

Better not pout, better not cry

CFS is coming to town

by Richard Watts

With the imminent dissolution of the Federation of Alberta Students you may well wonder what will happen to the student movement in Alberta.

Hope for a provincially mobilized and coordinated students' association may lie with the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

As it stands CFS represents students across the country, and, with a head office located in Ottawa, lobbies the federal government on behalf of Canadian students.

CFS also mobilizes and helps organize provincial components of the federal organization.

At this moment there are three provincial components of CFS: CFS Pacific in B.C., CFS Ontario, and CFS Saskatchewan. There is also a provincial component of CFS getting underway now in Manitoba.

Brenda Cote, chairperson of CFS, and currently on a Western Canada tour, feels the provincial component system of a federal organization makes good sense.

"Right now CFS is one organization which represents students across the country but

the provincial component naturally plays a major role in organizing and representing students," she said.

Cote expanded by explaining that in order to truly represent students, CFS "wants to decentralize as much as possible" and make decisions and get direction from "the grass-roots level" working from the bottom up.

Cote also hopes CFS can play a role in the re-mobilization of Alberta's student movement.

"CFS will certainly try to supply as much in the way of resources as it can," said Cote, explaining that a national fieldworker could be visiting Alberta campuses some time in the future.

At present there is one full member of the Canadian Federation of Students in Alberta: the University of Lethbridge. The University of Calgary and the U of A are both prospective members of the Canadian Federation.

According to the CFS by-laws, a referendum must be held at the U of A before the spring of 1984 in order to determine whether the students at this University are willing to become full members of CFS.

Even as prospective members, the U of A enjoys certain services supplied by the Canadian Federation of Students. One is the CUTS travel agency which is owned and operated by CFS. The Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP) is also operated by CFS. CFS also operates a programme service by which students' associations can make contact with special and celebrity speakers and lecturers.

Student discount and identity cards are also offered by CFS.

SU VP External, Teresa Gonzalez, agrees with the idea of forming an Alberta component of the Canadian Federation of Students.

"We are not going to have a provincial student organization for much longer and we desperately need one," said Gonzalez.

She continued, "For our own selfish purposes it's very good to have access to a national office learning about decisions handed down by the Federal government before we approach the Provincial Government."

If students at the U of A support CFS membership each student will pay a membership fee of four dollars.

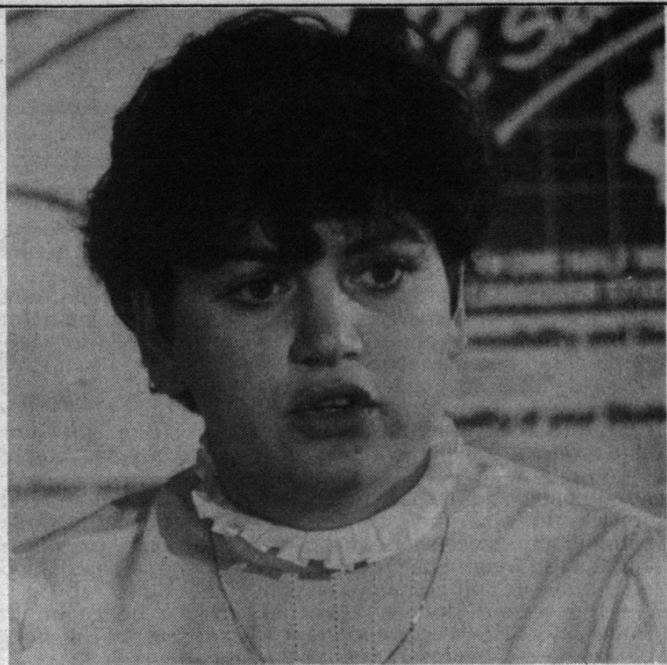


Photo Bill Ingles

CFS Chairperson Brenda Cote visits campus today.

Women in Israel

MONTREAL (CUP)—The status of Israeli women needs improvement yet there are no feminist groups to help, according to an Israeli sociology professor.

"Right now there are a lot of feminine groups, but no feminist ones," said Sylvie Bijaoui of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

"There were strong (feminist) groups before the foundation of the state (in 1948) and they obtained much of what they strove for, so much so that they felt they had achieved emancipation," said Bijaoui. "But this is not the case."

