

Worms love university food

BURNABY, B.C. (CUP) — Campuses across Canada are beginning to invest in vermi-composters to get rid of their food waste.

Both Simon Fraser University and the University of Ottawa have introduced worm box composters this year.

Food refuse, or wet waste, is mixed with soil that contains an earth worm population. The worms eat the refuse, enriching the soil in which they are suspended. The soil is then ready to be used as fertilizer in landscaping projects.

The worm box model is designed to show that worm waste reclamation is efficient and practical.

The University of Ottawa installed a mega vermi-composter in its main cafeteria last November. It is so successful the university plans to obtain five more for the campus.

The pilot worm box has been composting more than 60 pounds of food scraps each day.

The U of O composter is a top-of-the-line model, and can degrade meat scraps, dairy products and most organic wastes. The finished compost will be used as fertilizer around campus.

The main disadvantage is the hefty price tag of \$1,500 per vermi-composter.

Meanwhile at SFU, the first of four stages is already in the works. Wood chips from storm clean-up at SFU will be mixed with wet waste, and the resulting fertilizer will be used in campus landscaping.

MP wants Internet porn cops

TORONTO (CUP) — Illegal material of a pornographic nature is rampant on the Internet computer network and must be stopped, says a Reform Party MP.

Myron Thompson, the Member of Parliament for the Alberta riding of White Rose, has received copies of a story containing depictions of sexual acts between an adult male and young boys. The story came from a constituent complaining about the presence of material of this nature on the Internet.

Thompson said he was disgusted by the contents of the story, called "Cub Scouts II," in which a group of young scouts with their adult leader set out on an expedition that eventually involves the leader engaging in sexual activity with his charges.

Conceived in the 1970s as a computer communications system for academics involved with the United States Department of Defence, the Internet has evolved into a loose network of thousands of computers with millions of users worldwide.

The Toronto FreeNet allows pornographic material on certain Internet newsgroups to be accessed by registered users. Although any member of the general public can become a registered user, minors require the signature of a parent to do so.

Most universities' information technology guidelines prohibit sexual harassment, but say nothing specific on the access, sending, or display of obscenity on university computers.

However, a year ago, some universities, such as the University of Toronto, blocked receipt of the Internet newsgroup "alt.sex."

UNBC has 'growing pains'

OTTAWA (CUP) — When half of the 300 residence students arrived at the new University of Northern British Columbia last September, the paint on the walls was still wet and not all the furniture had arrived.

Since then, residents have watched a slow influx of beds, dining room tables and desks.

The university also ran \$8.7 million over budget in its first construction phase.

These are all part of the growing pains experienced by the newest-built university in Canada.

A student survey conducted last December by the office of institutional research at UNBC tells more about these growing pains, but shows that students are satisfied overall.

Two-thirds to three-quarters of the students surveyed said UNBC performed as well or better than expected in the first term. Students indicated they liked the personal atmosphere at UNBC and the 9:1 student-to-faculty ratio.

But UNBC students (there are only about 1,500) also have several big beefs.

By far the biggest complaint comes from students who don't like the five mandatory courses that each first-year student has to take. The university philosophy is that students should sample a wide array of fields before specialization.

A close second on students' list of beefs were complaints about the lab computers crashing and being improperly programmed.

UNBC is the only university in North America with fibre-optic cables in every classroom and lab. The 23 kilometres of cable cost \$2.5 million.

The survey reported that over 90 per cent of students said they feel welcome at UNBC.

And UNBC continues to grow despite the pains.

Canadian University Press (CUP) is a national organization made up of over 40 student papers from St. John's to Victoria. CUP enables student papers to exchange stories and ideas through the wire service, regional and national conferences. As a founding member of CUP, the *Dalhousie Gazette* makes sure that our university news becomes national news.

Students strike back



St. Mary's University students meet up with Dalhousie and King's College students on Barrington Street.

PHOTO: MIKE DEVONPORT

by Josef Tratnik and Judy Reid
with Patti Waller

Despite lack of support from the largest student union in Nova Scotia, approximately 1,500 students from eight universities and colleges rallied in downtown Halifax on Wednesday to protest Lloyd Axworthy's proposed cuts.

