

Photocopy law could cost millions

MONTREAL (CUP)—The proposed federal law which will set copyright royalties on photocopies may cost Canadian schools millions of dollars, library officials warn.

Currently in second reading in the House of Commons, Bill C-60 is a proposal to modernise the 1924 Canadian Copyright Act. The new legislation requires that Canadian authors or publishers receive a percentage of copying costs through collective associations. The bill also covers audio-visual and computer materials.

However, many education groups, including the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, believe the new law will do little for Canadian writers while making post-secondary education more costly.

"By raising the cost of photocopying and multiplying the existing administrative cost, libraries will be buying less books and it will be harder to get at knowledge," said McGill University librarian Mike

Renshaw. "No university can support that kind of administration."

According to Albert Tabash, director of the Concordia University science library, it will be difficult to predict just about how much in royalties the collective associations of authors will ask for.

"Legally (collectives) will have the right to set anything they want and demand it," he said.

Some collective associations already receive royalties for educational material in Canada.

The Quebec government is currently paying the Quebec Writers' Union \$1 million for photocopying rights at the collegial level. The agreement covers the 17,000 works registered with the union but does not include public or university libraries. There is also another collective in Quebec for French language audio-visual material.

Patricia Dumas, an aide to Communications Minister Flora MacDonald, says that educators are "over-reacting" to the bill.

"A fundamental revision is needed," she said. "It just stands to reason that people who create the work are compensated for the use of their work."

Critics say however that the bill is too heavily balanced towards creators and that exemptions should be made for educational institutions.

"How can we guarantee that all of these people are going to be in one collective?" said Peter Rogers of the Ontario Library Association. "Pierre Berton has publicly refused to join a collective. Will researchers have to track down five or six different collectives to find their writer? And where do they go if they want to tape a segment of a CBC news show or The Journal or something?"

Rogers said that the collected royalties may not benefit Canadian authors, citing a study by the Canadian Library Association showing that most copying involves American publishers. Canada would be setting an international precedent by sending money out of the country to foreign collectives, he said.

"This law could be the most restrictive the English-speaking world has ever seen," Rogers said.



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U of A debaters win

by Gateway staff

One of the largest ever Edmonton Open debate tournaments was held at the U of A last weekend.

"It was a very good tournament," said Jason Lucien, of the U of A, who was judged the best speaker of the tournament in the open division. Lucien teamed with Paula Simons, a U of A graduate, to win the team championship.

The U of A team of Glen Freedman and Pam Foster came second. Fatima Kashavjee of the U of A was judged best speaker in the

beginner category.

The debate was structured like a House of Commons debate, with one side playing the role of government and the other that of the opposition.

A twist to the format was that it was 'impromptu'. The teams did not know the topic of debate until fifteen minutes prior to the actual debate.

"It puts the premium on ability to think on your feet. It stresses a flowing style of speech," said Lucien. "If you have nothing to say you had better say it well."



Authors could get royalties for copies

Lubicon Lake issues

continued from p.1

creation of reserved lands. After that's finished with, then they're willing to sit down with the Alberta government for compensation for the destruction of land. Both governments have stalled on the issue."

The disputed land is rich in oil, netting the provincial government an estimated \$400 million a year in royalties.

Crier says it's because of the royalties that talks with province have stalled.

"The Alberta government doesn't want a settlement until all the oil revenues are taken out of there."

An initial settlement was reached between the Lubicon Cree and the

federal government in 1940. The band was to receive land based on acres per person. However, a land survey was required and was never completed because of the war. After the war the government renegeed on their promises and the land fell into the hands of the province, who leased it out for oil exploration.

The Alberta government is now willing to negotiate but the question of how many Lubicon Indians exists has become a stumbling block.

The Alberta government has claimed there are less than nine Lubicon Indians," says fourth year education student John Kortuem, spokesperson for the U of A Aboriginal Student Council. Kortuem, a member of the Big Stone Cree, says that the federal government has figured there are over 200 Lubicon Indians, about half of the true figure.

"Since 1985 the federal government has changed the Indian Act (Bill C-31) so that there would be no discrimination against women who were taken off enfranchisement. What Chief Ominayak is trying to do is make a claim for all his people. But what he's expected to do is go retroactively to before Bill C-31 became law and make a claim for only those people who were eligible for taking treaty before Bill C-31 came along. I think that's a very impractical thing to do."

Crier says that the Lubicon want to be treated in the same manner as regional bands who signed Treaty 8. "They weren't required at the time to prove each individual."

Neither Crier nor Kortuem feels the issue will be settled before the Olympics.

The forum will be held in the Humanities Centre, lecture theatre one, starting at 7:30 pm.

Correction

In the Feb. 1 issue of The Gateway it was incorrectly reported that the acronym PASAG stands for Public Awareness Study and Action Group. It actually means, Public Affairs Student Awareness Group. The Gateway apologizes for any inconvenience this error may have caused.

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RULES:

1. All entries must be received by **March 4, 1988** at 203 Education Carpark.
2. All entries become the property of the University of Alberta Parking Services Office and may be used in any form without the permission of the author/entrant.
3. Decision of the judges is final.
4. Winners announced in March issue of *The Gateway*.
5. Contest open to all University staff and students. Staff of the Parking Services Division, and family members are not eligible.
6. The size of the entry should be 8" x 8" maximum.
7. Entries should be marked "Contest" on the outside of the envelope.



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