

# Protestors want First Choice

OTTAWA (CUP) — A coalition of women's groups is advocating a consumer boycott against companies involved in producing soft-core pornography for pay-TV and a withdrawal of First Choice's license if it carries out plans to show Playboy features.

The Canadian Coalition Against Media Pornography was created in response to First Choice's recent announcement it would feature "adult entertainment" bought from Playboy Enterprises on its pay-TV services that goes on air Feb. 1. With five days planning, they

organized more than 1,100 women and men to rally against First Choice's plans in 19 Canadian cities.

The largest demonstration was on Parliament Hill, where more than 400 people cheered as speakers called for the federal government to revoke First Choice's license.

Lynn Macdonald, justice critic, (NDP, Broadview-Greenwood), promised to demand that the government revoke First Choice's license, and said a demonstration should be organized at the Cana-

dian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) offices in Hull if no action were taken. More than 200 people demonstrated outside the Montreal CRTC offices Jan. 18.

MP John Bosley (PC, Don Valley West) also promised to pursue the matter, saying he supported the picket sign, "Real men don't need porn."

Communications minister Francis Fox said the government would not have licensed First Choice had it known its plans to show Canadian Playboy bunnies, but said the

CRTC will have to rule on the matter.

Several other MPs spoke in support of the demonstration, including Flora Macdonald (PC, Kingston).

"Maybe in the past I haven't been as aware of this as I should," Macdonald said, adding that she has recently been shown samples of hard-core pornography and "it can't come soon enough or often enough that women speak out against exploitation ... if pay-TV needs this kind of exploitation of women

to survive, who need pay-TV?"

Maude Barlow, director of Ottawa's Office of Equal Opportunity for Women, read a statement calling for the government to revoke First Choice's license, to regulate against sexual stereotyping, to toughen anti-pornography laws and to enforce existing ones.

Pat Masters from the Ottawa Women Against Pornography called for consumer boycotts against companies involved in First Choice or the Playboy shows. These include Eaton's, Manufacturer's Insurance, and the Royal Bank's Royfund Equity. Many of the protests elsewhere were at Eaton's stores.

Sally Chaster, an organizer at one of these, talked to more than 100 people in Regina about the censorship issue.

"Some people are claiming that we are trying to censor what individuals watch," she said. "The truth is that we have federal and provincial human rights legislation as well as federal criminal legislation behind us.

"We can't read or write material that ridicules or demeans the handicapped or racial minorities, and rightfully so. Yet through pornography women are demeaned and degraded simply for being women ... we aren't imposing censorship, we are demanding that the laws that are supposed to protect women be enforced."

According to Barlow, it is important to block soft-core pornography now from pay-TV to prevent it from being replaced by hard-core, explicitly violent pornography in a few years.

## "Drug-addled" Gonzo journalist to hit Dalhousie

by Eileen McInnis

What would you think of a celebrity lecturer with a "nasty reputation" getting paid a hefty fee and receiving an honorary law degree?

Some students are excited about Hunter S. Thompson's upcoming March lecture at Dalhousie, some are upset and other students are still trying to figure out just who this guy is.

Thompson is a best-selling American writer and a leading political analyst who has distinguished himself with works such as *Fear and Loathing: On the Campaign Trail '72*, and *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*. He's the inspiration behind the character of Uncle Duke in "Donnsebury" has been called

the 'Father of Gonzo Journalism,' characterized by his attempts to display the truth no matter what the costs.

Despite popular demand, Thompson limits himself to only ten lectures annually. Students should be impressed with the resourcefulness of student council staging this event, but the project has met with disapproval.

One argument is the costs involved. With a \$4,000 lecture fee plus transportation, accommodation, and room rental, the university is looking at about \$7,000 for one engagement.

Entertainment Committee Chair Phil Dunn counters this saying the \$4,000 fee is not much more than what is usually paid for an even-

ing's entertainment at Dalhousie. A band such as 'Harlequin' charges \$3,000 a night, plus extras, and the cost of the lecture will, as usual, be covered by ticket sales. The attitude is 'if you don't like what's being offered, don't come.' Dunn is not worried about the attendance — he figures the lecture will sell out.

Dunn wants to do more than invite the writer to speak; he wants to give him an honorary law degree in recognition of his accomplishments.

To generate support for this project, he has started a petition that will both publicize the upcoming lecture and carry some weight with the Senate, which is in charge of dispensing honorary degrees. Student Union president Peter Rans

has already nominated Thompson, as have individuals at St. Mary's University. Dunn says offering the degree is "the respectable thing to do."

However, some students do not find Thompson deserving of this respect, and Dunn admits the writer has a bit of a "nasty reputation." Thompson is known for his drug habits and radical behavior. As the motivating force behind his engagement and nomination, Dunn may be putting his neck on the line, but he says "I don't care." He feels the advantages of having a highly acclaimed individual such as Thompson appear at the university outweigh the disadvantage presented by his personality.

"I think this will be a real coup for this university," says Dunn.

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