

Due to cutbacks, the other half of these ears...

# the Gateway

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1981

## The Big Green Bore...



...claims another victim

photo Dave Chan

## Fledgling CFS given runaround

OTTAWA (CUP) — It was not a good start for a fledgling student organization.

After a five-day founding conference in which delegates from the National Union of Students, provincial student organizations, and the Association of Student Councils merged to form the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), a long-awaited lobby effort fell flat.

A national lobby day, organized for October 19 by the CFS delegates, left participants feeling frustrated and disappointed.

"It was one of the most frustrating experiences I've had in my whole life," said Kathie Kram of the CFS executive.

Activities planned for the day-long protest included a meeting with Gerald Regan, the new Secretary of State, lobbying of individual members of Parliament, attendance at the daily question period in the House of Commons, and a wrap-up session in a room reserved in the Center Block of Parliament. About 100 CFS delegates from across the country participated in the lobby day.

But most of the activities produced little more than frustration for the student delegates, according to Martha Elliott, CFS internal co-ordinator.

"It was a nightmare over there," she said.

CFS executive members had arranged a meeting with Regan to discuss the proposed \$1.5 billion cuts in Established Programs Financing (EPF), the plan through which the federal government transfers money to the provinces for social welfare and education spending. Regan was recently named Secretary of State, and is responsible for post-secondary education.

Mike McNeil, CFS chairperson, said in a press conference after the meeting with Regan that the CFS delegates were disappointed.

He said they had gone to the meeting with the message that "the cuts are coming and we should be trying to discuss that issue." Instead, he said, Regan "denied that the cuts were coming in the form outlined."

"The cabinet shuffle has put a person into the position at such a late stage of the process that the Minister of State will be ineffective in opposing the cuts," said McNeil.

Regan, however, did not seem to notice the students' frustration. One of his assistants present at the meeting, Brad Mann, said it had been "a very open and frank meeting," and had been "quite positive."

"Everyone seemed to feel the meeting went well," Mann said.

Efforts by individual delegates to lobby their members of Parliament were also less successful than organizers had hoped. Although the CFS executive had confirmed appointments with many MP's, many members failed to show up for their meetings.

Many delegates also expressed frustration at the treatment they received from the House of Commons Security force. Students were required to enter and leave by the freight door, and were only permitted to walk around the hall near their room.

Captain W. J. Landry, Chief Officer of Security for the House, said the students were not treated in an unusual fashion.

"It's not normal to have demonstrators in the building at all," Landry said.

He said the CFS delegates

"seemed like a good group" and he did not expect any problems, but "large groups of people like that usually keep outside and have a delegation come inside."

After question period, delegates returned to the room they had reserved for group discussion, only to find they could no longer use it.

"They made us leave at 3:30

even though we had it booked until 5:30," said John Doherty, executive officer of CFS.

But Peter Fleming, Chief of Accommodations, said it was a mistake that CFS had been allowed to use the room at all.

"All these rooms are for parliamentary committees, and a parliamentary committee needed

that room," he said.

Despite these setbacks, chairperson McNeil said CFS members must take their case to the public.

"People who had great expectations (from the MP's) were disappointed," said McNeil. "Now they realize they have to go home and start organizing."

## St. Marie comes through

by Richard Watts

December should see the start of a new program designed to help Canadian Native students obtain a post secondary education.

The new program is entitled the Native Student Development Fund and will attempt to assist Native students in funding their education.

"One of the biggest reasons there are so few Native people graduating from universities is lack of money," says Reanna Sayers of the Native Student Advisory Board here at the U of A.

The Native Student Development Fund will not be a bursary fund sponsoring individual scholarship-winning individuals through school. It is hoped the Fund will encourage more Natives to attend post-secondary school by easing the cost-burden.

"When you consider not only the low income background of so many Native students but also the fact that many are expected and expect to help with the family income then you begin to appreciate their special problems," says Sayers.

At present the organizers of the Fund are involved in es-

tablating criteria and guidelines for applicants in addition to the never-ending job of fund-raising.

The Native Student Development Fund began with an ill-fated attempt last year to raise money from a benefit concert given by Buffy St. Marie. A noted singer, songwriter, and a Canadian Indian herself, Buffy St. Marie agreed to do the concert for cost in order to launch the Fund.

Unfortunately the concert just managed to break even, so there was no money at that time to

begin the Fund.

But the originators of the Fund persevered with the idea and began to look for money elsewhere. By approaching philanthropic organizations, private industry, and concerned individuals such as Buffy St. Marie, who last week donated \$1,000, the Fund became a reality.

"We are still involved in fund-raising but we are confident that the Fund can start helping Native students by December of this year," says Sayers.

## Contest Winner!

An unexpected number of responses were received at the Gateway office for our *connect-the-dot-colour-the-picture-contest*.

It was a tight decision, but the contest judges, composed of Gateway staff, finally made it. Congratulations! Yew-Hoe Tan.

Tan demonstrated a brilliant display of monochromatic colours merging and melding, forming the walls of humanity bursting through the dimensional planes.

The grande prize, as compiled by the Gateway staff, has 14

paperclips, three rubber bands, the remains of an almost totally debauched eraser, a felt marker, and a slightly unused pencil, all in a personalized deluxe artist kit bag.

Special Mention goes to Erna Beunder.

Her colourfully diverse selection of colours, offset creatively in white space, bore a sense of astounding *deja-vu*.

It seemed to reflect the inner struggle of a blocked artist.

Mr. Tan may pick up his prize anytime at Rm. 282 SUB, the Gateway office.