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by Patricia Ludwick

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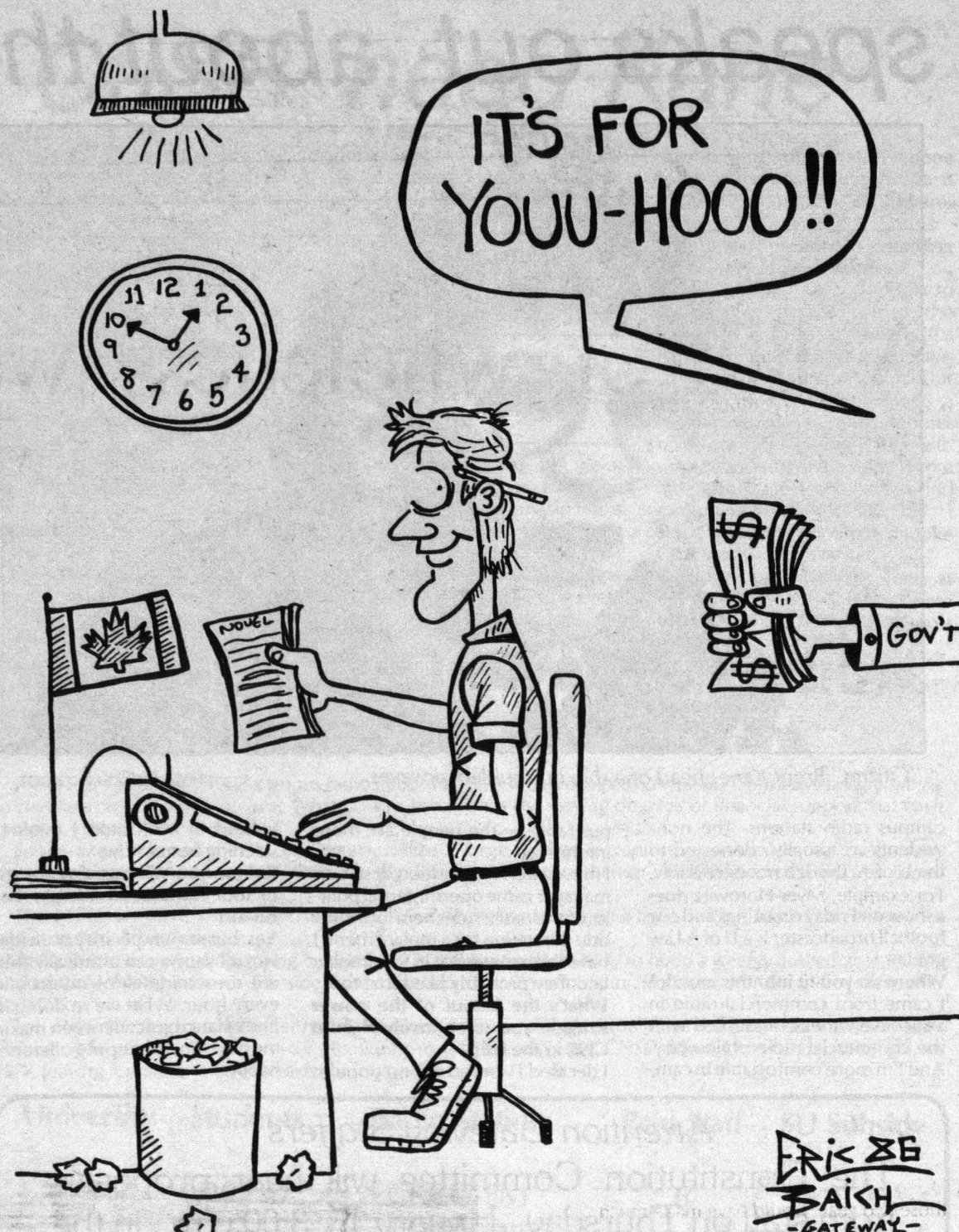
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## Writers Get Subsidies

by Shauna MacDonald

If your idea of writing is being locked away in some obscure villa in some romantic place you'll be shocked to know the average Canadian professional writer, who writes full-time, earns between 2-6 thousand dollars per year.

This income is less than or equal to what many university students have to live on for a full school year.

This last October the Department of Communication granted the Canadian Council 3 million dollars per year to help subsidize Canadian writers. The Council set up a Public Lending Right Commission (PLRC), which was to design a program to distribute the money to these writers.

Writers stand to gain 3-4 thousand dollars more per year.

The Commission will pay the writers for each title they have in Canadian libraries. The deadline for writers to register was Dec. 31, 1986. Four thousand five hundred writers applied for the subsidy of their 17,000 titles.

Writers are not the only ones who will benefit; illustrators, translators, photographers, and editors

are all included in the subsidy.

Right now the PLRC chairman (and also a Canadian writer), Andreas Schroeder, isn't sure of the amount each title will be worth. The Commission doesn't know how many libraries each book is in.

He estimates about \$40/book per library for each year.

The Commission initially envisioned sampling 15 Canadian libraries across the country by computers. A Toronto computer company claimed it could manage the job, but when it came to the actual feat the company had exaggerated its claim.

The Commission had to sample the libraries manually. It asked the libraries to use their temporary and part-time staff as well as library students to finger their way through the card catalogues.

Before the Commission, writers were only entitled to 10% royalties from the libraries. Schroeder emphasized that "the program wasn't started because writers felt the libraries were ripping them off."

"Libraries help showcase their works and that's a pretty valuable service." Libraries are a conven-

ience for the public and are subsidized by the government.

Schroeder said, "all the authors are asking is to be paid for a public service which they perform by having or allowing their books to circulate in the libraries."

Most government bureaus have a 10-15% budget for administration. The PLRC must take its administration budget out of the 3 million dollars.

"We have writers breathing down our necks because they know the more we spend, the less goes into their pockets. We're on a shoestring type budget with the administration cost rate at 5.1%," said Schroeder.

The fight to get this money has been long and hard. It started in the 1930's with the Canadian Authors' Association (CAA). But the CAA had very little lobbying power.

Momentum really picked up in 1972 when the Writers' Union of Canada, the most powerful national organization of writers, got involved in the 14 year fight.

Writers can expect their money in April.

## Women Shun Feminism

OTTAWA (CUP) — While critics within the ranks of the national Liberal party grumble the organization is "turning right", young Liberal women appear to be turning their backs on such left-leaning notions as feminism and the National Women's Liberal Commission.

Though more than a third of the delegates — 1,300 of 3,500 — to the National Liberal Convention in November were women, the great majority of the younger women delegates did not attend the commission's national meeting.

"The younger women don't feel

there's a need for the women's commission," said Lynda Sorenson, a candidate for the commission's presidency.

"University trained women especially are turning away from feminism because most of them have always been fairly independent economically," said Sorenson.

"They have never faced discrimination like the older women. They have more stature and more ability to move in different circles."

Sorenson said the scheduling of the national meeting of the Young Liberals on the same day as the

commission's meeting was "a frustrating conflict" for some young women. Most, however, chose to attend the Young Liberal meeting.

Kaz Flynn, youth liaison for party leader John Turner, said many young women "want to be in the main flow" of the party. "Until the younger women get out into the workforce, they think they can do without a separate women's group," said Flynn.

Flynn said there is still a need for the women's commission. "I hope there won't be a need for it," said Flynn.