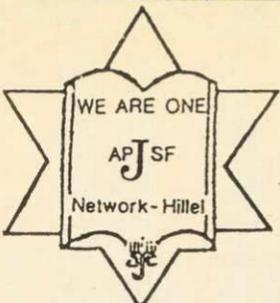





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THE OUTSIDE WORLD

Tory worth(less) twenty

HAMILTON (CUP) — The Nicaraguan contra rebels may be having a hard time raising money from the U.S. government, but have had a little luck with the Young Progressive Conservatives at McMaster University.

The Young P.C. Club at McMaster donated \$20 in American funds last year to the rebels, who are trying to topple the Sandinista government. Club president Brian Clarke said the money was for humanitarian aid, and was sent through college Republican organizations in the US.

The donation was not made public until Paul Ianni, president of the campus New Democratic Club, asked Ontario P.C. leader Larry Grossman Jan. 19 whether he knew of the donation.

Grossman, who did not know of the donation, said the money "could have been put to better use."

Heidi Siwak, member of the Ontario Public Interest Research Group, was fired from the McMaster Student union's Graphic Productions department for producing and distributing 100 posters implicating the Young Conservatives with the contras.

The posters read "Help the contras rape children, blow up hospitals, burn down schools. Send your donations to the Young Progressive Conservatives", and "What do the contras and the Young Progressive Conservatives have in common? \$20 U.S."

Clarke is threatening legal action, although Siwak is not sorry for her actions. She said the Young Conservatives "hanged themselves, and for only \$20. If you're going to hang yourself, at least send \$1,000 and do it right."

Radiating anger

VANCOUVER (CUP) — British Columbia environmental groups are radiating anger over the provincial government's recent decision to let a seven-year ban on uranium mining expire Feb. 28.

"The government is using the argument that there's some money to be made," says Bev Pinnegar, media co-ordinator for Greenpeace in Vancouver, "But we should consider health effects and the destruction of the environment when dealing with something like uranium mining".

Environmental groups throughout the province are planning a huge protest Feb. 27 against the decision at the legislature in Victoria, says Pinnegar.

Greenpeace says a number of mining companies, including Noranda and Cominco, are currently exploring for uranium and the stakes are big.

In 1979, for example, a Toronto-based company, norcen, signed a \$500 million contract with South Korea Electric for 3.2 million kilograms of the powdered uranium ore known as yellowcake. The ore was to be extracted from a mine near the interior city of Kelowna.

While small deposits of uranium dot the province, Pinnegar said the major commercial sites were in the Okanagan, the Omineca-Peace River country and in the far north near Atlin.

Food for thought

MONTREAL (CUP) — A slight delay in Quebec bursary cheques has led a Concordia student to set up a food bank for starving students.

Felix Weekes, founder of the Canadian Association for the Advancement of People, set up the service after three food drives and now has provisions for 50 students.

"Nutrition is the most important part of anything," said Weekes. "You can want to do anything in the world, but if you don't eat, forget it. You can't concentrate when your stomach is growling."

Some students have told Weekes there are people who need food more than students. But Weekes disagrees. "Students are one of the most important groups in society. They are the ones coming from the real world and going into the real world," he said.

Boxes have been set up at both McGill and Concordia campuses so that students only have to drop off a note with their name and number so they can be contacted. Weekes said he isn't worried about students abusing the generosity of the service.

"I'm going on altruistic motives," he said, "If people abuse it, there's not much I can do about that, but what I can do is give people that really need it the opportunity to use it."

So far a total of about 15 requests for food have been made at the two universities. "There is a lot of pride involved. We have to look past that," said Weekes.



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