The feminist movement, which began in the '20s and '30s, lost its autonomy after Golda Meir became prime minister in 1969.

This situation is slowly changing, however. Many universities are opening women's studies departments and there are magazines and newspapers written by and for women, most of which stress work-related issues.

"The physical structure is there, it is a question of consciousness-raising," said Bijaoui.

In the workforce, Bijaoui said some "superstar" women had entered management and administration but a disproportionate number of women still work in service occupations, like secretaries, teachers and social workers.

About 25 per cent of doctors and lawyers are women, although they tend to have responsibilities identified with traditional women's concerns, according to Bijaoui. She said her statistics are only for Israeli Jews.

Middle class women work, regardless of an eastern or western background, while those at the other end of the scale tend not to.

Women who work for reasons beyond economic necessity usually have some higher education, said Bijaoui. Fifty per cent of Arts

students are women, concentrated in the social sciences, which in Israel includes economics and business administration. Female representation drops considerably at masters and doctorate degree levels, she said.

Israeli women are still only paid 75 per cent of men's hourly wages - a five per cent increase in the last decade - despite a 1974 law requiring equal pay for work of equal value. In Sweden, women are paid 90 per cent of men's wages and in Canada less than 60 per cent.

According to Bijaoui, Israeli women face intense pressure to marry that is not as prevalent in other Western Countries.

"To be single in Israel is a very, very tough problem," she said. "The basic conception of Jewishness is to be married and have children."

Although this applies to men as well, it is usually seen as women's duty to raise children.

Married women, unlike their spouses, are exempted from military service to encourage couples to procreate. About half of Israeli women do not serve in the armed forces, some for reasons of religion or physical inability, although they do national service in other areas.

Bijaoui said the ever-present threat of war further complicates the situation, since it takes priority over other issues, including the condition of women.

The growing influence of the religious political parties could have a negative effect since they hold a more traditional view of women's position in society.

"There need to be no justifications, national or otherwise, for equal duties and rights for women," said Bijaoui. "Yet such a situation is possible only in a society that has a philosophy of equality of all individuals."

Israel and Lebanon to reconcile?

by Allison Annesley

Israel's Consul for Central and Western Canada disputed some popular Western concepts of the Middle East situation during a Hillel sponsored forum in SUB yesterday.

About 20 students came out to see the Consul, Chaim Divon, who began by describing Lebanon as the "least complicated present situation in the Middle East." As of Tuesday, Divon said, 80 per cent of the issues of concern between Israel and Lebanon were settled. Divon stated that both sides were eager for peace but that Lebanon was "still not capable of enforcing law and order and of governing themselves."

It is the Syrians, Divon said, who were threatening the government in Beirut to keep them from settling negotiations with Israel. "No one is pointing an accusing finger at Syria," he said.

Israel, Divon said, makes up less than 20 percent of Greater Palestine, and the Jews "were happy with less than one-tenth of Arab wealth."

King Hussein of Jordan, Divon said, "will be a hero when he agrees to the Israeli solution." Arabs, the Consul stressed, must recognize that the only solution to present tension, is for Arabs and Jews to co-exist (as of yet King

Hussein has not recognized Israel's right to exist).

The Palestinian refugee problem, Divon maintains, is only temporary. "We have always made all possible efforts to rehabilitate and re-settle our refugees, while others have played on world sympathy. The Palestinian refugees now, Divon said, are being "kept on the back burner to squeeze sympathy."

During the question period, Divon was asked whether it was true that Syrian troops were willing to withdraw from Lebanon if Israel would withdraw first. Divon rejected this statement, claiming that Israel wanted to withdraw but that Syrian missiles were being deployed with assistance from the Russians because Syrians consider Lebanon to be part of Syria.

"Syria," the Israeli Consul said, "is the only Arab country with no embassy in Beirut, because they believe it belongs to them. They were always the hard-liners. You can't figure them out - you just have to watch them."

When asked how many Arabs supported his cause, Divon replied that the PLO was not the sole representation for Palestinians. "There are Palestinians in Jordan who are quite happy with King Hussein. In

the West Bank there is a rift between the supporters of the PLO and the supporters of King Hussein."