In a statement released Wednesday afternoon, the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) stated its opposition to the strike action as a response to the Social Security Review.

Students from Dalhousie, University of King's College, Saint Mary's University (SMU), Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD), Mount St. Vincent University (MSVU), Technical University of Nova Scotia (TUNS), Université de Ste-Anne and the Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) showed up at Grand Parade Square outside Halifax City Hall, only a couple blocks away from Province House, to protest Axworthy's cuts.

The protest was part of a nationwide strike initiated by the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

Most Dalhousie students went to classes in the morning, with between 250 and 350 students taking part in protest. Because the strike was scheduled for 2 p.m., many students were able to go to class as well as attend the protest.

Getting off to a slow start in the SUB lobby, the approximately 50 students quickly grew to about 200 as the action outside started up.

After the serving of some complimentary hot chocolate and some slightly off-key renditions of sixties protest music, the march began.

"This is just the start," said one Dalhousie student and International Socialist. "This is the first of an escalating series of actions, hopefully culminating in a nationwide general strike." He went on to say: "This is about democracy, and democracy begins on the street. Every great accomplishment has sprung up from aggressive protest."

By the time the protesters had marched to King's and out on to Coburg Road, the ranks had swelled to approximately 350, with many signs and slogans. One of the most notable read:

"We don't need school, we'll just sell drugs!"

"It's good to see that students have something to do today," said DSU Vice President External Hal Mclean.

Marchers continued down Spring Garden Road and along Barrington Street to the parade grounds, shouting: "They say cutbacks! We say strike back!"

The march was without incident, but at the corner of Spring Garden and Brenton, the students left the sidewalk and took to the street.

At the entrance to Grand Parade Square, the Dalhousie, SMU, King's and TUNS contingents were met by the students of NSCAD, NSAC, MSVU, a few union reps as well as some high school students. A busload of students from Ste-Anne's arrived shortly after.

According to Tasha Bollerup the provincial coordinator for the strike action committee, there were three objectives of the planned "Day of Action": to show government the united opposition to the cuts, to inform the public that all Canadians will be affected by cuts in social spending and to request a moratorium on the cuts until provisions are made to allow more input from the public.

Laura Penney, King's Student Un-

ion Vice President External, was one of the students who presided over the protest and introduced several speakers representing the Student's Union of Nova Scotia, CFS, and high school students.

"Passing the lack of buck to the next generation" is how Penney summed up social spending cuts in a press conference on Tuesday.

"The cuts will only ensure that less people will attend university, thus eliminating their chances of employment, and leaving students with so much debt that they'd have no disposable income," explained Penney.

"I'm very excited by the turnout," said Aaron Poirier one of the organisers, "and I'm most pleased that this went off without incident."

Loud chants and colourful banners proclaiming "Bring back yogic flying" and "Today education, tomorrow your pension" filled Grand Parade Square with four drummers from SMU maintaining an upbeat tempo.

One masked protester was asked to leave the stage at one point for shouting "tear down the structure."

"This protest is pointless," said the protester. "You can't count on the state to educate you."

His alternative: "Drop out and turn on."

Protests across Canada

St. John's, Newfoundland

- Approximately 4,500 students gathered at Memorial University of Newfoundland's student union centre to march to their provincial parliament building.

"Do they want you to leave and all go back home and go fishing?" asked Greg Malone of Codco fame during MUN's protest.

Regina, Saskatchewan

- 90% of University of Regina students did not attend class. Out of a population of 8,000 students, 700 took part in the protest.

Picket lines started 7 a.m. and had 10 to 30 picketers at every major entrance.

- Cafeteria staff who had to work would bring coffee out to strikers during their coffee breaks.

London, Ontario

- About 400 out of 30,000 University of Western Ontario students rallied together.

- One banner read "We need jobs, not cuts."

Ottawa, Ontario

- Approximately 2,000 students gathered on Parliament Hill and then marched to the Bank of Montreal.

Montreal, Quebec

- Between 10,000 and 15,000 students protested.

Victoria, British Columbia

- 5,000 out of 14,000 students from the University of Victoria took part in the protest. Information pickets were set up from 7 a.m. until noon.

- "Make Lloyd unemployed" read one of the banners.