

This is Freedom to Read Week

by Roberta Franchuk

Have you read *Catch 22*? What about *Brave New World*? *Lord of the Flies*? *1984*? *All Quiet on the Western Front*?

Even if you haven't, you are probably certain that you can walk into any library and check out a copy. This is, however, not necessarily true.

These books have all been challenged, at one time or another and in various places across Canada, by people who found them obscene, offensive, inappropriate, or otherwise objectionable.

Books such as these have been removed from or restricted in public and academic libraries across the country.

In response to this type of pressure, the Book and Periodical Development Council is sponsoring a Freedom to Read Week, October 19 to 26.

This annual event is organized by the Council's Freedom of Expression Committee, and is aimed at underlining the importance of respecting the right to read and the freedom to learn.

The Book and Periodical Development Council is an umbrella organization with members from various library, bookseller, editor, writer, and graphic arts associations

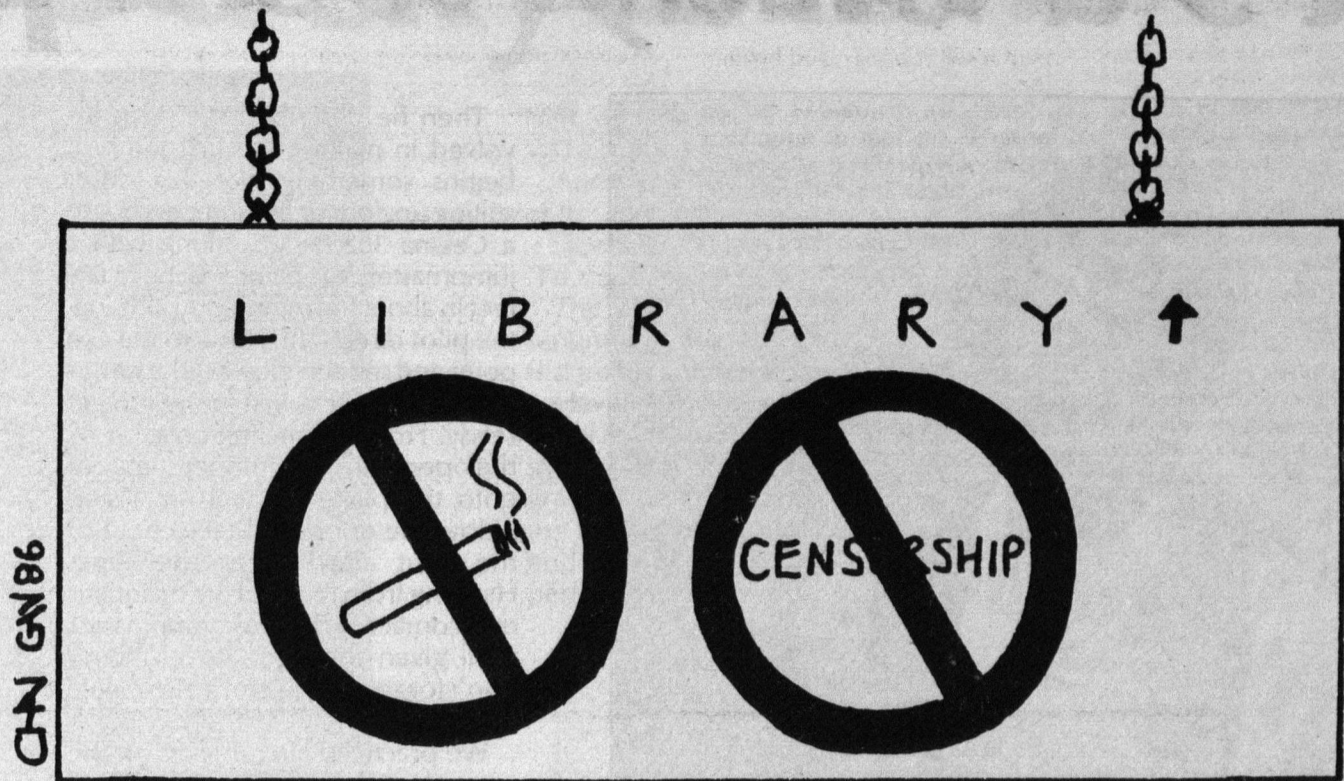
in Canada.

The Committee for Freedom of Expression is concerned with censor-

ship aimed not only at the written word, but also films, radio, television, and music.

Freedom to Read Week is a time for people to become aware of the danger of censorship and to ap-

preciate the freedom we do enjoy. So, go out, get a copy of *The Catcher in the Rye*, and be thankful.



Breakthrough device in organ transplants

by Lutful Kabir Khan

Mismatched organs have always been a nightmare for transplant surgeons. But very soon a revolutionary filtering device called Biosynsorb will make mismatched organ transplants safe and economical.

Biosynsorb was developed by Chembiomed, a University of Alberta-owned company.

According to Dr. Hal Hutchings, Chembiomed president, Biosynsorb is the only device available for safe crossing of the ABO blood group barrier, especially during kidney transplants.

"Dr. Aaron Bannet, a Philadelphia surgeon, had already used the device to perform the first mismatched kidney transplant in North America."

Biosynsorbs are a group of synthetic carbohydrates bonded to silica beads and packaged in filter cartridges.

"About 20 different kinds of synsors, which attract carbohydrates, are already available in the market,"

said Hutchings, "but our device is unique. It is the only bio-compatible synsorb."

Preliminary testing in the United States for 160 bone marrow and four kidney transplants has proven the device safe and effective.

Chembiomed hopes to get FDA

(Foods and Drugs Administration) approval to use Biosynsorb commercially within the next two years.

"In Canada alone, if approved, the device will make possible 20% more kidney transplants," Hutchings said.

The company hopes to get appro-

val for clinical trials in Canada within the next six months.

"We will produce the filters here at Chembiomed," said Hutchings, "and it will be distributed worldwide by a renowned Swiss pharmaceutical company."

"The possibilities for Biosynsorb

are endless. It can be used for curing rheumatic arthritis, treating drug abuse, in auto-immune disorders, and even in cancer therapy," said Dr. Hutchings.

He has high hopes for this amazing device, the result of ten years of research.

New Western political club is formed

by Martin Levenson

Billing themselves as "the newest and brightest political club on campus," the University of Alberta Western Canadian Interest Society (W.C.I.S.) held their inaugural meeting last Thursday night.

The meeting was mostly administrative, held for the purpose of electing interim executive officers, adopting a constitution and establishing their goals.

The club's stated objective is "...to determine the problems and concerns of the people of Western

Canada, whether they be political, economic or social in nature. The Society seeks to discover solutions to these problems and communicate these solutions to government and to the public."

WCIS' function will be to act as a lobby group supporting the correction of perceived injustices in the Canadian polity.

WCIS consists of 23 charter members and is the brainchild of Rob Splane, last year's Student Union V.P. Finance.

Asked about who he hoped to attract to the fledgling organization, Splane said, "We're a political club, but we're looking for support from across the political spectrum. Our main concern is the role of the West within Canada."

When asked to comment on the formation of the club, Dr. Garth Stevenson of the U of A's Political Science department said, "The assumption is that the existing parties don't fulfill this need."

Stevenson pointed out that all

political parties have policies regarding western Canadian interests. He also pointed out "the difficulty in defining Western Canadians' interest" as distinct from more general interests.

Interim Executive officers are Rob Splane (president), Barry Chow (vice-president), Donna Salopek (secretary), Ken Hui (treasurer), and Brent Gustafson (publicity director). People interested in joining the Society should call Rob Splane (436-7586) or Barry Chow (435-7060).



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