

Inflation bites

Students leave

OTTAWA (CUP)—A government projection released this summer predicting a decline in university enrolment is proving to be correct, even though the number of university age students is still rising.

According to Statistics Canada, the number of 18 to 24 year olds will increase until 1982, yet universities across the country report shrinking enrolments.

Dalhousie appears to be following the cross-country trend of declining university enrolment. Preliminary figures issued last week from the registrar's office indicate a drop of ninety students, (about one percent), from the eighty-eight hundred who were registered at this time last year. The official enrollment figure will not be available until December 1st when late registration has closed. Last

year's official figure was 8956.

The above figure includes enrollment at King's which has gone up from 350 to 390. The rise is due to the inauguration of their journalism school with its seventy students. However, in the arts and science program they had thirty fewer students.

It should be noted here that these figures are very preliminary since many students will either be registering or withdrawing between now and December. Such was the case last year when approximately 200 withdrew, but 400 enrolled.

At Carleton University, chief statistician Bill Pickett said final enrolment figures indicate a 5.3 per cent decrease in full-time, and a 5.8 per cent decrease in part-time enrolment.

This occurred despite an

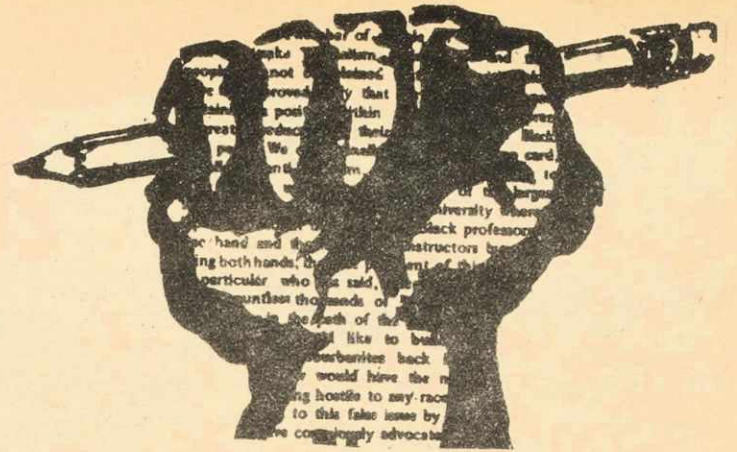
advertising campaign the university undertook this fall to encourage more students to enrol.

The decline was most evident in the general science and arts faculties, 13-14 per cent and 9 per cent respectively. The faculties of engineering and commerce had increased enrolments.

Carleton's enrolment decline accounted for more than 30 per cent of the decline projected by Stats Canada for all Ontario universities.

Similarly, at the University of Ottawa, preliminary figures showed a 5.2 per cent decrease.

Registrars' offices at the University of Calgary and Wilfred Laurier University have also reported a general decrease in undergraduate enrolment, with arts and sciences and fine arts suffering the largest drops.



Gate pickets Sun

OTTAWA (CUP)—Gay rights activists picketed the Supreme Court and the Vancouver Sun October 5 as the court heard arguments in a case that will determine whether newspapers can discriminate against gays.

The court was hearing an appeal of a B.C. court decision last year that allowed the Sun to refuse to run gay advertisements.

The case arose from the Sun's refusal to sell advertising space to Gay Tide, Vancouver newspaper for gays. The Gay Alliance Toward Equality (GATE) has been fighting this denial in the courts for four years.

According to GATE lawyer Harry Kopyto, the justices reserved their decision on the case. He expected a verdict within two to three months.

The 11 picketers in Ottawa, members of the Gays of Ottawa, said they were there in support of the case. They carried placards reading "Human Rights for Gays Everywhere", "Job Security a Gay Right", "News across the nation—End Gay Discrimination", and "We want 'Our Place' in the Sun".

The Sun has said it refused to carry the gay ad because its advertising policy was to avoid any homosexual material. According to Kopyto, the main argument the Sun's lawyers used before the Su-

preme Court was that the paper was discriminating against the idea of homosexuality and not homosexuals themselves.

Originally, the B.C. human rights commission decided that the newspaper violated the provincial human rights code by denying the advertising space and ordered it to stop the practice. That decision was later upheld by the B.C. Supreme Court.

However, the B.C. Court of Appeals ruled last year that the Sun was justified in refusing the ad because it acted according to an "honest bias" toward gays.

According to Gays of Ottawa spokesperson Mike Johnstone, that judgement says that "discrimination can be justified on the grounds of prejudice."

"In effect, the Supreme Court will be asked to decide whether the existence of prejudice against homosexuals excludes us from coverage under the B.C. Human Rights Code."

He pointed out that both the B.C. Federation of Labour and the B.C. Civil Liberties Association have expressed fears that the Appeal Court judgement would erode the human rights code, and condone discrimination against any groups simply on the basis of popular prejudice against the group.

Less jobs for jobless

OTTAWA (CUP)—A recently-released government survey has confirmed what the unemployed have suspected for some time—there really are less jobs around this year.

Results from Statistics Canada's Job Vacancy Survey for June, July, and August show that the average number of jobs vacant daily during that period decreased 10% from the same period in 1977.

For every 1000 jobs existing

during those months, five were vacant, a rate unchanged from the previous three months. The comparable rate a year earlier was six per thousand.

The survey estimated the number of vacancies in all jobs was 48,200, while the number of full-time jobs vacant was 43,200. In August, the number of unemployed was 941,000.

According to Statistics Canada officials, however, the

survey does not include all vacant jobs because it does not survey all fields and does not include jobs filled between survey observations.

The NDP and labour groups have suggested the survey was cut to avoid potential government embarrassment at the large discrepancy between the number of jobs vacant and the number of unemployed. Statistics Canada representatives have denied the charge.

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