

Prarie students get SAS and SAM

OTTAWA (CUP)—All students across Canada are now represented by provincial or regional student organizations.

Students in the last two provinces without provincial student organizations, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, formed

organizations this summer.

The Manitoba organization, the Students Association of Manitoba (SAM), has been officially established by votes of the four students councils involved. The Saskatchewan organization, the Saskatchewan Association of Students (SAS), must still be ratified by students in its member institutions.

Both associations are committed to fighting cutbacks, the main issue being fought by the National Union of Students and most other provincial student organizations this year. SAS will be cooperating closely with the NUS campaign, according to SAS spokesperson Beth Woroniuk.

SAM will be cooperating "on some levels" with the NUS campaign, according to SAM spokesperson Steve Ashton. However, he said it will not be "just plugging into the NUS

campaign".

SAM has planned a week of protest against cutbacks in October, he said, with forms on such topics as medicare coverage for visa students, literacy tests, tuition fee increases, women's issues, and differential fees.

It will also be lobbying the Manitoba government and universities this fall against cutbacks and tuition fee increases, he said.

SAS will be organized like most other provincial student organizations, with a per-capita student levy and paid staff. Students will have to vote in referenda for member campuses to join or leave the organization.

Its funding and constitution are still being established, Woroniuk said. She said it hopes to hold a founding convention in early October.

Two universities—the University of Regina and University of Saskatchewan—and 3 community colleges—Kelsey, Wascana, and the Saskatchewan Technical Institute—have representatives on the steering committee drafting the constitution, she said.

SAM, on the other hand, is loosely-knit, an unstructured organization of student councils with no per-capita fees or paid staff. Eventually, Ashton said, the organization will establish a more formal base.

He said there were several roads open for it in its future development. It could be an agitational voice of students—encouraging them to take positions many of them don't adhere to. Alternatively, it could be a forum—merely informing students of the various positions taken on specific questions.

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Women's newspaper goes national

OTTAWA (CUP)—As of this summer, Canadian women have a national newspaper.

Upstream, a two-year-old Ottawa women's paper, has decided to go national with distribution and articles from across Canada.

The newspaper has already

produced two national issues, one in July and one in August. They have been distributed nationally in 16 cities, including Halifax, Montreal, Sudbury, Regina and Vancouver.

According to Upstream staffer Pat Daley, the staff hopes to link up women's groups across Canada with the paper and develop a sense of community on a national level.

"Women are doing a lot of things across the country and we don't know what each other is doing and the issues we're concentrating on."

Among the issues Upstream will be concentrating on will be violence against women and working women, Daley said.

She said the paper is also developing a national network of reporters, with correspondents already in Halifax, Toronto, Montreal, and British Columbia. As the paper is distributed more widely,

"women are writing in saying they want to contribute".

It has articles in both French and English, she said, with at least three articles in French in each issue.

Going national was financed by a Young Canada Works grant, Daley said, but the paper plans to support itself through ads, subscriptions, and some donations. Because national distribution is very expensive, the paper will have to worry if it doesn't get enough ads.

The paper has been very successful so far, Daley said. It has survived for nearly two years with only a minimal debt of \$3,000, she said, and has a lot of women who have learned about newspapers by working on it.

"We've also got a very good response from our readers. We're obviously providing a needed service."



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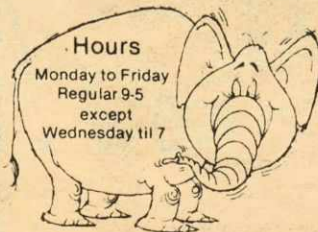
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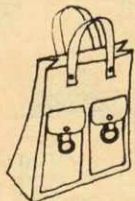
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