

Canada Council

by John Kenney

"I don't want you to leave this meeting thinking everything is rosy and all is going beautifully," remarked one audience member.

This characterized the attitude of many of those assembled in University Hall at the U of A on Tuesday to meet with the Canada Council.

Canada Council is a federal government organization designed to "foster and promote the study and enjoyment of and the production of works in the arts, humanities and social sciences." From its budget of \$28 million, 40 per cent goes to graduate studies, 40 per cent to universities, and 10 per cent to individual scholars.

When asked why there weren't enough funds to release scholars from their teaching load, Dr. Frank Milligan, from Canada Council, replied, "This is a common request. Years ago when I worked for the CPR I used to think it would be a lot more fun if we could just get rid of the travelling public and I suppose scholars would have also more fun if they could get rid of the damn students."

Added Professor Paul Park, from Canada Council, "If we did open up that category we would just have fewer grants. We just have so much money... we would like to spread the money around in the hope that the university could help out."

John Cherwongrodzky, president of the Graduate

Students Association (GSA) asked whether the funds would be cut off to a student the event of a skiing accident or some similar mishap. Milligan assured him that Canada Council would probably carry out the remaining part of the program "and leave it at that."

The referees of assessors should be constantly rotated; there is an unequal distribution of resources; the aid to publishing is questionable; the budget is too small; and Canada Council should be decentralized so there are assessors in each province, declared a U of A education professor.

"I'm very sympathetic to your problem of assessors," said Milligan, adding, "I hope it doesn't become an old boy's net."

Milligan admitted that there probably was a need for decentralization but that to do so would require a larger budget.

Another audience member suggested that the Canada Council could be supporting four of five Canadian scholars through less expensive foreign publishing houses rather than supporting one Canadian scholar at a more expensive Canadian publisher.

"We're by no means building a wall around Canadian publishers and saying that scholars can only go to Canadian publishers," replied Milligan.

After the Edmonton visit, Canada Council members will split into three groups and appear simultaneously in Banff, Grand Prairie, and Lethbridge.

Papers support Chevron

WATERLOO (CUP) - At an emergency meeting of the Ontario Region of Canadian Universities Press (ORCUP), student newspapers pledged support for Chevron, the paper at the University of Waterloo shut down Oct. 30 by the student federation because of alleged communist infiltration.

Representatives from five papers, plus members of the CUP executive and the regional field staff, also outlined strategy for Chevron support and discussed tactics for the reinstatement of the paper with about 25 Chevron and Free Chevron staffers.

The paper's shut down was marked by the resignations Sept. 1 of the editor and publications board chair. The following day office locks were changed. However production manager Bill Docherty was allowed entrance and staff has occupied the office since, despite an Oct 7 eviction notice.

On Sept. 26 council voted to set up a committee to investigate Chevron's relationship with the council.

On Sept. 28 the Chevron published a special edition with a top headline "Locked Doors don't Stop Us."

On Sept. 30 council voted 12-2 in favor of closing the paper for four weeks on the basis of derogation president Shane Roberts' allegations that the paper was dominated by the Anti-imperialist Alliance, a group associated with the Community Party of Canada (Marxist-minist).

It also voted to dissolve the full-time positions of editor, news editor and production manager because, according to Roberts, there was no Chevron if they obviously didn't need editors."

On Oct. 8 the first issue of the Free Chevron was published with costs underwritten by CUP with donations.

During an hour and a half session at the emergency meeting Roberts failed to counter charges that he had shut the paper arbitrarily without using existing structures.

While he answered questions Free Chevron staffers intermittently burst out with shouts of "Lies! Lies!" amid calls for "Evidence!" Federation executive Doug Antoine left the session after half an hour charging a "set-up."

Roberts explained that the paper was closed because of a widespread feeling that the paper was not serving the students.

"We provide money for a paper in hopes that people will be happy with it... people weren't so happy they shut it down for a while."

Roberts gave the "inability of people to make changes" and the high proportion of non-students on the paper as other reasons for the shut down.

When asked who was dissatisfied Roberts referred to certain groups."

In a heated debate over strategy delegates urged the Free Chevron to back its non-negotiable demand for reinstatement of the paper as it was Oct. 24 with proposals for bylaws and structural changes.

Staffers responded that they would "fight to the end and we wouldn't kid ourselves with proposals."

Delegates felt the federation had been hasty in its decision and should have given the staff more time in three issues to prove its worth.

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