

## cross-canada briefs

Commission recommends  
Aboriginal university

BY M-J MILLOY

OTTAWA (CUP) — Growing up in Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, Marlene Brant-Castellano was told that she would do best to get an education, lose her Mohawk identity and join Canadian society.

"Many of us in my generation found that we were not happy or comfortable in the mainstream, and so we went back and said, 'How do we put together the two sides of our lives?'"

Brant-Castellano brought up these memories in the ornate hall on Parliament Hill where the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples released its comprehensive report on the nature and history of the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.

The Commission recommended the creation of a national clearinghouse for Aboriginal education resources and a national Aboriginal university.

Conceived by the Royal Commission as a "university without walls," different faculties would be hosted in different Aboriginal nations. For instance, Six Nations in Brantford, Ontario would be the site of studies in law and government, while the B.C. Coast would be the site of ocean ecology, suggested Brant-Castellano.

Part of the need for the university stems from the failure of non-Aboriginal institutions to adequately provide instruction in Aboriginal cultures, traditions and knowledge to Aboriginal students, according to the Royal Commission.

"This is the next stage in the evolution of Aboriginal identity," said Brant-Castellano.

## Former student faces deportation

BY DAVID COCHRANE

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CUP) — Abhijit Chaterjee says he will end up impoverished or dead on the streets of Calcutta if Immigration Canada goes through with its plan to deport him to his native India.

Chaterjee, 25, was deported from Canada on Oct. 13 after immigration officials found out he was violating the work restrictions of his student visa.

His visa only permitted him to work on campus at Memorial University, but Chaterjee says he unknowingly violated this rule after getting a job at a local computer store.

Chaterjee delayed his deportation when he appealed for political asylum at London's Heathrow airport, saying his late father's political activities were a danger for him if he returned to India.

Chaterjee said he has no family or friends in the country and will be forced to live in the streets.

"I admit I made a mistake but it's not a mistake that was done intentionally," he said.

Roger Lambe, Newfoundland's immigration's director, says this is not the first time that Chaterjee has violated the conditions of his visa.

"We found him working illegally in two separate scenarios," Lambe said. "We had to form an opinion based on his deeds rather than his words and we found him to be quite evasive."

Chaterjee has lived in St. John's since he was 16. Both of his parents died in the early '90s and he says he is pretty much alone except for his friends.

"What will I do in India? I suppose stand in the street," said Chaterjee.

"I don't have the resources to get a hotel. I don't even have Indian currency."

## Students to run for government

BY STU CLARK

EDMONTON (CUP) — Three student leaders in Alberta are changing the definition of student politics.

The student council presidents of the province's three largest universities say they are frustrated at their lack of success in lobbying the provincial government to place a higher priority on education funding. So instead of continuing to fight the government, they want to run for office.

"Student leaders in Alberta have become a new breed of student advocates," said U of C student council president Sarath Samarasekera.

"We don't like going to the government with our hands out and saying 'give us something.' We're not the type of students that protest government actions."

During a recent campus plebiscite, 75 per cent of voters said they were in favour of Samarasekera running for provincial office. Sixty per cent of students at the U of A voted in favour of their president, Garrett Poston, running for office. The U of L will hold its plebiscite before the end of the month.

The student leaders want to bring more attention to the cutbacks universities have faced under Ralph Klein's Conservative government. Since 1992, the Tories have cut \$179 million from postsecondary funding and allowed schools to raise tuition fees by up to 10 per cent a year.

Dal makes residence  
students toe the mark

BY ANDREA WARD

Dalhousie's new residence requirement may leave some students out in the cold.

In recent years, students returning to Dalhousie residences have found themselves on long waiting lists following the room draw held in March. In order to rectify this situation, the university planned to implement a requirement of a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.30 (cumulative) for students to be eligible to return to residence next September.

The proposed policy raised objections among residence students, and prompted action from their residence councils. As a result, the policy has been altered so that students with a GPA of 2.0 or better will be eligible to return to residence.

"The general feeling is overwhelming shock," says Rose Mengual, president of Shireff Hall.

The issue which raised the most concern was the added pressure around exam time. Residents believe it is too late in the term to introduce such a policy because many first year students at this point just want to pass their exams. Another problem with the policy is with finding alternate housing. Students won't be informed whether or not they are eligible for residence until final marks are released. By this time many students have returned to their respective hometowns and would find it difficult, if not impossible, to return to Halifax to find another place to live.

## Dal to take part in study of women's health

REGINA (CUP) — Canadian universities are playing a big role in a new government program aimed at improving the health status of women.

Seven universities will be joining other women's groups and health organizations to form five Centres of Excellence on Women's Health, located across the country, one of which to be located at Dalhousie.

