

# State funds: kill youth voluntarism

STATEFUNDS Though headlines in the student press haven't reflected it, this may well be remembered as the year when youth became irretrievably co-opted into "the system."

Quite naturally, whatever national student awareness there is has been focussed on "events" — a mass march at the University of British Columbia, a referendum at McGill or a teach-in at Toronto.

But while students, externally, have continued to play their court-jester role, unnoticed changes are sweeping their familiar role into the past.

It has become a commonplace to point out that in a society where autonomous pressure-group politics has all but broken down, minority groups, the poor, and youth remain the most significant forces not yet tied part and parcel to the status quo.

Both in Canada and the United States, commissions on biculturalism, civil rights movements, and assorted wars on poverty are moving to co-opt the largest social groupings since the New Deal carried off organized labor in the 1930's.

This year, in Canada, the establishment has turned its focus on youth.

The most dramatic example, of course, has been the creation of the Company of Young Canadians, with its projected million dollar budget and 250 field workers this summer.

But quite unnoticed has been the continuing development of quasi-public bodies that now surround parliament in an ever-widening chain of patronage.

Along with the familiar Centennial Commission and the Company of Young Canadians is the Citizenship Branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration that plans to move into the youth field on a major scale.

With the exception of the Company, these agencies devote only a small percentage of their money to youth. Of course, they are theoretically accountable to parliament, but the fact is that as government spending increases it is utopian to expect parliament to examine the details of outlays that are neatly tucked away in the corners of major department accounts.

This year several million dollars will flow from such groups into the youth community. Admittedly several million dollars is the sort of laughable sum that the Strategic Air Command consumes in vapour every few minutes — but it is a large enough tail to wag the Canadian youth community from coast to coast for a whole year.

Increasingly, youth and student groups are becoming supplicants in the ante-chambers of these agencies.

CENTENNIAL COMMISSION The Centennial Commission is a case in point. In November the commission called together representatives of 30 youth organizations to make recommendations concerning its youth travel and exchange programme.

The conference voted to set up a committee to meet publicly with the commission to discuss grievances within the voluntary sector. It was hoped that such a body would make the commission accountable to

the public in the allotment of its grants.

Naturally the commission was horrified and made noises to the effect that it had never heard of such a thing. Not surprisingly the commission has not implemented the recommendation of the youth organizations and is not likely to do so.

To find out who really makes decisions concerning grants in the Centennial Commission, one would have to spend a weekend in a large room with everyone in the commission, from the Secretary of State on down. Theoretically, government money is dispensed by the treasury board on parliament's authority.

But grants of up to \$5,000 can be made on the authority of the assistant commissioner of the Centennial Commission.

The real decisions affecting youth are made by the lower echelons of such agencies. But personnel at such levels are civil servants who cannot comment publicly on what they are doing.

In theory, the opposition parties could raise such questions in the House; but they are busy hunting bigger game and only in spectacular cases do these chicken-feed sums get aired in public.

One such case was a bid by the Student Union for Peace Action last summer for a Centennial grant to bring together summer project workers from across Canada for a week long consultation.

GRANT REFUSED The grant was refused, in the opinion of a majority of youth representatives at the November conference, for political reasons they claim has nothing to do with the commission's publicly stated criteria.

And yet to find some official to comment on why SUPA did not get its money is virtually an impossible task.

Whether SUPA should have got a grant is not the issue, of course. The problem is that the youth community, increasingly dependent on government funds, has no check on the agencies that dispense the dole.

It should be remembered also, that as an organization comes to lean on government money it may be increasingly difficult for it to dare to challenge traditional social views. The SUPA case has shown that a public body, meeting behind closed doors, can avoid answering public questions, if it so chooses.

As many youth organizations now see it, there is a danger that voluntarism, with its potential for new ideas, is threatened with extinction.

Significantly the Canadian Assembly of Youth Organizations, an umbrella forum that brings together most major youth groups in English Canada, is planning a conference in March on the subject "The Implications of Increasing Government Involvement in the Voluntary Field."

It is felt that unless public accountability can be guaranteed, the mainstream will be hooked increasingly to the Ottawa boondoggle. The radicals, on the fringe, will still wave of course, but for the most part youth will become the junior rung on the great society ladder.



Students limbo to the sounds of the West Indian Steel Band at the International Student's West Indian Night. Other highlights included Vashti Mohan's supple, limb-twisting "Indian Snake Dance" and calypso dances accompanied by a steel guitar. A film, shown during a break, acquainted students with the industries, peoples, and problems of the West Indies in General.

