

# Cup briefs

## Six per cent for Manitoba

WINNIPEG (CUP)—The Manitoba government's announcement that it would increase university funding by six per cent this year has been met with ambivalent reactions from the universities.

U of M President Ralph Campbell summed it up by saying, "It's only half of what we asked for, but it is twice as much as they gave us last year."

The U of M student Union President Steve Ashton said the reduced grant could mean a 10 to 15 per cent increase in tuition for students next year. The student union has not yet decided on what course of action it will pursue if there is a tuition increase.

## Student journalists charged

TORONTO (CUP)—Two Ontario student journalists were charged with violating the Ontario Liquor Licence Act Feb. 7 after they showed how easy it was to obtain an age of majority card through illegal means.

Janice Bell and Cathy Perry, editor and news editor of the *Oblique Times* at Seneca College were charged after a story exposing poor controls on the cards was published in December. The card was obtained illegally. Age of majority cards show the bearer to be at least 19 and are the only legal means in Ontario a person can be served liquor.

They entered a not guilty plea.

## Noranda stock divested?

WINNIPEG (CUP)—The University of Winnipeg will soon be asked to divest all interests in Noranda Mines Limited because of that company's involvement with the military regime in Chile.

The university has a policy of divesting itself of any stocks that are deemed to be socially injurious. A student group, the Investment Research Group, has prepared a brief outlining the repressive nature of the Chilean government and the extent to which Noranda is involved with the government.

If the administration does drop the \$50,000 worth in bonds it will be the first such divestment since the Board of Regents adopted the policy two years ago.

# Students good credit risk

HAMILTON (CUP)—Students are not a bad credit risk, and the McMaster Students Union is taking the *Toronto Star* before the Ontario Press Council to prove the point.

In a front-page story last April, *Star* staff writer Christine Blatchford claimed statistics showed there was a high rate of default among students in repaying Canada Student Loans.

But a report compiled by student union researcher Michael Tremblay has refuted these claims.

Tremblay found that students are among the best credit risks in the country, with a rate of loan repayment substantially higher than the average taxpayer. "We wrote a letter to the editor of the *Star*, but received no satisfactory response. They did not even print our letter," Tremblay said.

The complaint lodged before the Press Council charges the *Toronto Star* story con-

tained errors, omissions, and false statements intended to mislead the public. "If Blatchford made such errors in logic, we cannot help but think it was to intentionally form demeaning opinions about students," he said.

The story's headline claimed that \$60 million in student loans were currently outstanding. Tremblay's research indicated this figure was a gross exaggeration and that Blatchford should have specified that students are not required to repay their loans until after graduation, by which time they are actually ex-students.

He added that his research showed that students do repay their loans. In fact, only \$1.9 million of a total expenditure of over \$1 billion has been written off in twelve years, a default rate of only 0.17 per cent.

"In reaching the conclusions she did, Blatchford interpreted the statistics in-

correctly. Moreover, the story contained extensive comment and was not in essence a news story but an editorial," Tremblay said.

In response, the *Star* has called the student union charges "hysterical and frivolous". It denies there was any intention to mislead, and concludes that Tremblay's assertion that there was such intent is in itself a libelous statement.

The *Star* has also questioned Tremblay's qualifications to do research. However, both federal Secretary of State John Roberts and the government Director of Student Loans have said Tremblay's report is "an excellent piece of research."

Both sides have been required to submit a brief to the Press Council this month. The council, an organization of commercial newspapers which acts as a liaison between the public and the press, expects member newspapers to abide by its decisions.

# Hicks to speak

A series of speakers, seminars and movies on International Development Education has been planned for Dalhousie. The programme started February 9 and continues until March 9.

Organized by the Overseas Student Co-ordinator the topics and speakers will include "The New International Economic Order" with D.J. Patton of the Centre for International Business Studies at Dal; Dr. Henry Hicks and Vice-President MacLean speaking on "The Role of the University in International Development"; and the Honourable Donald Jamieson, Secretary of State for External Affairs lecturing on "Am I My Brother's Keeper? Canada's Role in International Development."

A highlight of the pro-

gramme will be Three Days for International Development where a series of special events will be held on March 21, 22, 23. Included in this is International Night in which a special international meal and dance will take place.

Anyone interested in working on brochures, workshops are asked to contact The Overseas Student Co-ordinator at 424-7077.



# Council cuts

by Alan Adams

The Constitution Committee introduced a motion at Sunday's council meeting that would reduce the number of council seats from 31 to 20 in future years.

If the proposal is accepted, Arts students will have two representatives and Science will have three. Arts now has three, and Science has four. The Transition Year Program rep will be dropped entirely, although this part of the proposal has raised some controversy.

Individual representatives now sit for Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Health Professions. The proposal would remove separate representation from these groups, and have students in

these fields vote together for two new seats.

Residence representation will be reduced to two seats. Although Howe Hall will keep its representative, the council's Recruitment Committee will choose a single representative from people elected by Shirreff and Ardmore Halls. The Constitution Committee favoured this procedure to avoid the possibility of popularity contests. The Fenwick Place representative will be dropped entirely.

One of the two graduate student representatives will be dropped, although another grad student may be added to the council executive.

Constitution Committee members were unavailable for comment at press time.

# ZAPATAS



this week  
Sun Machine

next week  
Rox (formerly Sandy Road)

1591 South Park St

# Watch For

## the canadian STUDENT TRAVELLER

The Travel Source For Students and Youth

An Association of Student Councils/National Union of Students Publication

## Arriving on campus next week

Information and bookings at:  
Canadian Universities Travel Service Limited  
Student Union Building, Room 122  
Dalhousie University