

## US research continued

were greeted with the news that bomb threats had been phoned to the local media, but were assured that police had combed the area. At lunch, delegates who left the conference faced heckling from demonstrators and had to skirt around bodies sprawled out at the entrance.

"Do your children know where you are?" shouted one university student.

Pat McGeer, B.C. minister of universities, science and technology, attended the morning session, but wore no name tag and refused to answer reporter's questions. "We

aren't, as politicians, actively participating in the seminar," he said later.

"This (seminar) doesn't contribute to the arms race," he said. "I'm a dove on these matters, but I'd like to be a well-armed dove. We are not here to build nuclear weapons—that goes on in Russia."

Talks at the seminar could affect research funding.

UBC is currently researching at least two Pentagon-sponsored projects. The chemistry department is studying a layer of the stratosphere which could affect communications among satellites, and the oceanography department is researching ocean turbulence, an important factor in submarine warfare.

# Hands across miles far apart

by Andrew Watts

Reports from Calgary that the SU down there will loan money to the SU here may be premature.

A story appearing in the U of C newspaper, *The Gauntlet*, Nov. 18 reported that the VP finance for the U of C Students' Union, Ken Bosman, had discussed the idea of lending money to help the Alberta SU get out of debt. The story also reported that Bosman had presented the idea to his Students' Council. Both may be true. However, Alberta SU VP finance, Roger Merkosky, says the talks are not even in the preliminary stages.

"To say even preliminary would be presumptuous," continues Merkosky, "he (Bosman) seems eager, but we're not even working on it."

The story quoted Bosman as saying, "these negotiations are in the very early stages and no agreement has been reached."

But again, Merkosky expresses an entirely different opinion.

Comments Merkosky, "I'm skeptical at best. (that any agreement will be reached)"

SU President, Robert Greenhill, does admit that he has discussed the possibility of a loan from the U of C but that the discussion was "very informal."

Greenhill does say, though, that such a loan agreement "has potential."

"It may be possible to pay off such a loan at a lower interest rate and it would restore our arms length financial relationship with the university," Greenhill says.

Greenhill feels that if the SU took a loan from the SU in Calgary, the Board of Governors here would not threaten the political autonomy of the SU.

Merkosky, however, is neither "eager nor enthused" about any such loan agreement.

"There's a problem with the continuity of SU's and I don't think it would be very good to have our banker located some 200 miles away," comments Merkosky.

Both Merkosky and Greenhill say that they would look at any proposal Bosman came up with and Greenhill adds, "I'm not going into this with

open arms."

Some conjecture has surrounded the reason why Bosman is so positive for such a loan agreement. Bosman was involved with an anti-FAS campaign recently and this agreement may be perceived as a way to undermine FAS' credibility as the organization that links campuses and furthers co-operation among students and SU's alike.

Robert Greenhill, when asked about that scenario, denied he was engaged in the same thought.

"In no way would I use this to the detriment of FAS," Greenhill said.

## Students fund on own

HAMILTON (CUP)—As the funding squeeze tightens its grip on Ontario universities, another campus has opted for a mandatory incidental fee.

McMaster University students narrowly agreed Nov. 10 to automatically contribute \$15 per year for the next five years towards the McMaster Fund.

The fund, initiated by the university's board of governors in 1980 aims to raise \$12 million over the five-year period. McMaster undergraduates will be contributing \$750,000 over the next five years.

McMaster students voted 55 per cent in favour of supporting the fund, with a 20 per cent voter turnout.

"I'm delighted, of course, with the results," said McMaster administration president Alvin Lee. "It will have an effect beyond the dollars on the ability of our fundraisers to get support in the community."

But McMaster Student Union vice-president Walter Mykytshyn said it was the engineering students that

won the referendum and he hopes the university takes the narrow win into consideration.

"I hope the university takes notice of the fact that there was such a large No vote," said Mykytshyn. "Forty-five per cent of the students did not want to support the McMaster fund. That in itself is a statement."

Tom Douglas, who led the No campaign, also felt the close vote was significant.

A number of polls in the Arts buildings opposed supporting the fund although about 75 per cent of engineering students voted yes.

The money collected from the McMaster students will be allocated 70 per cent for Library Acquisitions and 30 per cent for the Instructional Development Centre.

McMaster undergraduates join engineering students at the University of Toronto and the University of Waterloo in a growing trend of collecting extra levies for general operating costs to offset provincial funding cuts.

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