## Sunday concerts continue, Feb. 13

Sunday afternoon concerts sponsored by Dalhousie University and the Students' Council will resume on Feb. 13 at 3 p.m. in the gymnasium of the University of King's College.

A special concert on Friday, March 18, at 8:30 p.m. features guest baritone Souzey. Admission is \$2.00 per person \$1.00 for students.

Drama Workshop on South Street, phone No. 429-1420, local 346 or 451.

The Renaissance Singers and the Dalhousie Recorder Consort will offer "Music of the Renaissance and Elizabethan England."

### THEATRE

The Dalhousie Drama Workshop presentation of In White America is to be presented in the Neptune Theatre on Feb. 2, 3 and 4. Tickets are now on sale at \$1.10 each. Available at the

Further concerts are arranged for Feb. 20, 27 and March 6. Admission is free.

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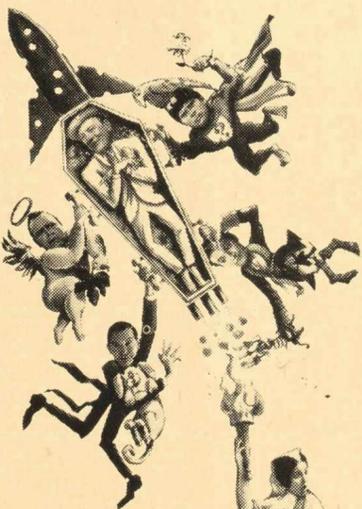
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### Fate of top students

## Half complete university

VANCOUVER (CUP) - Only half of the top 25 per cent of high school graduates complete their education at the university level according to the president of the University of British Columbia.

Dr. John B. MacDonald, speaking at the northwest regional conference of the National Science Teachers Association Nov. 26 said that more talented students must be encouraged to go to university.

"This is tremendous waste," he said. "It is the responsibility of high school teachers to recognize talented students and make sure they are directed toward university," he said.

## Cows, kids compete for funds

TORONTO (CUP) - Public money is more likely to go to the treatment of a sick cow than a sick child in Canada according to the Canadian Medical Association.

In an editorial in the last edition of the CMA Journal, the association said the federal government spends only 66 cents per capita on medical research while \$1.71 goes for agricultural research.

Biological research received another 88 cents, making a per capita total of \$3.22 in the three research fields.

address said there should be greater emphasis on science. He said that Canadian educators might follow the Russian concept of education in which the first ten years of schooling includes five years of physics, six years of math, three years of biology, and four years of chemistry.

He added that teacher training institutions must do more training in the specialties that the teachers plan to teach.

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### CAREERS

MISS I. STEWART, OF THE YWCA, WILL BE ON CAMPUS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH.

GRADUATING STUDENTS (FEMALE) WISHING TO DISCUSS CAREER OPPORTUNITIES WITH MISS STEWART ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT THE NES STUDENT PLACEMENT OFFICE FOR AN APPOINTMENT.

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## Three To Run Parliament vote, Feb. 10

Model Parliament creeps upon Dal this week.

Three parties are reported to be entering the fray to persuade students to elect their man Prime Minister.

Last year's winners, the Progressive Conservative's are going with Les Barkhouse a first year student at Dal.

The New Democrats have elected Chris Thurrott, third year Arts, as their leader for '65-'66.

The Liberals, under Gordon Hunter seek to reverse two years of Tory victories.

The programs of each party will be released this Sunday when the campaign officially gets under way. The Parliament is being sponsored by the Sodales debating society, and is being directed by Harry Thompson.

Voting will take place on Thursday, February 10 and polling booths will be located throughout the campus. Students will be required to present a CUS card (either Dal or King's) to be punched before they are allowed to make their choice.

The Parliament will be held late in the month.

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## Whatever became of:

Walt Raleigh,  
CLASS OF '71?

One of the outstanding botanists ever to graduate, Walt built his early reputation on his major thesis "The Care and Cultivation of Nicotina for Profit." An excellent athlete, Raleigh is fondly remembered for an incident which occurred in his sophomore year. Shortly before the Big Game, Walt impulsively threw his football sweater over a puddle which lay in the path of that year's Beauty Queen. It was the only game on record in which eleven of our varsity squad wore numbers and one a large dirty footprint. After graduation, Walt went overseas to spark up the consumption of Virginia tobacco in England. He was "capped" for England against Spain on several occasions. He was finally "de-capped" after a local scrimmage against a team from the Tower of London. A monument in his memory is being proposed by a local manufacturer of filters.

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