

NDP applaudes Lewis

by Kirsten Nichols

Stephen Lewis, Canada's former Ambassador to the United Nations, is back commenting on the political life of Canada, in a rather direct fashion.

Lewis came back to Halifax to make his first purely political speech since returning to public life at the NDP fundraiser, held Thursday September 22. As an ambassador, one can not make critical comments about the government's policies. This was not always easy for Lewis, a social democrat.

"I've been well behaved these

many years. . .'' said Lewis. The implication was that he was going to speak his mind — and he did.

Lewis had faint praise for the government's handling of the day care issue. The legislation which we had waited four years to get, he felt did not go far enough. Although it is a first step which starts Canada down the right road, it does not ensure equal access for all.

"The Free Trade Pact is an offense to this country and does not deserve to be consumated," Lewis said as he began his attack on the Free Trade Deal worked

out between Mulroney and the United States. Admittedly, Lewis was not in the country for most of the debate, but has had a ring side view on how the U.S. honours its international treaties. It was only recently that the U.S. finally started paying off some of their debt to the U.N. Although one of the original signatories to the U.N. Charter, the U.S. has shown no concern in the past about the possibility of the U.N. going broke due to unpaid bills.

Earlier this year much was made of the American threat to close down the Headquarters of

CUP BRIEFS

Students charge Shoppers

TORONTO (CUP) — Three University of Toronto law students laid charges September 21 against Shoppers Drug Mart stores in an effort to stop the sale of tobacco to minors.

The campus-based advocacy group the Student Movement Aimed at Restricting Tobacco, or SMART, sent three minors into 30 Shoppers Drug Marts in Ottawa and Toronto.

Twenty-five of the 30 stores approached sold cigarettes to the under-18 year old customers, SMART charges. All but five stores had signs posted which stated such sales were prohibited.

"This is not an isolated incident," said SMART vice president Eric LeGresley. "We cannot mortgage off the lives (of youths) for the sake of corporate profit."

The group laid charges based on an alleged sale at Shoppers Drug Mart's Toronto Eaton's Centre outlet. The chain must enter a plea in amily court October 27. If convicted, the retailer faces a maximum penalty of \$50. The Ontario Minors Protection Act forbids the sale of tobacco to those under 18.

Course advisors

MONTREAL (CUP) — English majors at McGill University are starting up their own academic advising service to make up for what one student calls professor's lack of time and knowledge during course change week.

Students see faculty advisers to get the go-ahead for course changes or if

"We think advising in the department just isn't good enough," said Marie-Helene Lambert, vice-president of McGill's English Students' Association.

Lambert said professors often have no better idea of what courses are required than the students they are supposed to be helping. Increased enrollment and a dwindling faculty have made it hard for professors to give proper advice, she said.

So this fall, student association executives drew up a list of required courses for all programs in the English department and recruited final year students to give advice to first- and second-year students.

While the student advisors can't approve course changes, they can take time to give one-on-one advice.

Quotas enforced

SASKATOON (CUP) — The University of Saskatchewan has turned away more than 500 students after imposing enrollment quotas on its Arts and Sciences programs.

And provincial Education Minister Lorne Hepworth is telling rejected applicants that as an alternative to a unversity education, high school graduates can attend the regional colleges located throughout Saskatchewan.

The colleges offer only the core classes of the first two years of university programs. Most college instructors are university professors based in Saskatoon or Regina who commute to the outlying centres to teach night classes.

"The system has been pushed as far as it can go," said A.R. Knight, the university's dean of Arts and Science. "Quotas keep it from getting worse."

Arts and Science refused 450 students in 1987-88, the year the quotas were implemented, according to registrar Ken Smith.

He said the restrictions mean that a grade 12 student must have a final average of approximately 75 per cent to get into the 16,000-student university, one of the province's two.

Before the quotas, the minimum average required for admission to the University of Saskatchewan was 65 per cent, with the actual cut-off varying according to the number of applicants.

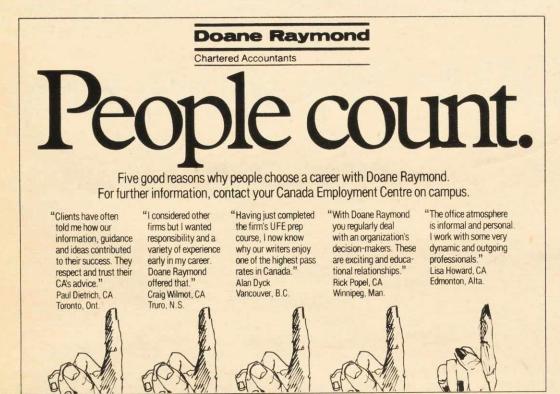
"In light of the financial situation at the university, the quotas are a necessary evil. The alternative to quotas would be overcrowded classrooms and professors who don't have the time to talk to students."

"Of course the best solutions and the price of the students."

"Of course the best solution would be to increase funding and be able to let more people in," said student council president Ed Zerr.

Administrators say the quotas were implemented as a two-year emergency measure to deal with the problems of an overcrowded, underfunded university.

Arts and Science enrollment is limited to 1700 first year and 4300 upperclass students for 1988-89.



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