

# University teachers publicize unfair firing

HALIFAX (CUP)—The Canadian Association of University Teachers has stepped up its campaign to publicize firings at two universities which it said violated academic freedom.

Philip Walsh, CAUT vice-president external, says Memorial University of Newfoundland and the University of Calgary fired two professors for political and economic reasons and should be boycotted by professors seeking positions.

Walsh says the association refused to accept advertising from the two universities for its monthly publication, the CAUT Bulletin.

Memorial University fired Marlene Webber, social work professor and strong supporter of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) in 1977 for alleged misuses of classroom time. Walsh says a CAUT investigation found that Memorial's administration did not have evidence to prove Webber abused her time.

In the same year, the University of Calgary fired George Abouna, a surgeon who had taught at the university for two years. The U of C administration, however, promised him tenure and CAUT later reported that the administration reneged on the deal.

Both professors appealed to the association for help, but lobbying attempts failed to pressure the administrations into further negotiations.

Walsh says the effects of the association's censuring of the two administrations is difficult to measure.

"We can't tell how many people don't accept positions because of censorship. But CAUT is the usual way a university advertises new positions," he says. "Even people who accept positions will ask questions."

The censure will likely result in a compromise between the two parties involved, he added.

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