

CROSS-CANADA BRIEFS

York professor suing university for libel

TORONTO (CUP) — A sociology professor is suing York University and members of a college student association for over \$2.6 million in damages.

Professor Doug Smith, who teaches a course called Racism in Popular Culture, launched the suit against York and the Atkinson College Student Association (ACSA) in response to statements printed about him in ACSA's Summer 1994 Teacher Evaluation Results booklet.

The booklet contains students' evaluations of courses they took at the college. Following each course, students are asked to anonymously complete a questionnaire. In the past, the university has put this type of information in a reference book which students could not take home to examine.

"For the first time we took the information and made it into an interesting book — students will really find it useful for picking courses," explained Les Swan, chair of the ACSA.

Smith has always looked forward to seeing the students comments at the end of the course but he was shocked at the description of his class in this year's book.

"So I'm described as disorganized and unstructured — I can handle unstructured," said Smith. "But then it says incompetent, racist and anti-feminist with an exclamation mark. I had to pick myself up off the floor!"

Swan stands behind the books contents. "While these are harsh terms that we don't like to hear, they are opinions of students and terms they used to categorized this guy — we don't replace words," he said.

"This whole thing is to advantage students and to advantage professors who are doing a good job. [Students] pay for this service and those not doing their job should be noted." Smith has proposed that the university set up a board of inquiry into the allegations. As of yet, there has been no response to this suggestion.

— Dionne Stephens

UBC sells out academic calendar

VANCOUVER (CUP) — This year's version of the University of British Columbia's academic calendar doesn't just list available courses — it provides students with a crash course in consumerism.

In addition to its usual content, UBC's 1995-96 academic calendar carries a substantial amount of advertising. Paid advertisements have appeared in the UBC calendar since 1991, but this year's ad content has increased significantly. The 492-page calendar contains the equivalent of 80 full pages of advertising, or roughly 16 per cent of the total content.

Currently, UBC is the only major Canadian university that sells advertising space in its academic calendar. Other universities, such as McGill, have begun selling ad space in other student materials.

According to the calendar's editor, Angela Runnals, the increase is a result of this year's unusually-large budget cuts. The registrar's office decided to sell advertising as a means of generating extra revenue — a measure which has raised more than \$20,000 earmarked to subsidize the registrar's office. Runnals said that without this money, services to students would have been reduced.

— Alison Cole

Rising paper costs mean more expensive textbooks

TORONTO (CUP) — That fifty-pound science textbook could soon be worth its weight in gold.

An increase in the price of paper will spell an increase in the price of textbooks according to a report released by Pulp and Paper Week.

Publishers link the increase in costs to increased paper consumption that marked the end of the worldwide recession. And while the costs of paper has risen 25-30 per cent in the last year, the price of textbooks will likely only rise 10-15 per cent.

The increased costs of paper and, by extension, the increase costs of textbooks has caught publishing industry insiders by surprise.

Krystyna Ross of McClelland & Stewart Publishers explained: "It is inevitable for prices [of textbooks] to increase coming out of a recession. However, publishers did not expect paper prices to increase to the extent that they have — in a twelve-month time frame."

Still, the Canadian Book Publishers insist that they are doing their best to protect students from mounting production costs.

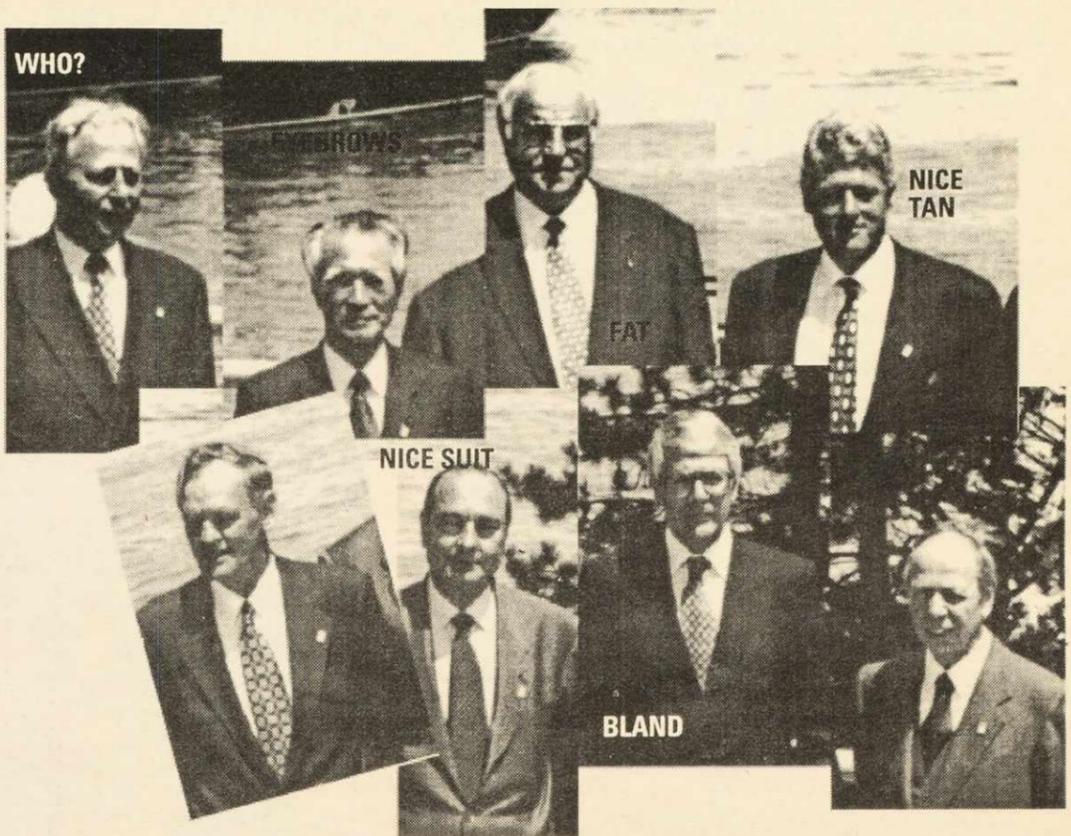
"Publishers have been struggling to keep book prices consistent for students," said John Neale, president of the Canadian Book Publishers Council. "It is important for students to have access to Canadian authored and published textbooks."

