

## CROSS CANADA

## Dumping on native lands

MONTREAL (CUP) — Iroquois activists are joining forces to end hazardous waste dumping on native land.

Reserve residents are meeting to formulate regulations governing hazardous waste dumping on Cattaraugus, Six Nations and Kahnawake territories.

"Indian reservations are easy prey because we don't have the same regulations as municipalities," said Eva Johnson, Kahnawake environment protection committee coordinator.

Similar environmental conditions exist on Six Nations territory. Six Nations Against Pollution — a community environmental group formed three months ago — has already discovered seven land-fills.

"We started hearing reports from people about residents allowing dumping on their property," said Six Nations activist Gloria Bomberry. "On one land-fill we found medical waste."

## Illicit entry into Centre

OTTAWA (CUP) — Carleton University security illegally entered the gay, lesbian and bisexual student centre, following a complaint about AIDS awareness posters in the office.

Rick Percival, public relations officer for Carleton security, said officers investigated the centre over the weekend of Oct. 20 for "possibly offensive material," and photographed posters on the walls.

Officers didn't need permission to enter because the centre door was unlocked, Percival said. Staff were not present during the investigation, he added.

But according to centre volunteer Michael Dawbar, security officers must have entered the office by using a master key, because staff locked it.

"The supposed offensive materials are nothing more than AIDS awareness posters that are available throughout the city," he said. "It's ironic that we are not being harassed by students, but by security."

Carleton's peer counselling centre has the same posters on its walls. Percival said the peer counselling centre wasn't investigated because no one complained about it.

## Problems at birth

TORONTO (CUP) — The Ontario government's proposal to regulate midwifery is alarming native midwives, who say the plan will erode their control over a cornerstone of native culture.

The province is developing legislation to make midwifery a certified, self-regulating profession taught at a university.

Government officials say the legislation will give women an alternative to standard hospital birth, and ensure health standards are met. Once the Midwifery Act is passed, any uncertified midwives can be criminally charged for delivering babies.

But some native midwives oppose the legislation, saying they don't want to be forced to play by the medical establishment's rules and standards.

The proposed health standards could be stiff enough to criminalize native midwives' practices in isolated regions, where there isn't a backup hospital nearby, said Jesse Russell, a Metis woman and policy analyst on native issues for the government.

"In our culture, birth is a spiritual event involving the whole family," said Carol Terry, an Ojibway woman who has had two children delivered at home by midwives. "It can't just leave our control. Someone once joked that it's the idea that maybe if we're born right maybe we'll get it all right."

## Mediating in school

WINNIPEG (CUP) — Name callers and cheaters on the playground at recess are being dealt with by some special students through a new program at River Elm Elementary school in Winnipeg.

Elected by their peers, 20 school children in grades three to six are trained as mediators to help students work out conflict.

"The purpose of the program is not to have little police out there," said guidance councillor Doreen Campbell-Porch. "We're trying to teach kids another way of solving problems rather than hitting."

The program, in place since last year, is explained to classes at the beginning of the school year, and students select four class-mates they think would make good mediators.

## NEWS

## Clark has a big job to do

BY MARIE-FRANCE LEBLANC

Atlantic Canada has the most to lose if Quebec separates from Canada, federal Constitutional Affairs Minister Joe Clark warned Dalhousie law students last week.

There will be an atmosphere of anger in Canada if there is any breakup in the country, Clark said. He said parts of Canada that aren't as rich or as powerful will lose out.

The only way to ensure separation doesn't happen, Clark said, is to make a constitutional deal.

"Most Canadians regard other issues as being more important now than the constitution is," he said. "But I think they would accept that if we are going to solve our economic problems we've got to get these constitutional problems out of the way."

Clark said many people have things in the document they wish to change. He said the government proposals are firm but open to improvement. And this is why the government has brought it forward to the people.

Clark emphasised that Canada has some serious problems it must address. "The wolf this time is at the door. This is a real crisis and we have to treat it that way."

He also said the issue of aboriginal rights must be addressed. The government's proposal calls for the entrenchment in the constitution of the aboriginals right of self-government.

The debate, Clark said, is over whether it should be an inherent right which all native groups sup-



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Future U.N. Secretary-General?

port or a judicial one — the right to take matters to the court — one.

When asked to respond to rumours that he is now a candidate for the job of U.N. Secretary Gen-

eral Clark said he refuses to answer hypothetical questions.

"My expectation is that I will be staying here. I have a big job to do and I am pursuing it," he said.

## Coppes slams Reform Party

BY KYLE SHAW

Shiela Coppes, deputy leader of the national Liberals, spoke in three languages to a Halifax Liberal gathering, proving her commitment to multiculturalism.

The Nov. 3 event was the second annual Italian night fundraiser, hosted by the Halifax Cornwallis Liberal Association. After being introduced by Halifax MP Mary Clancy, Coppes wasted little time speaking English before flipping into Italian.

Translating, Coppes said she is "proud to have two official languages," and a host of others, in Canada. She says her party sees multiculturalism as a positive thing, while the "Core and Reform parties want to eradicate the differences between Canadians."

Back in English, Coppes refers to the national PC's, and Brian Mulroney's ideological "move to the right." She said the PC's will wipe out the CBC, multiculturalism, and Medicare if they are re-elected.

"But," said Coppes, "this country yearns for leadership which includes Medicare." The PC agenda "would lead this country where no Canadian wants it to go."

Coppes also put down what she called a double standard in Parliamentary procedure. An NDP MP was too harshly penalized for an incident involving the ceremonial

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mace, Coppes said, while white males seem to be allowed to call members "Sambo," and "slut," with impunity.

Talking against the separation of Quebec, Coppes easily switched from English to French three times in her speech. She quoted figures showing the value of having Quebec as a trading partner, and, "the price of separation will be paid by

every one of us."

However, said Coppes, the PC's are both secretly and overtly pushing for the separation of Quebec.

It is the Liberal party, Coppes said, that wants Canadians to celebrate their differences. Being called a "distinct society doesn't make Quebec better or worse," she said, "just recognized as different."

After attacking the PC party, Coppes had enough venom near the end of her speech for the Reform party. "The Reform party," she says, "in our terms is the Regress party." Closing to applause from the 150 people present, Coppes said the Liberal party "believes in the philosophies of small 'L' liberalism."

When the speech was over, I asked Coppes why voters who wanted liberal thinking wouldn't vote NDP instead of Liberal. She said people are basically centrist.

It is the NDP dogmatism, Coppes said, that's "killing them in Ontario." And, if Coppes is correct, as she said, Jean Chretien will be the next Prime Minister of Canada.