

Students plan to retire

MONTREAL (CUP) — Twenty-two years old. Free and with one's whole life ahead. What better time to start sinking money into a registered retirement savings plan (RRSP)?

That's what many Canadian young people, including students, are thinking as they invest in RRSP's in record numbers, according to Bank of Nova Scotia investment consultant Elaine Douville.

'Thirty per cent of all my RRSP customers are under thirty, and that includes students," said Douville, an employee of the bank's main Montreal office for five years.

"It used to be that most of our customers were only from very high salary brackets and over 35, she said. "Now everybody is talking about RRSP's and over the past two years, more and more young peo² ple are coming in.'

The RRSP was introduced by the federal government in 1957 as an incentive for retirement saving. Contributions to an RRSP are taxdeductible and the money invested is allowed to accumulate tax-free within the plan.

Compound interest, with a rate set slightly above regular savings rates, allows an investment to multiply. When an investor collapses his plan, interest on the accumulated money must be paid. But if the investor is unemployed, retired or back at school, their interest rate is lower than if they were working. Money can be withdrawn at any time

Students usually invest in an RRSP to save on income tax or to save money to go back to school, Douville said.

"They invest it while they are working and withdraw once they are back in school," she said. "It's the legal way to save on taxes.

"Many young people are planning their retirement," said Douville, "and they are starting as soon as they get a job.'

Starting this month, a bombardment of brochures, posters, and TV, radio and magazine advertisements will extoll the virtues of each bank's RRSP plan over the others. The deadline to make this year's RRSP contribution applicable to the 1985 tax year is March 1. Douville said 90 per cent of all advertising is launched during February.

One brochure, "You Can Retire Millionaire with a Commerce RRSP," says an investment of \$1,000.00 a year for 30 years at 10 -per cent interest (the current rate) will accumulate to \$298,127.

"To be able to do that, you have to start early," said Douville. "You have to be in your twenties at least. If you start in your forties, it's already too late.'

The minimum deposit on an RRSP is \$50 per year.

But the promise of riches is not made out of the goodness of banks' hearts, said Douville,

"Regular accounts are a lot of work for us," said Douville.

'People withdraw so often and that costs us money in salaries and overhead. But with an RRSP, people usually make only one deposit per year. We don't have to spend much time on that deposit and we get their money.

'The yield to the bank is very, very attractive," she said.

Claudette Grenier, a member of Rein a Perdre, Toute a Gagner (Nothing to Lose, Everything to Gain), a Quebec unemployed youth action group, said young people who were individually plotting for material security depress her

"They have not only bought into an RRSP, but a whole system.

'Instead of trying to make it a better system, they are now committed for life to maintain and defend it.

"They're wasting their youth;" she said

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Scott Richardson V.P. Internal of the Students' Union hands over \$10,000 to a

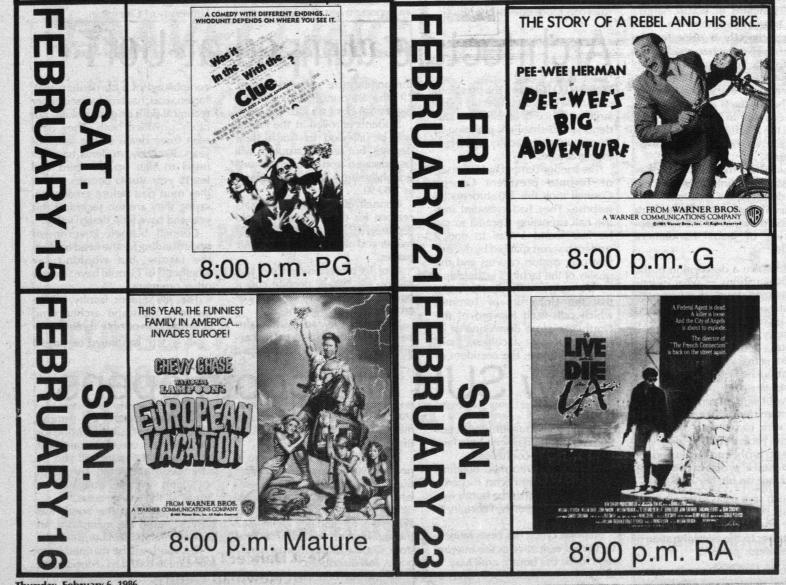
representative from the International Students' Centre for a resource room.

by Suzette C. Chan

Ice-skating may be second nature to most Canadians but last month the U of A's co-rec department in co-operation with the International

The ceremony took place on February 4.

Students Centre gave dozens of foreign students their first opportunity to don ye olde blades. So successful was the skate give-away that they plan to do it all over again.



'We gave away 60 pairs of skates in ten minutes," co-rec co-ordinator Dr. Art Burgess said of the first skategive-away, " and we still had to turn people away.

Burgess said most of the students, from Hong Kong, Australia, England and other countries, had never skated before.

'There's only so much you can teach them in an hour, but at the end, everyone was at least vertical."

To avoid another shortage of skates, Burgess is asking students to donate skates well ahead of time. Burgess is asking for figure skates and hockey skates (no speed skates, please) in all sizes. The co-rec department will pick up skates but prefer that students drop them off at the skate give-away box at the equipment room on the lower floor of the PhysEd Building by the end of the month. In other co-rec activity, nearlyin-shape students have the opportunity to take a free test of their jogging prowess. From February 10-13, students will have six chanced to take the Cooper fitness test. Participants are simply required to run, jog, walk or crawl as far as they can in 12 minutes. The times for the test are: Feb. 10 - 12:10 p.m.

Feb. 11 - 7 a.m.

Feb. 12 - 7 a.m. & 4:45 p.m. Feb. 13 - 12:10 p.m. & 4:45 p.m. Burgess said that this will be the first time the test has been used on a large scale at the U of A. He asked that people wanting to participate register in room 1-90 of the Phys-Ed building.

He added that participants deemed fit will be given a confirmatory certificate which is "suitable for framing." and the second

Thursday, February 6, 1986