Added Harcourt Brace & Company Canada Publisher's Kathy Davidson: "For many Canadian books, prices will remain stable this Fall as [some] publishers may have forecast the price increases and had longer print runs. However, prices will increase for mid-range books — texts which are not as widely used and therefore have shorter print runs."

The expected increase in textbooks is essential to the book industry's vitality, states a Canadian Book Publisher's Council press release.

According to the document, "[publishers] suggesting a higher list price to retailers is now a necessary step if everyone in the industry — publishers, distributors, printers and retailers are to maintain a minimal level of profitability."

— Lowell Conn



So you missed the G-7...

Ten minutes of fame — and the roads got repaved!

BY GEOFF INESON

Halifax put out the welcome mat this summer as world leaders converged for their annual economic summit.

The delegates from France, Germany, Japan, Italy, Russia, United States, and United Kingdom, as well as the President of the European Union, decided this year to meet in Canada on June 14th to discuss reforms to international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

With the world leaders coming, the world's press stormed the city to document the event. Immediately, the tapes were rolling and the gossip was flowing.

These were some of the key issues discussed:

- Increased fighting around Sarajevo prompted Prime Minister Jean Chretien, on behalf of all the leaders, to release a plea to Bosnian Serbs and the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina "...to establish an immediate moratorium on military operations".

- When pressed on France's announcement to conduct nuclear weapon testing in the South Pacific, French President Jacques Chirac said, "My decision is entirely irrevocable." Chirac has since been criticized by political analysts for trying to establish a "neo-De Gaulle" identity for France so as to prove to the world that they are strong; they have the bomb. The tests will run until May 1996 and were announced a week before the G-7 Summit.

- Boris Yeltsin, whose presence at the Summit was symbolic due to bloody political discord in Russia, faced more humiliation when it was revealed that a hospital had been stormed by Chechen freedom fighters (or rebels) and they announced that they'd kill their 1,000 hostages if Moscow didn't grant Chechnya its independence.

- Here at Dalhousie, the delegates from the U.S. and Japan

discussed the actions against Japanese automobile imports. The U.S. threatened to impose 100 per cent duties if Japan didn't agree to import more American cars.

- Economically, the leaders were able to come to better terms with controlling currency speculations. In Mexico, a recent peso crisis threw that country into a panic. Italy's Prime Minister Lamberto Dini seemed to favour IMF borrowing power.

- And British PM John Major said he may consider retiring from politics... yada yada.

Security was tight and ate a large portion of the estimated \$28 million budget. Local residents were buzzed by helicopters and an odd spotter plane. American and Canadian security personnel were evident all through the city as motorcades and radios hummed around the clock. Fortunately, there were no incidents of a catastrophic nature to report on.

However, a bomb did prematurely detonate in the residential neighbourhood of Spryfield in the early hours of Friday, June 16th. A fifteen year-old, whose name is protected from publication, blew his left hand off — leaving only a thumb — while he was in the process of transporting dynamite and an attached detonator. Not all the dynamite had detonated. Paraphernalia used to smoke crack-cocaine was also at the scene, which at the time suggested to Halifax police that the intentions for a 'bombing' may have been drug-related and not political. There was no release confirming the boy's intentions.

A security breach on the infamous Red Zone was attempted by the Assembly of First Nations leader Ovide Mercredi and the nearly 50 protesters who accompanied him. The Red Zone was a restricted place for anybody who didn't have at least two press passes, or a badge. The protest was talked down by plain-clothed security agents. It was the protesters' intention to meet with

the leaders of France and Britain to remind them to honour the treaties which their countries have signed. Mercredi was quoted to have said in *The Chronicle-Herald* (Friday, June 16th) during a speech, that, "We have to join forces to make sure Canada does not turn to the right, but a country that turns in the right direction."

The Assembly of First Nations march was advertized around Halifax as part of a larger, left-of-center protest which sought to bring economic alternatives to the public in a tasteful manner.

The P-7, or People's Summit, was a week-long series of workshops and lectures which included scientist David Suzuki, former New Democratic Party leader Ed Broadbent, and Indian physicist and philosopher Vandana Shiva.

This mock-summit is becoming a tradition in Canada. At the last G-7 in Ottawa, there were 200 arrests made of P-7 protesters under the Private Property Act. There were no major conflicts or such arrests in Halifax this year.

In an open message to G-7 leaders, an unidentified writer totes, "We believe the World Bank funds environmentally destructive megaprojects (such as huge hydro-electric dams that alter ecosystems and lead to forced evictions of hundreds of thousands of people), while the IMF promotes financial restructuring policies which are harmful to the poorest of the poor."

When it was all over, kudos were duly paid out to the host city and volunteers and organizers joined together to pat themselves on the back.

Though I am a Halifax native, I couldn't find a way around the World Trade Centre if my life depended on it, so I'll say thanks to everyone involved in helping the event go off so well. Surplus furniture is still on sale, and for a while there were rumoured to be some great prices on American cars which were only used for three days.