

CROSSCANADA

No Reform youth wing

OTTAWA (CUP) -- Youth members at the Reform Party convention Oct. 13-16 were put in the uncomfortable position of accepting that they would not have a party youth wing.

Other major parties, like the Liberals and Conservatives, reserve 10-20 per cent of voting delegate spots at their conventions for youth members. Ezra Levant, a 22-year-old law student at the University of Alberta, said this system "artificially segments, segregates and ghettoizes young people."

At a question-and-answer session for youth Oct. 14, Reform Leader Preston Manning supported a voucher system of education funding. The proposal is to divide up the current \$2.6 billion in transfer payments made to the provinces by the federal government for education.

It would be divided among students attending post-secondary institutions in the form of vouchers. Students would then be able to shop the voucher around to different schools.

Levant also rose to speak during a debate over Reform's resolution to "support the right of all job applicants to be evaluated solely on the basis of merit" and argued against special treatment for minorities.

Meanwhile, outside the convention, a protest was going on against the Reform Party. One student from Queen's University, who identified himself only as Richard, said he was protesting not only the Reform's alleged racist agenda but its policy on student cutbacks.

Controversial film footage

TORONTO (CUP) — Queen's University has decided to allow footage taken of a white supremacist student in a university classroom to be used in a television documentary.

The filming of part of the documentary at Queen's without the permission of university administrators caused some controversy last month.

In mid-September, a production company making a film on the Canadian racist right for CTV filmed a second-year history class at the university. One of the members of the class is a member of the white-supremacist Heritage Front.

Queen's reacted by protesting to the network, asking that the footage not be used, according to university vice-principal Tom Williams.

However, with the consent of the instructor, Geoff Smith, the university decided to allow the use of the footage.

The objective of the filming was to capture a normal day in the life of the Heritage Front member, said the documentary's associate producer, and this would have been impossible had the crew gone through official channels.

Sean Purdy, a Queen's history instructor and a member of the International Socialists (IS), says his group was also contacted by the film crew. Purdy himself was interviewed for the documentary.

Since the filming, the Heritage Front member has dropped Smith's class, as well as a course on race relations, Purdy said.

Queen's cafeteria strike continues

OTTAWA (CUP) -- A threat to poison food, arrests, poor cafeteria service and loud, angry strikers have left a bad taste in the mouth of many Queen's University students who rely on campus cafeterias.

Full-time cafeteria workers of Marriott Food Services, which operates all Queen's cafeterias, have been on strike for the past six months.

Negotiations are continuing in the six-month-old dispute, but the end is not yet in sight.

The union is looking for job security in the form of a guaranteed 37.5-hour work week and a pension plan to which Marriott will contribute the equivalent of three per cent of employees' salaries. Management has agreed to give striking employees a two per cent pay raise each year for the next three years. Jim Fougere, Marriott's general manager, could not be reached for comment.

On Sept. 20, Marriott management received an anonymous letter which threatened to poison food at Queen's cafeterias. As a result, security has been stepped up in each cafeteria.

The personal belongings of staff are checked before they enter the kitchen, and management now closely monitors the whole process. Security personnel hired by Marriott management continue to patrol in the cafeterias as well.

Alumni look to the future

by Lisa Lachance

"And when they come asking for alumni [money], I'm going to laugh long and loud," read the blue-marked scrawl of an angry student.

It would be fair to say that in the past five years Dalhousie students have enjoyed a less than amicable relationship with the university administration. Dalhousie Student Union Gripe Walls were common in the Student Union Building around each February (tuition-raising time), allowing students to vent their frustrations.

A recent addition to the alumni program, the "Grad Class Challenge" which began in 1989, encourages students to give money in their graduating year — before they've even graduated. In the past five years participation in the Challenge has grown from 5 per cent to 12.4 per cent.

At the October 18 meeting of the Dalhousie Board of Governors (BoG), a motion was passed committing the BoG to match every student dollar raised.

Dalhousie Student Union President Rod MacLeod spoke in favour of the motion and later remarked, "It

all boils down to this: if students are raising the money, making the effort, it only makes sense that the BoG does the same."

One of the ideas behind the program according to Doug Reid, President of the Dalhousie Alumni Association, is to "begin the tradition of giving."

"I can't say that I see myself having any burning desire to donate to my university when I finish."

Currently, Dal alumni participation rate in the Annual Fund — Dal's major fundraising campaign — hovers around 17 per cent. The Development Office at Dal is constantly working to increase this base.

One member of the Development Committee of the BoG cited alumni giving as one of the ways the university can make up for government

pending cutbacks.

Student reaction seems mixed regarding alumni giving.

