

cross-canada briefs

Funding cuts may ravage Atlantic universities

ST. JOHN'S (ARCUP) — In the face of federal budget cuts, universities in Canada's poorest region are faced with the elimination of academic programs and downsizing of departments.

At Acadia University, it appears that the arts are at the greatest risk. In a memo circulated to members of the University Planning Committee, Acadia President Kelvin Ogilvie stated that "senior administration believes that the role of Music and Drama at Acadia University must be reconsidered."

Ogilvie suggested that Music and Drama could be downgraded to club status, but would no longer be official academic programs.

According to Dr. Tom Regan, Acadia's Dean of Arts, the university is facing at least a \$1.2 million dollar cut in its operating budget. This could be as high as \$4.2 million, depending on the outcome of the federal budget.

To accommodate this, the university has to find ways to cut costs and the Music school has been singled out because, according to Ogilvie, it "costs \$550,000 more per year than it generates in revenue."

At Memorial University of Newfoundland, the sciences are on the block. Physics and Chemistry experience high enrolment for first and second-year courses because they are prerequisites for other programs such as engineering, biochemistry, and pharmacy. But beyond the first two years, there is a sharp decrease in the number of students taking these courses and the university is evaluating the expense of offering such courses.

Many people feel that the first and second-year courses could be taught by professors in the bio-chemistry, earth science, and engineering departments.

If the federal cuts are too severe, the elimination of entire programs could become a common theme in Atlantic universities.

Ontario education cuts could be worse than expected

BY HEATHER PRINGLE

TORONTO (CUP) — Ontario's provincial government may be cutting more from elementary and secondary school funding than originally announced, according to education activists.

The government had said it was going to cut \$400 million, but the amount may be as high as \$1 billion, according to Marshall Jarvis, vice-president of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association.

Jarvis also says the government intends to move towards privatization of the elementary and secondary education system.

"We've received information that the government has entered into an agreement with a company in Texas who will make decisions about the development of the curriculum for the education system of Ontario," he said.

Further cuts, claim protesters, will result in larger classes, the neglect of special needs students, and the demoralization of education workers.

Saskatchewan prof may lose job after wife teaches class

BY FLETCHER KENT

REGINA (CUP) — A University of Saskatchewan professor could lose his job after his wife taught his education math class for an entire semester.

Education professor Bruce Bany allowed his wife Helda, a retired high school teacher, to teach his class for an entire semester because he felt his workload was too heavy. Professor Bany's fate is now in the hands of U of S president, George Ivany.

"I met with president Ivany, Professor Bany, and two representatives of the Faculty Association," said Dean of Education Murray Scharf. "I made the recommendation to president Ivany that Bany be dismissed."

According to Troy Snider, president of the Education Students Society, Bany was fulfilling the minimum workload for a professor, but he felt it was too much.

"He asked if someone could teach his class for him and was denied, but he went ahead anyway and his wife taught the class for the whole semester," said Snider.

Scharf says that Bany's workload wasn't excessive.

"How was he supposed to know that the class was excessive?" asked Scharf. "He never taught the damn class. I don't think his workload was excessive and I don't think he thought it was either."

Bany's wife continued to teach the class for the entire semester without anybody knowing anything was wrong.

The situation was uncovered when a student went to the education department asking for his mark in Mrs. Bany's class.

"There is a possibility that the students' credit for that class might not be accepted," said Snider. "It would be a real tragedy if students are hurt through all of this and it is in the best interests of the students that a solution be found. I recommend dismissal."

Bany refused to comment on the job review.



Local café denies charges of homophobia

BY JEN HORSEY

Humans Against Homophobia (HAH), a working group of Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG) at Dalhousie, is working to facilitate a complaint regarding a popular coffee shop in Halifax.

Amadeus Café and Gifts, is facing complaints of homophobia and discrimination.

A letter has been sent to the Human Rights Commission, and HAH is planning action to raise awareness.

On two separate occasions this past December, 27-year-old Alexander Lively claims that he and his friends were reprimanded by the owner/operator of the café, Dan Kristiano, for public displays of affection.

HAH became involved when Lively informed them of the situation. They are helping him to facilitate a complaint to the Human Rights Commission, and intend to launch an awareness campaign.

According to Lively, on December 16, when he rose to greet a friend with a hug, Kristiano sternly told them to stop.

Kristiano said in an interview with the *Gazette* that his concern was not that the two hugged, but instead that pizza had been brought into the café from another establishment, and that Lively and his friends had been loitering, without making a purchase.

"This is not a Human Rights issue," said Kristiano, "this is a right about my work."

In his letter of complaint to the Human Rights Commission, Lively explained: "I did not pursue this incident because I thought it would be an isolated incident, and to be honest, I was shocked and taken off guard."

Lively decided to take action after a second incident that occurred on December 24. Lively stated that two of his companions were sitting close together and holding hands, and that the owner of the café told them to stop. Lively said that he realized then that this was not an isolated incident, and asked to speak to Kristiano. According to Lively,

Kristiano informed him and his friends that he "had \$150,000 invested in this shop," told them that he would not allow them to ruin his business, and asked them to leave.

Kristiano again disputed this description of the events and explained that another customer had complained to him regarding the behaviour of Lively and his friends. Kristiano said that two individuals were seated near the window kissing, and Kristiano asked them to stop. Kristiano said that it was

not because they were gay, but rather that their behaviour was inappropriate for the café.

"On many occasions I have been in the Amadeus Café, and I've seen couples both holding hands and hugging. I have never seen anyone else being told to stop," Lively stated in his letter. "My friends and I are gay, and I feel we are being discriminated against because of this. We were publicly humiliated and I feel these matters cannot go unacknowledged."

Canadian media miss big stories

MONTREAL (CUP) — "All the news that's fit to print" is not a fitting motto for many Canadian media organizations, according to a recent list of under-reported stories prepared by Project Censored Canada.

The list is composed of 10 stories of major importance to Canadians which have been ignored by most mainstream media outlets. They range from stories about overlooking costly non-violent crime by Canadian professionals and corporations, to stories describing the Canadian government's support for resettlement projects funded by the World Bank.

Project Censored Canada is an organization founded in the late eighties by the Department of Communications at Simon Fraser University, the University of Windsor, and the Canadian Association of Journalists. It is modeled on a similar group in the United States.

Nine of 10 stories on this year's censored list are directly or indirectly related to economic concerns, leading some commentators to suggest that growing corporate control of the Canadian media is at the heart of the reason for omissions.

"We seem to be seeing evidence for the systematic exclusion of material which presents free market economics and private enter-

prise in a negative light," wrote media commentator James Winter in a recent issue of *Canadian Dimensions*.

Winter believes that the media is tacitly agreeing with the neo-conservative agenda of big business and financial institutions, and aiding and abetting the political agendas of deficit-cutters across Canada.

"These top censored stories had as their central focus views which challenge or oppose corporate ownership values," wrote Winter.

Not only has the mainstream media overlooked important issues, according to Winter, but the focus on sensational crimes — especially the O.J. Simpson and Paul Bernardo trials — has distracted people from more important issues.

"The media are adept at the magician's trick of misdirection, or distracting audiences away from important matters and directing them to the trivial and unimportant," according to Winter.

This corporate control has a massive effect on public debate, and the ability of people to make informed political statements, according to Winter. The result is the "depoliticisation of the populace, a dumbing down of political thought."

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