

Ottawa

# Men look at their problem of discrimination

Ottawa (Cup) — Every Monday night Brian Carroll gets together with 'the boys'. During intense four hour sessions he and his buddies may sip on a few beers, but instead of talking sports, politics and business they discuss what it's like to be a man in this society.

They probe the pressures of being male and the stereotyped roles laid out for men. Why can't men cry in public. Why must men always be the breadwinners. Why do men play a secondary role in child-raising. Why do men talk of their sexuality in boastful and vulgar terms.

These are just some of the questions Carroll and a friend, Roger Wells, wanted to look at when they formed Ottawa's first

Men's Consciousness Raising Group in February 1974.

Women have moved to examine sexual discrimination as it applies to them and many men have been left in the dark. Most have refused to budge on the issue while others have sensed the need to understand what feminists are saying and what it means for men.

Ottawa's first CR group disbanded after a few months because several of its members lost interest of left the city. This September, however, Carroll and Wells started another one.

Its seven members range from married or separated to living with women. Most are in their early or mid-twenties, some are students, others have jobs.

The main reason Eric Haar joined the group is "because the whole status quo is set up to keep men from realizing themselves." "It hits home and it hurts," says Carroll who calls the group "a gathering of real friends; people you can tell very private things to ... close personal and important things ... not just 'safe' things."

Confidentiality of everything said is the group's only rule. "It takes a lot for men to reveal that much of themselves," says Carroll, so the group through emotions and discussion issues relevant to sexuality.

"We put light pressure on the prescription pedal," says Wells, adding "it's a typical male gig to say: 'Let's solve this problem and

get on to the next one.'"

Says group member Bryan Newton: "No-one has the answers, all you get is what the individual brings into it."

Attention is paid to listening, speaking in the first person and allowing each individual to formulate and express thoughts.

The purpose is to understand emotions, vent frustrations and look at different approaches to problems.

Newton said "everybody's psyche is really raw and tender." So how does a men's group, which may initially be composed of strangers, get the ball rolling.

"The first step is to not be alone," said Haar. Wells added, "You've got to realize that 'Hey! there's other people who are experiencing similar things as me ... there is support for me.'"

Meetings are usually kicked off with the question, "How was your week..." with ensuing discussion focussed on individual encounters.

The group however has been in constant flux and recently experimented with different methods including psychodrama, which allows no verbal communication,

and introducing topic themes for discussion.

The group agrees "everyone can benefit" but they point out "it's not for everyone."

They feel a successful group consists of men relatively the same age and while "it doesn't have to last forever" it can stagnate if members stop asking "painful, pertinent and even embarrassing questions."

Men's consciousness-raising appears to be a growing phenomenon in several ways. Carroll estimates there are about 25 groups in major centers across the country and as many as 700 in the U.S.

Nearly 180 men shared at a conference at the University of Waterloo in early October perspectives on the male role.

There has been limited contact among men's CR groups and, ironically, a similar conference took place in Thunder Bay the same week-end with neither group knowing of the other.

The ultimate irony is that many men interested in joining or forming a CR group are advised to phone their local women's centre.

Toronto

## Newspaper bans research ads

Toronto (Cup) — The Board of Directors of the University of Toronto, student newspaper, the Varsity, has decided to cease publishing advertisements for "pirate" essays.

Previously the paper received and published ads offering prepared term papers for students

passed by an 8-2 margin in an editorial which appeared November 14. They argued that the decision "treads on dangerous ground" since it is based on the assumption, the Varsity is subject to the provisions of the university Code of Behaviour, which they feel could prove a threat to the editorial

promotes the possibility of outright murder."

Drawing the line at essay services, they claimed, "sheds absolutely no light on a problem that faces every newspaper in this country."

"If a newspaper works on advertising, it has to blindly accept

Ottawa

## NUS Memberships increase

Ottawa (Cup) — Membership in the three-year-old National Union of Students (NUS) has risen to 24 universities as a result of referenda held this fall.

The four newest members of the organization, which was founded two years after the collapse of the Canadian Union of Students in 1969, include Memorial University in St. John's Newfoundland, the University of Calgary in Alberta, the University of Winnipeg in Manitoba and the University of New Brunswick.

Referenda were also held on two member campuses to increase the NUS fee from 30 cents per student per year to one dollar.

These referenda, held as a result of an October 1974 decision to raise the NUS fee to increase revenues for the national organization, were approved by the University of Saskatchewan at both their Saskatoon and Regina campuses.

A membership referendum at the University of Alberta in

Edmonton was not accepted. Students there defeated NUS by a 2 to 1 majority.

Another nine referenda, two on NUS membership and seven to authorize the increase, will be held this winter.

Kelsey Institute of Applied Arts and Science in Saskatoon and McMaster University in Hamilton will vote whether to join the national union.

Students at the University of British Columbia and the University of Lethbridge will hold referenda to approve the fee increase, as will students at Brock University in Ontario, the University of Toronto and those at King's College and St. Mary's University in Halifax.

Dan O'Connor, NUS spokesperson, said other campuses may also hold referenda but have not yet decided. These include Waterloo, Manitoba, Western and Simon Fraser University.

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who could afford to buy their way out of academic assignments.

The November 12 decision made by representatives from faculty, administration, students and staff of the paper, followed considerable debate on the subject including the soliciting of reader's views. None supported continuation of the ads. The editors opposed the decision,

freedom of the paper.

The editors said the board "made a moral decision that stops short of the crucial point." If the board wishes to become moral, they said, "then let's take a long look at advertising that promotes sexuality as a commodity, promotes sexual stereotypes, or, in the case of army recruitment ads,

market theory," according to the Varsity editors, which means it cannot "start muddling the works with judgements about acceptability."

## Winnipeg 'Non-discriminatory' admissions policy is suggested

Winnipeg (cup) —The Students' Association Council at the University to institute a "non-discriminatory" admissions policy.

The Council recommended November 13 there should be no differential fees or quotas for international students.

The U of W's policy on international students stands some where between "no policy" and a five percent quota advocated by president Harry Duckworth.

Council called for an open admissions policy for students on a student visa until the U of W reaches full capacity.

The capacity of the university is approximately 6,000 and enrollment is approximately 2,500. Foreign students represent 4.5 per

cent of the student population.

The council also called for a policy of non-differential fees for students on student visas and evaluation of all applications for admission on the basis of merit.

Council also supported the National Union of Students policy on foreign students which calls for foreign student admissions to be non-discriminatory and based on merit.

The recommendations were presented November 24 to the university admissions committee.

Paul McFadzen, student representative on the committee, said he hoped the committee would accept the recommendations, but said he expected "some trouble, especially financial."

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