

CROSSCANADA

You've come a long way, CUPpie

HALIFAX (CUP) — On December 27th, three Dal Gazette reporters went trudging off to Valleyfield, Quebec where they attended a week-long Canadian University Press (CUP) conference with over one hundred other student journalists from across the country.

Canadian University Press, the oldest national press organization in the world and the oldest student organization in Canada, is a national support network for Canadian student newspapers, supplying members with a news exchange, a national advertising network and circulation of journalistic skills.

The body of members meet annually for the election of the national executive, workshops, and plenaries discussing the annual budget and various proposals.

This democratically-controlled co-operative has gone far since its conservative beginnings in Winnipeg, 1938, when CUP's main function was exchanging newspapers and telegraphing major news stories.

After the 1940s nation-wide CUP protest of a BC lawyer banned from practice for alleged communist sympathies, CUP members have been united in their spirit of defiance.

In the 60s and 70s, CUP allied themselves with Third World, feminist and labour causes. During the October Crisis in 1970, CUP risked publishing stories concerning the FLQ which the mainstream press refused to cover.

These days, the Canadian University Press continues to prove that, in the words of former senator Keith Davey "student journalists possess a power they will never again have." This year's conference struggled with controversial topics such as affirmative action policies, AIDS news campaigns and national advertising boycotts.

Plenary sessions debating these issues carried on until as early as 5:30 a.m. Delegates reported an average of three hours of sleep per night and existed on a diet of coffee, beer and greasy food.

Despite the exhaustion, returning delegates were satisfied with the conference's proceedings. "Student media needs a co-operative organization to ensure its unconventional coverage doesn't get drowned out by the mainstream press," says returning delegate Ryan Stanley. "CUP provides this reserve of support."

Staff reporter Judy Reid seems to sum up the experience, "The national conference is one of the few places where you truly feel you can change the world. I wish I was still there. It ended too soon."

B.C. schools strike back

VANCOUVER (CUP) — It's an unusual strike scenario that finds both negotiating parties walking the picket line together.

The board and the faculty of the Vancouver Community College agree that Langara College needs immediate financial relief.

Langara's faculty association president Lawrence Warren said the college is at the mercy of the provincial government to meet the faculty's demand for wages equal to teachers at other colleges in the province.

If the province can't provide the money to increase wages, the college board may be forced to make internal cutbacks, he said.

"I suppose slashing of programs will happen, if the college board feels driven to do it," he said. "If the government won't fund [college] programs, we won't offer them any more."

Striking Langara college faculty were joined on the picket lines by students and support staff.

Langara student council president Rodney DeCroo said Langara students support the strike because they don't want the teachers' wage parity to come out of students' pockets in the form of higher tuition fees. "The strike is just a symptom of government underfunding," he said. "We won't allow the government to put the burden on the backs of those who can least afford it, the students."

Worn-out lab equipment is taped together, classes are full to capacity, and with 6,200 students, the school accommodates twice the number of students it is intended to.

Math teacher Dave Mitton said, "There are things like fire marshal regulations about how many students we can have in a class and we are breaking some already. I shudder to think about the number of students in the hallway at class change times. It is dangerous. And Perry wants us to take more? It is truly insulting."

news

Board of Governors discusses tuition hikes

The sky's the limit

by Marie MacPherson

Dalhousie University's budget advisory committee has recommended yet another tuition increase of 10 per cent for the 1993-1994 school year. The committee will relate its findings at the January 21 meeting of the Board of Governors, for which student attendance has been limited.

The proposed tuition increase is just one measure to balance Dal's preliminary shortfall of \$4.7 million for the upcoming year. If approved, the increase will bring the hike in undergraduate fees since 1990 to almost 50 per cent.

Medicine, dentistry and law faculties will experience a decrease in their operating budgets. The report also states that plans for laboratory and classroom upgrading and the purchase of new equipment should be delayed.

Professor Alasdair Sinclair, chair of the budget advisory committee, cites declining government grants as a factor in increasing tuition and cutting services.

Sinclair says, "The operating costs of the university are simply getting too large and we came to the conclusion that raising tuition was one of the main ways we could balance the budget."

Another concern of the committee is the lifting of the province's wage freeze on government employees next spring. The report states that known salary and benefits costs are expected to rise by almost \$5.4 million.