First year arts student Andrea Miller remarked, "I can't say that I see myself having any burning desire to donate to my university when I finish."

"I think alumni should give back to the university... but in '98 I don't think I'll have the money," said first year Commerce student Stephanie Keeping. She continued on to comment that it is good that the university is matching the money.

It is interesting to note that the BoG already gives more than graduating students. In 1994, BoG members collectively gave \$46,000 compared to the Grad Class Challenge total of just over \$9,000.

The Annual Fund goal this year is \$1.6 million. There is also the Planned Giving program which encourages alumni to include Dalhousie in their estate or will planning.

Early next year, Dal will be kicking off another Capital Campaign. This is a large-scale campaign to raise millions of dollars, which usually gets targeted towards large projects such as new buildings.

Church, natives reconcile

by Samer Muscati

OTTAWA (CUP) — In a precedent-setting move, the Presbyterian Church of Canada confessed its 'sins' against First Nations people.

Reverend George Vais delivered the confession Oct. 8 at the Forks National Site in Winnipeg, where, more than a century ago, natives and European settlers and missionaries met.

The church is now acknowledging the painful history of its relationship with the First Nations, primarily in Northern Ontario, Manitoba, and Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. The confession was adopted by the Presbyterian Church of Canada's 120th General Assembly last June.

"We confess that, with the encouragement and assistance of the Government of Canada, the Presbyterian Church in Canada agreed to take the children of aboriginal peoples from their own homes and place

them in Residential Schools," Vais said.

"In these schools, children were deprived of their traditional ways, which were replaced with Euro-Canadian customs."

He continued: "There was opportunity for sexual abuse, and some were so abused. The effect of all this, for aboriginal peoples, was the loss of cultural identity and the loss of a secure sense of self. For the Church's insensitivity, we ask forgiveness."

Assembly of Manitoba Grand Chief Phil Fontaine accepted the apology on behalf of First Nations people, but said that the church's refusal for many years to acknowledge the wrongdoings had deepened Natives' wounds.

"The confession is a start down the road to healing. The confession apologizes for past wrongs... but it does not absolve the church of responsibility for them," Fontaine said.

Michael Farris, member of the

Church's Residential School Committee agrees and hopes that the healing process can now begin.

"The event was very significant, as the entire church recognized the grave error of its sins. It's the first step in reconciliation," Farris said.

Part of the ceremony, presided over by traditional native elders, included a "smudging" ritual symbolizing purification. A pipe was also passed around a healing circle symbolizing reconciliation.

The Residential School experience has left First Nations people with a legacy of shattered lives, loss of cultural identity and broken families.

Two residential treatment facilities to help former pupils of Residential Schools cope with their problems are being set up by the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, in cooperation with the federal government, and the Presbyterian, Anglican and United churches.

Student security expands service

by Gazette staff

In response to concerns about safety and security in buildings "after hours," the Student Security Force now monitors the Life Sciences Centre (LSC) and Weldon Law Building through single points of entrance to each of these buildings.

Student security already monitors the Tupper Medical Building and Dentistry Building.

"Response so far from students entering buildings has been exceptional," said Sandy MacDonald, Dalhousie's Chief of Security.

"A couple of people have felt inconvenienced, but on the whole, most people are happier about the increased level of security."

A student guard will be employed at the North entrance to the LSC (adjacent to the Chase

Building) from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m., Mondays to Fridays, and from 8 a.m. to 1 a.m. on weekends and statutory holidays.

As well, in cooperation with the Space Planning and Scheduling Department, four classrooms in the LSC (rooms 202, 210, 212 and 216) are being made available as a common study area for students who wish to study beyond library hours. These rooms will be available starting at 8 p.m. from Mondays to Thursdays, and at 5:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. After 1 a.m., students are free to stay later, but at their own risk. The buildings will be locked so that no one else can get it, but they can get out.

At the LSC, students will be required to present IDs between 5 and 7:30 p.m. After 7:30 p.m., students will not only be required to

present their IDs, but will also have to sign in at the entrance.

At the Weldon Building, a student guard will be employed at the main entrance from 5 to 11 p.m., Mondays to Thursdays, 5 to 9 p.m. on Fridays, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays, and 1 to 11 p.m. on Sundays.

Each building has its own hours of access and policies for admission into the building. During the hours when student guards are not on duty, access to a building will be available to authorized individuals, through the Security Department.

Dal's Student Security Force consists of 38 students, hired and supervised by the Security Department. As with students hired by Tiger Patrol, their training is thorough, including first aid, CPR, hazard identifications, use of fire extinguishers and radio communications.