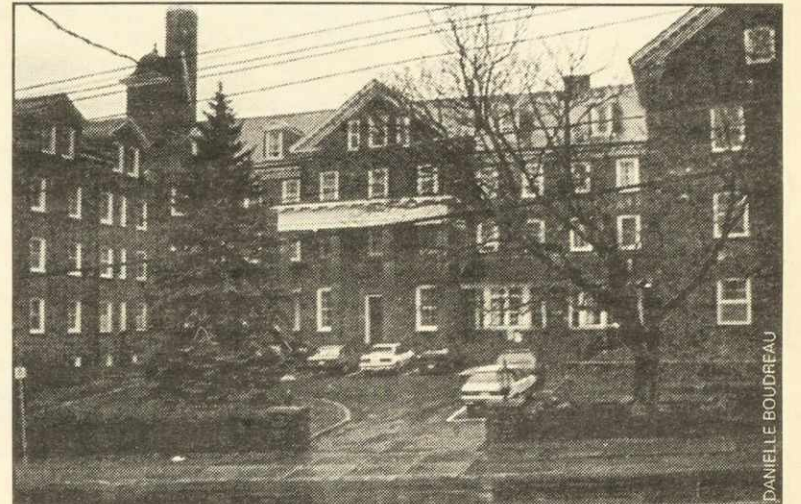
Fulfilling a 1993 Red Book promise, the federal government is giving each Centre \$2 million dollars over the next six years to study women's health issues and provide policy advice.

According to Elisa Buenaventura, a member of the Prairie Centre in Winnipeg, the program won't be looking at women's health from a medical perspective.

"We will study women's health by looking at economic, sociological and environmental factors," said Buenaventura. "That's what really attracted me to this project."

The centres will examine how upcoming health reforms will impact on women and how women are treated in the health system.

Gloria Geller, another member of the Prairie Centre from the University of Regina, says that government cuts to health care will devolve it back into communities



Study in rez? You must be out of your mind! — Dalhousie's new 2.0 GPA rule for returning residents has rezzies in Shireff Hall and other residences crying unfair.

Brent Vanbuskirk, president of Eliza Ritchie Hall, feels that "a cumulative GPA of 2.3 is too high, given the university standards."

"Residence doesn't set academic standards, the Registrar's office does."

The residence councils raised their concerns with the policy in a memorandum sent to Housing and Conference Services as well as Eric McKee, vice-president Student Services, and Dr. Tom Traves, president of Dalhousie University. The councils requested a delay in the implementation of the policy as well as a subsequent meeting in order to allow for their input.

On November 21, a meeting between the administration and the students occurred. Vanbuskirk and Mengual were in attendance as well as Brad MacKay, Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) president, Katherine Hannah, DSU executive vice-president and Chris Lydon, DSU vice-president aca-

demic/external. The policy was revised so that the required GPA will be 2.0 sessional or cumulative, whichever yields a higher GPA for the student.

The appeals process for waiving the minimum GPA was also changed. Instead of going directly to the Director of Housing and Conference Services, an appeals committee will make a recommendation to the Director, who will make the final ruling. The committee will be comprised of a student chosen by the Residence Council involved, the Residence Coordinator involved, and the Associate Director of Residence Life.

"I believe we have reached an acceptable compromise," says Vanbuskirk. "But it remains to be seen whether or not the policy will benefit the students."

The new policy is a trial process and will be reviewed after the first year.

where women play an important role.

"When your mother is raising you, she is responsible for your health," Geller said. "We need a greater understanding of women's health in the holistic sense or children growing up in poverty will suffer considerably more, health wise."

Geller adds that the centres will include women from all ages and economic backgrounds.

"For example in Saskatchewan, women from rural areas, aboriginal women and immigrant women will be included," she said.

Linda Murphy, an official with Health Canada says there are political and economic reasons for the creation of the centres, but adds that the government has to help the medical industry change the way women are treated by the system.

"If I went for a hip replacement, I would get a model tested and fitted for a man," Murphy said.

"There is no reason for this. Manufacturers will argue that the variable hormonal changes in women's bodies make it much more difficult and expensive to conduct the required research for these products."

Murphy adds that a comprehensive, common base of knowledge about women's health issues

must be created in order to have an informed debate.

The universities are being involved to provide administration and expertise on women's issues that will help community-based organizations with the various projects that they undertake.

"With their administration infrastructure, universities can provide support and community organization that hospitals can't provide," Murphy said.

There are centres in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, the Prairies and British Columbia.

The steering committee for the Nova Scotia centre held its first meeting November 26. The centre, housed at Dalhousie, is scheduled to open this January.

"We're building partnerships between community, academic and women's groups and health institutions," said Leslie Poirier, a regional coordinator for the Nova Scotia centre.

The Nova Scotia centre will serve the Maritimes. Its steering committee has representatives from all three provinces, as well as health departments, universities, and women's advocacy groups.

"Our research theme is the broad determinants of women's health, the social, economic big picture aspects," said Poirier.