

CUSEC: limited support in Ontario

by Shauna MacDonald

CUSEC (Canadian University Students' Executive Council) now includes as members the three largest universities in Canada, (the U of T, U of A, and the U of B.C.). A Students' Union delegation promoting CUSEC attended the fall general meeting of the Ontario Federation of Students in Toronto last week.

Dave Oginski was pleased with the response from OFS. There were 18 universities and colleges from Ontario at the meeting. Nine of 14 delegations from Ontario on the CUSEC mailing list were there.

Oginski talked with nine delegations, two of which, Brock University and Nipissing College, weren't on CUSEC's list.

The other delegations' concerns were in regard to CUSEC's position towards CFS, Oginski said. CUSEC doesn't want to replace CFS. CUSEC's purpose is "to bring people together across the country. CUSEC will discuss political issues that affect education in Canada," he said.

CUSEC is not related to CFS, but will invite any member of CFS to attend CUSEC conferences.

The reason the U of A pulled out

of CFS was what Oginski called the unfair voting system. Smaller universities pay less membership fees than larger ones, but have equal say on issues. "CFS only includes one of the ten largest universities in Canada, but it says it represents 400,000-500,00 students," Oginski said.

Queen's University avoided the U of A delegation as it isn't in total agreement with CUSEC. Carleton University, the base for CFS, "doesn't support CUSEC, but can understand the need for it," Oginski said.

U of T is a supporter of CUSEC. Iggy Pit, president of the U of T SU, said the original problem with CUSEC was "we didn't want the split in student voice."

U of T dropped out of CFS four years ago because it felt the CFS was dealing with issues that weren't pertinent to students at a time when funding for universities was being drastically cut.

Pit feels that individual SU's should deal with issues such as the plight in Nicaragua, but students' organizations on a national level should deal with underfunding in universities and other national issues.

Pit talked with Oginski last week and was reassured that CUSEC's main purpose was to exchange information on a national level. He liked the idea that SU's could get together in an informal atmosphere and "discuss the common prob-

lems they have and try to come up with some common solutions," Pit said.

Oginski said there would be no membership fees. The only cost involved is sending delegates to the conferences.

CUSEC will meet biannually. The next conference is scheduled for mid-November at the U of C.

CUSEC's voting system will be more complex than that of CFS. It will be based on recognition of the institution and representation by population.

At the conference, the U of A delegation wasn't able to have "fruitful conversations with all nine delegations, but overall it went well," said Oginski.

Descriptions similar

2nd sex assault

by Roberta Franchuk

A second sexual assault on a University student has led to a call for increased use of the campus escort service for women walking alone on campus.

The incident occurred on September 6, when a woman walking to her home in Lister Hall was attacked by a man outside the Jubilee Auditorium.

"He was hiding in the bushes," reports Doug Langevin, director of Campus Security, "and when she went by he grabbed her by the side and tried to attack her."

The woman managed to fight off her attacker and escape. She did not report the incident until nine days later, when she called the Edmonton Police Department.

Campus Security did not become involved until September 23, after a

story appeared in *The Gateway* describing an attack on another woman. The type of attack and the description of the assailant were similar in both incidents, and after reading the story, the woman contacted Campus Security to inform them of her experience.

The similarity of the attacks prompted Campus Security to re-interview both victims. The Edmonton Police Department is investigating, and Langevin encourages people who may have information about these attacks or any others of similar nature to come forward and report it.

He also reminds students and staff that Campus Security will provide an escort to accompany people across campus, just call 432-5252.



Edits

Greg Halinda

The Gateway, being a university newspaper, belongs to the Canadian University Press (CUP). According to the CUP Statement of Principles, member papers are "agents of social change."

Before you laugh out loud, think a minute about what the Gateway is. We print many stories that would never be considered newsworthy by the commercial press. In providing such "alternative" coverage, perhaps some "progressive" thinking will ensue among our readership.

Ten years down the line our present readers will be (hopefully) running this country's industries and some lucky ones will be climbing the ladder to political power. These enlightened persons simply apply their progressive ideas and voila! Canada is new and improved, just like Tide laundry detergent.

But seriously, we do have our feet on the ground up here on 2nd floor SUB. Short of causing revolutions, Gateway editors consistently try to correct at least one social ill: the use of sexist, racist, and homophobic language in print. As a CUP paper it is within our mandate to avoid the use of words like chairman, lady, fag, or Limey, when speaking of a chairperson, woman, gay person, or English person.

Of course, many of you will scoff at such efforts, calling them a waste of time, militantly feminist, etc. Heck, I scoffed too when I first realized what was going on.

But over the past few weeks I

have noticed that I too am starting to automatically "edit" poorly chosen words from my speech.

For example, I might be ready to tell someone, "I saw this Chinese girl sleeping in the library today." The same message could be conveyed by saying, "I saw this woman sleeping in the library today." Or, to be really objective, "I saw this person sleeping in the library today."

Of course this process must not be employed in every available circumstance. The richness of the English language gives us a great toolbox with which to communicate. Saying what we mean is a form of honesty. But the power of words (especially in print) calls for some discretion and thought before they are used.

I hope my ideas do not provoke visions of an Orwellian nightmare, of persons using robotspeak or not speaking at all. Interestingly, Orwell summarized the language problem well in his essay *Politics and the English Language*: "It becomes ugly and inaccurate because our thoughts are foolish, but the slovenliness of our language makes it easier for us to have foolish thoughts. The point is that the process is reversible."

I think we are all capable of training ourselves to improve the way we speak. In doing so, we will start to improve the way we think and this can only lead to better relations with our fellow human beings. That would be real social change.

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