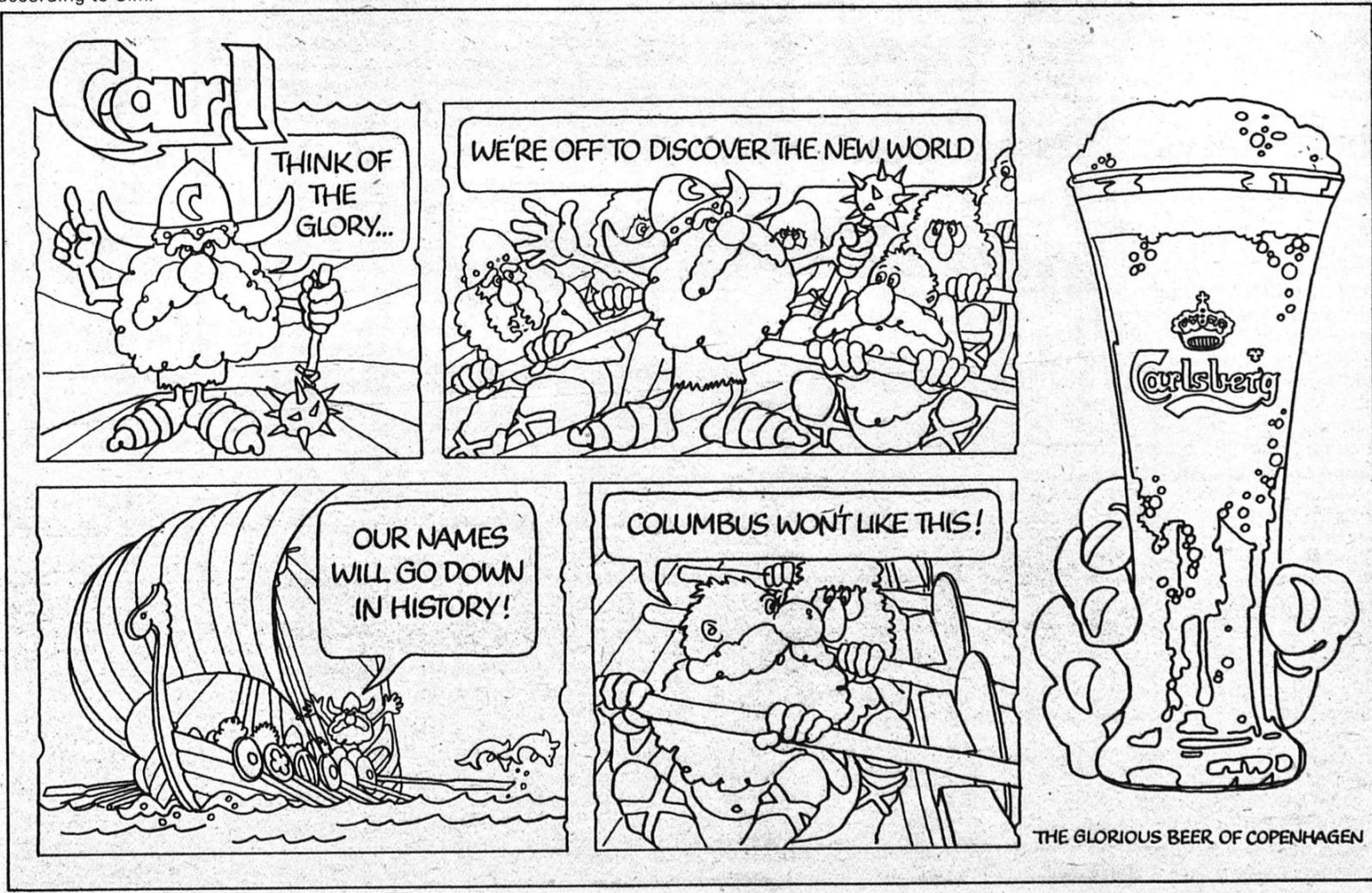
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