Mausumi Banerjee, V.P. Academic for the DSU says, "It's looking pretty grim. But the DSU still has the responsibility of trying to get a zero per cent tuition increase, and to try to keep university education accessible."

The DSU battle, however, will most likely take a much different shape than last year's "Freeze the Fees" campaign. Banerjee expresses concern at the new policy of booking a pass a week in advance to attend the January 21 Board of Governors meeting.

"Last year the meetings on tuition increases were very well attended by

"operating costs of the university are getting too large"

over 900 students. I don't see why things should change, maybe the administration is afraid of our reaction," says Banerjee.

The Board of Governors office disagrees, saying location, configuration and fire regulations are the reasons for limiting the number of students. The office already has 75 tickets printed, which must be booked in order to attend the meeting.

The impact of limiting attendance will greatly effect the ability of students to convey their concerns, says Banerjee.

Dennis MacNeil, vice-president of the DSU says, "There is no way of telling what the impact of tuition

increases will be on students. The adverse impact won't be seen until 5 or 6 years down the road."

"Dal's students are bearing the brunt of university misplanning that took place in the 1960s and 1970s," says MacNeil.

MacNeil adds, "Tuition keeps being raised, but it is purely to cut the deficit that has accumulated from the 1960s and 1970s. There is no increase in quality of education."

Sinclair defends the 10 per cent tuition increase as not greatly hurting students, pointing to the provision for 25 per cent of the increase to go towards bursaries.

Sinclair says, "Dalhousie has a rather enlightened policy of establishing a fund for students using a high percentage of the tuition increase."

"Without the student aid provision we would of course be concerned about the burden on Dal's students," says Sinclair.

MacNeil feels that perhaps a more lenient policy on paying tuition would be useful.

"A more flexible payment program, maybe using a system of quarterly instalments would be a good idea," says MacNeil. As it stands now, MacNeil feels that students are just becoming more and more dependent on student loans.

If the tuition increase is approved, full-time undergraduate arts students will pay an additional \$241 on top of the current \$2415. Full-time undergraduate science students will pay an extra \$253 on top of the 1992-1993 tuition amount of \$2530.

Throwing like a girl

by Barbara Leiderman

"Alright, let's go over body weapons, starting at this end of the circle. Could we have a soft technique to start with?"

"Wen-do fist to the solar plexus."

"Good. And why is that a soft technique?"

"It would stun them but not cause permanent damage."

"OK. Let's take fighting stance, good tight Wen-do fists and one slow practise punch. Good. Now three fast to the throat and a kiyi on the third. One-two-THREE :"

"HAI!"

"Another soft technique, Julie?"

"Tetsui to the ear."

"Right. Fighting stance..."

It is the last class of this six week course at Dalhousie in Wen-do (the women's self-defence program) and the Wen-do students are going through their techniques. Continuing around the circle, each student names a counter-attack which is joined to the previous one to form a two-strike combination which the class performs. Some of these combinations are: wen-do fist to the solar

plexus and surprise punch to the nose, eagle's claw to the eyes and snap kick to the groin, etc.... This group of women were not as comfortable with these violent counter-attack techniques when they first enrolled in Wen-do (see Gazette article October 1st). At that time, the group's kiysis were timid, and women would shudder and wince when the instructor described the effects of

every woman has personal space and the right to defend it

different counter-attacks. Gradually these students of Wen-do became more comfortable practising the physical techniques. This was partially due to the directed discussion each week, on such topics as awareness and avoidance of danger in everyday living, verbal self-defence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and legal aspects of self-defence, each of which included statistics analysis and em-

phasized prevention while underlining the need for self-defence techniques. Most importantly the discussions emphasize the principle that Wen-do is founded on, that every woman has a circle of personal space or justice, which she has the right to defend if she chooses to.

The focus of Wen-do is on avoiding danger, then using verbal techniques if in a dangerous situation, or physical techniques when absolutely necessary. Integrated with the releases and blocks and counter-attacks that are all practised (non-contact when necessary) with classmates, with mats and with willing partners or friends, there are visualizing techniques. Students of Wen-do visualize the attackers at whom they aim their fists and kicks, as well as visualizing more complex situations and their defensive responses.

As a result of taking this course the Wen-do students know much more about avoiding dangerous situations. If the situation is unavoidable they know how to block punches,