

Editorial

It started with a memo

Whatever else may be said of him, Harold Kaplan has incredibly bad timing.

Just when we thought the unions would finally fade from our news page, we learned that a statement he had circulated threatened to upset a carefully negotiated settlement with the Canadian Union of Educational Workers.

The statement, a densely typed 18 page document, is concerned with planning for the university's future. It makes a number of suggestions, some more appealing than others.

Tempering each is Kaplan's modest goal for the statement;

early on he tells the reader that "it is intended as a discussion paper not as the final word."

He tells us elsewhere that he means to encourage debate on the university's policies and priorities.

No doubt the debate followed more quickly than he had intended. It centers around a few sentences, which make it seem as if Kaplan is suggesting that part-time teaching positions should become rarer and rarer.

The members of CUEW are understandably upset about this. Almost half their membership is composed of part-timers.

We share CUEW's concern for its members, for we, as students are the ones who profit from their presence at the university.

Our class sizes are already too big, and our tutorials are almost as big as our classes.

Trying to save money by shunting even more work on full time faculty members seems to us only a false economy. We doubt that professors are going to volunteer to teach second classes of popular courses. Instead they'll have their present class sizes doubled - they'll have no additional lectures to prepare, or class hours, but students will have even less

contact with them then they now do.

At the same time, we understand that enrollment (which until now has risen steadily) is expected to begin falling, and that when that begins, cuts will have to start somewhere.

But the cuts must not come too soon. We are reassured by the title of Kaplan's oeuvre "A Preliminary Statement on Long-Term Planning..." but not much.

Certainly now is not the time to begin the reduction in the number of part time faculty. We need them too much.

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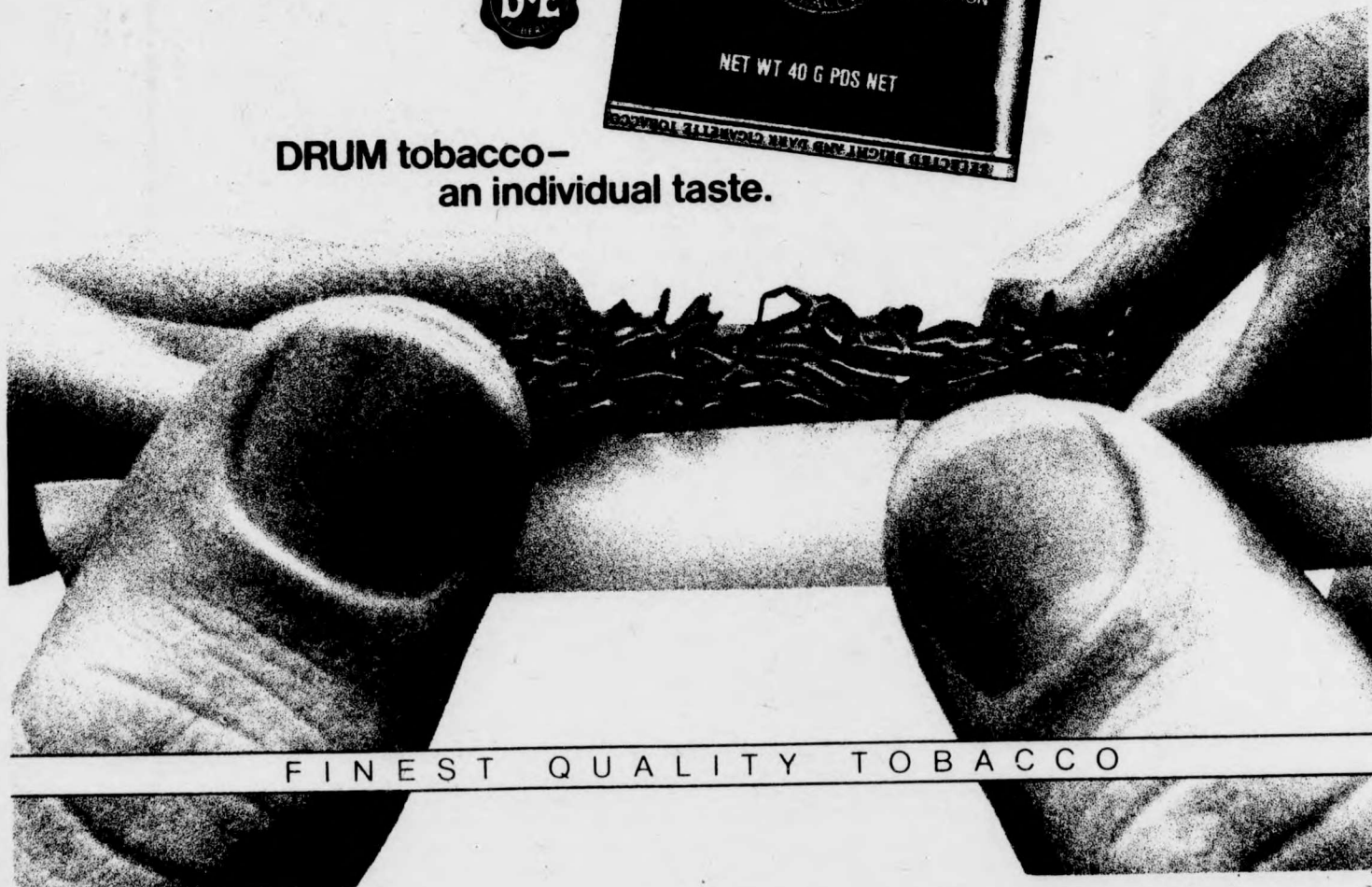
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