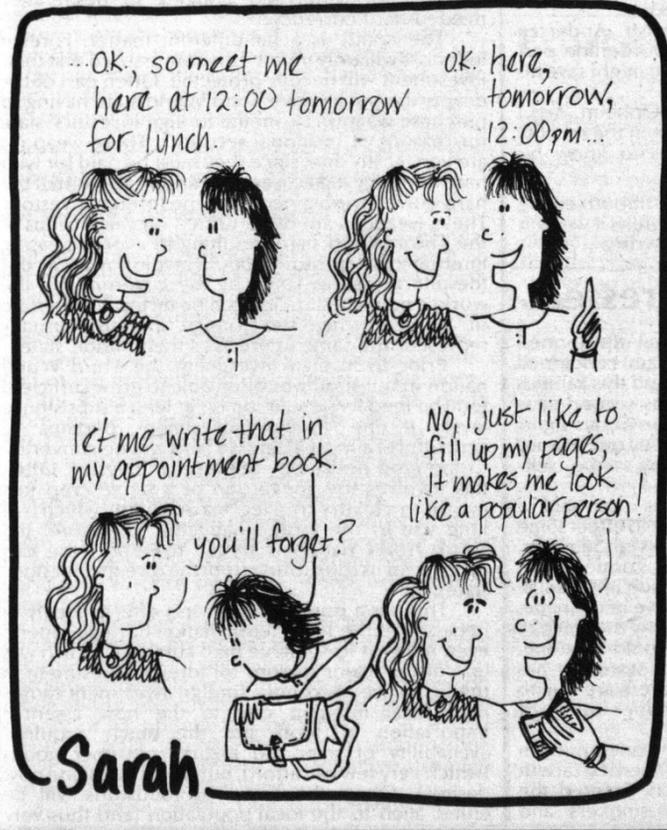
Divon went on to say, "I am sure, though, that Palestinians wouldn't want PLO leadership of any Palestinian state because they are not rational, they have no reason. Many Palestinians would like to see negotiations with the Israelis."

Another question asked how far the United States would push Israel regarding Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

Said Divon, "It's not as bad as you think. We benefit from U.S. support but they're just as satisfied with the pro-American information we use in the Middle East."

"A lot of the tension stems from U.S. expectations of a fast solution. Their attitude is rather immature. They were, though, valuable in reaching peace. We are now close to reaching peace between Israel and Jordan, then between Israel and Lebanon," Divon said.

The U.S./Israeli association, Divon said, has been very beneficial for the entire Western world, in that the Americans now have more Middle East influence than the Russians. Said Divon, "That's a reality. We were able to stop the radical countries and the benefit to the Western world is invaluable."



White niggers of Eire

by Ken Lenz

"Ireland is being treated like a third world country," according to President of Sinn Fein, Rory O'Brady.

O'Brady spoke at a news conference held at the Learner Centre Tuesday, March 22 on what he perceives is the struggle of the Irish people.

The Sinn Fein is an Irish political party that has basically the same goals as the Irish Republican Army although O'Brady contends, "We respect their (the IRA) right to use violence but we don't endorse all the specific incidents of violence the IRA executes."

The Sinn Fein wants an end to the 'illegitimate' border between Northern Ireland, which is under British rule, and the Republic of Eire, which has already severed ties with the U.K.

Northern Ireland is the more industrialized part of Ireland and

in a recent election the Sinn Fein, although winning only ten percent of the vote in the North, won 35% of the total Irish vote, enough to maintain a majority if the whole of Ireland were united.

Britain presently maintains a ban on all "anti-British propaganda" in Northern Ireland, prohibiting all members of groups like the IRA and the Sinn Fein from speaking to the "free" press or publishing independence statements or literature.

O'Brady said the British Broadcasting Corporation continuously misrepresents the struggle of the Irish people, claiming it to be a war between Catholics and Protestants.

"Our struggle is against the imperialist British colonialism which is maintained in Ireland much like the British involvement in third world countries."

"They (the British) don't want

to let us have our independence because, being so geographically close to the United Kingdom, we would encourage the independence movements in countries like Wales and Scotland," said O'Brady.

O'Brady also lashed out at the use of rubber bullets, which sometimes kill citizens, by British forces under the guise of "keeping the peace."

"The British have fired 52,000 of these in the last three years," said O'Brady while holding an actual bullet which was about six inches long.

When O'Brady was asked if there was any means to achieve Ireland's independence without violence he replied, "It is up to the British, we will settle for nothing short of the complete severance of ties with Britain."