

I'll be greater than all the stars in Hollywood.

The Gateway

Thursday, March 26, 1987

They'll make cartoons about me. I'll be inhuman —

Muhammed Ali

Katimavik will wait a year to start

OTTAWA (CUP) — One year has passed since Liberal senator and Katimavik founder Jacques Hebert staged a dramatic and heavily publicized hunger strike to protest cancellation of the federal youth program, and it appears another year will have to pass before Katimavik resumes full operations.

Guy de Grandpre, a Katimavik official and aide to Hebert, said monies donated to the now-private operated program have not been fully forwarded, which has led to delays in reviving the program.

"We have to be patient," de Grandpre said. "We would like a faster process, but we have reason to believe the program will be back on its feet within 12 months."

The Progressive Conservative government cancelled Katimavik last year on the grounds that the program, founded 12 years ago by Hebert, was not cost-effective. Finance Minister Michael Wilson also cited as a factor the government's drive to reduce the federal deficit.

The nine-month, three-stage program brought volunteer youth from across the country to three separate communities to work on various projects. Volunteers were given \$1 a day, and a \$1,000 bursary on completion of the program.

Hebert ended his 21-day hunger strike, which he held outside Senate chambers on Parliament Hill, when he received assurances that sufficient funding had been pledged from non-government sources.

Katimavik officials first predicted that the program would be in full swing again by last fall. However, not enough promised money has come in.

Although the federal government spent about \$19.7 million on Katimavik in 1985, de Grandpre said only \$400,000 to \$500,000 is

needed to run the revised, smaller Katimavik. He would not say how much money has been raised.

When the program resumes, it will closely resemble the format of its predecessor, except that youth in the final stage of the program will start and operate their own community business.

Hebert, who once called Katimavik "a beacon in the night" to describe former governments' commitment to youth, said the death of Katimavik represented the attitudes of the current government towards youth.

"Katimavik wasn't much, but at least it was something," said de Grandpre. "Now we don't even have anything."

The Conservatives pledged to announce another youth program to replace Katimavik, but so far have announced only "Innovations", a program emphasizing entrepreneurial skills for underemployed youth. Hebert, though saying a Tory attempt to replace Katimavik would be "laughable", credited Innovations for at least making an attempt to curb youth unemployment.

"Anything that is helping even one young person is helping the future," Hebert said. Ottawa is committed to spending \$10 million through three years on Innovations.

Jean Charest, Minister of State for Youth, said "Katimavik did not address the problems that young people face in the 80s."

However, critics say the Mulroney government has done nothing to substantially help youth. The budget of the Ministry of Youth was virtually eliminated last winter following International Youth Year celebrations, leaving Charest a minister responsible mostly for announcing and promoting programs developed in other departments.

The government also promised shortly after the Katimavik cancellation to introduce a national youth policy, but has yet to announce anything.

Howard McCurdy, New Democratic youth critic, believes the Conservatives have been silent on a youth policy because "this government really doesn't care about

youth. Not one bit."

Charest is not apologetic for the government falling through on its commitment to develop a youth policy.

U of W reacts to story

WATERLOO (CUP) — A University of Waterloo custodian has withdrawn her complaint to the Human Rights Commission after receiving the promotion she was earlier denied.

"I've got the job now," said Toncka Bestic. "I'm satisfied, so I said it was okay to drop it."

Other custodians have reported an improvement in their working conditions since the student newspaper, *The Imprint*, reported earlier this semester of complaints of harassment and intimidation of unionized custodians by management.

Union president Bill McClanahan has called for an investigation into the complaints by a committee of union executive members. But custodians fear the committee will attempt to find out who spoke to *The Imprint* and take sanctions against those workers. Several workers had complained about the effectiveness of the union, claiming it was "married to management."

At least three grievances, one regarding discriminatory hiring practices and two regarding working conditions, are currently before the union for consideration.

Custodian Alice Peters is waiting for management to reply to a grievance she filed after her request for promotion was turned down on the basis of absenteeism.

Although she was absent 44 days last year, Peters claims she was primarily not considered for the job because she is known as a "trouble maker," having complained about sexual harassment two years ago. She also said her absenteeism was justified and that her good work record made up for the

28 days she lost due to a serious throat infection.

"I have eight years seniority and they hired a guy who had only been working here a few months.

They said I could apply again in a year, but I don't want to wait a whole year. I should have gotten that job," Peters said.

No jobs at U of C

CALGARY (CUP) — The University of Calgary has announced a hiring freeze effective immediately as the first step in a program to reduce operating funds.

Associate Vice-President Academic Lorna Cammaert said the administration is also looking at ways to change its early retirement program to give professors incentive to retire before the age of 65.

Cammaert said early retirement and other possible changes are now negotiated with the U of C Faculty Association.

The hiring freeze applies to positions that are now vacant and to

additional vacancies which may occur this year. The freeze does not apply to new academic positions funded by new program development grants, said Cammaert.

Sessional instructors are not affected by the freeze. Any vacancy left by a retiring professor will be filled by a sessional.

In announcing the freeze, Vice-President Academic Peter Kreuger said the university is trying to protest funding for graduate students.

"Our first priority is to prevent the decline in graduate programs and in graduate student support," he said.

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