

Most students hit the books

## Who put the 'break' in spring break?

by Judy Reid

Contrary to the spring break party myth of surf, sand and sun, it appears most students confined themselves to their books.

Susan Khajelpoor is a second-year chemistry student who spent most of her break in the library doing work.

"People say they went away for break and I just ask 'How?'" she said.

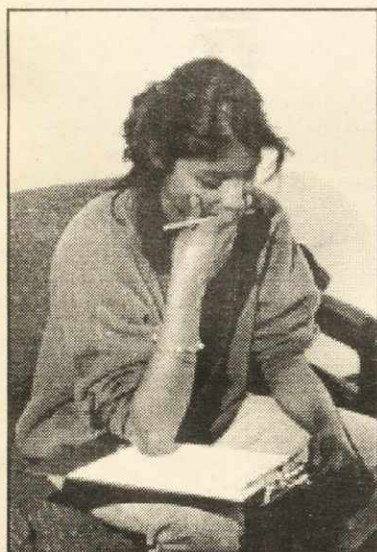
According to Travel Cuts consultant Michelle Murray, the number of students who booked flights for reading week is about the same as last year. However there were more international flights than last year and many students took the train home.

Cuba and Jamaica were the most frequented destinations with Newfoundland's Marble Mountain coming in third.

"The sun was popular," said Murray, "but some wanted to ski."

Out of the eleven students who were asked what they did over the break, only two had the pleasure to travel abroad for sun or snow. Apparently students find enough sun and more than enough snow here in Nova Scotia.

If the following responses are any indication of a campus trend, then reading week is aptly named.



Harleen Randhawa  
Second-year BSc

Went to Berwick, and visited a friend from Toronto, did some homework that was long overdue. Went to Double Deuce, heard a friend of mine sing and play the saw.

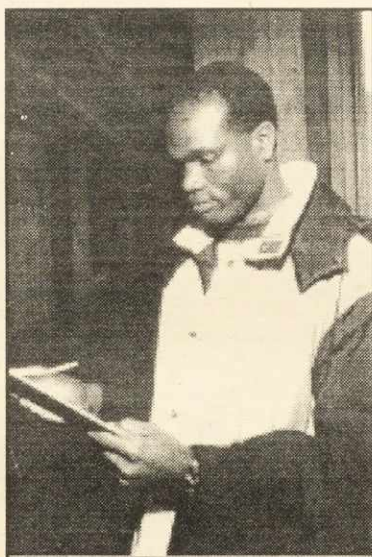


Syreeta Bean  
Second-year Biology

Florida vacation - Panama City - spent time partying with friends.

Glenda Keating  
Fourth-year Neuroscience & Biology

Worked in the lab about seven hours or more per day: I'm trying to get my thesis done and I'm about to get a nervous breakdown trying to get it finished.



Jacob Musila  
First-year PhD

Worked on a paper to submit in a journal for publication.



Marco DiQuinzio  
First-year Science

I slept in and studied once in a while. I went to a few parties!



## Vote will go ahead

by Ryan Stanley

An Ottawa-based student lobby group and the Dalhousie Student Union may be on a collision course.

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) is hinting it has problems with a plan that would see all Dal students vote on whether to remain members of the national organization. Several Student Council members are outraged that CFS may be trying to sabotage the process.

"Ludicrous" was how DSU President Jeff Rappell described the dispute. He said CFS is claiming Dal didn't follow a technical rule requiring six-months' notice before a membership referendum.

Carl Gillis, CFS Chair, refused to comment on the issue when reached at his Ottawa office on Friday.

The problem started last year, when cash-strapped CFS asked students on all member campuses to raise their contribution to the body from four dollars to six. Dal students have paid four dollars since 1981, when CFS was founded, along with their annual student union dues.

The Dal Student Council decided last September to hold a referendum on the CFS fee increase, and scheduled it for March 28-29. In the meantime, students at most of the 75 or so CFS member schools and universities have voted in favour of paying the higher fee.

But the CFS constitution says that if 80 per cent of schools approve the increase, a meeting of the assembly of members may decide to make the increase binding on all the other schools.

"What they told us is that if Dal students vote to stay at four [dollars], plenary will decide whether to bill us for six or for four," said Rappell. "I'm not willing to put the union in that situation."

The two-dollar difference could mean a \$20,000 hole in the DSU's budget.

The Council decided to ask Dal students whether they wanted to stay members of the organization and pay

the extra two dollars. If they voted 'no', the DSU would cease to be a member and students would save four bucks.

But Rappell says Gillis told him they didn't notify CFS in time.

The CFS constitution specifies that warning of a membership vote must be sent at least six months in advance, by registered mail. Rappell says the DSU sent it by fax and by courier, in plenty of time.

But according to him, Gillis told him he never received it. Rappell says he tried several times to reach Gillis to clear up the matter, but he didn't call Rappell back until February 18. They still could not agree on how to break the impasse, Rappell said.

"I'm really starting to feel a lot of bitterness towards CFS and the way they operate," he said. "Suddenly they're making it out as if we screwed up."

"I'm not sure that we followed the

letter of the law, but I told Carl that to hear about it on February 18 is ludicrous."

Rappell said Gillis visited Dal in January and never mentioned the problem.

Rod MacLeod, elected next year's DSU President two weeks ago, defended the DSU's decision to put it to a campus-wide vote. "If you send it to a referendum, regardless of what the Student Council thinks, students are going to have their say," he said. "It's fair."

Both Rappell and MacLeod said they plan to go ahead with a referendum, regardless of any CFS objections. MacLeod said the DSU's constitution and decisions of its student body cannot be overridden by CFS.

Gillis would not comment directly on the dispute, but said that "if there is a membership referendum at Dal in March", CFS would campaign on campus.

## Two reject CFS

by Ryan Ward

OTTAWA (CUP) — In two referendums last month, students sent the Canadian Federation of Students a clear message: No.

At Acadia University in Wolfville, NS, students voted in a referendum January 17-February 2 to reject a proposed CFS membership fee increase. At Vancouver Community College's Langara campus in BC, students rejected their membership in the CFS in a referendum held February 8-10.

"The students have spoken," said Todd Barker, president of the Acadia student council. "There is this disillusionment in the school about CFS being an Ontario-dominated organization and the students did not want to pay any more."

The CFS member schools have been holding referendums during the

past year to approve fee increases or to decide on membership. The referendum defeat at Langara brings the number of schools which have left the CFS in the last year to five. Acadia is the second school since last February to reject a fee increase.

Barker says students want more value for their money before fees go up. He says there wasn't a No or Yes campaign for the referendum, but promotion was done by the student union to get the word out about the referendum.

At Langara, the referendum campaign was bitterly fought with posters from both the pro-CFS and anti-CFS sides accusing the opposition of lying.

In the next two months, there are five more referendums on membership scheduled and seven member schools will consider fee increases.

## Prof back after assault

by Tom Brodbeck

WINNIPEG (CUP) — A professor fired by the University of Manitoba for hitting a student returned to work last month after an arbitrator ruled he deserved a second chance.

Architecture professor Jacques Collin was dismissed by the university's board of governors in September of 1992 for striking a student on the side of the face during a critique session a year earlier.

Collin, who teaches primarily at the graduate level, filed a grievance and the dismissal was reversed through arbitration. At the time of his dismissal, Collin was serving a one-year suspension without pay from the university for using sexist, racist and profane language in class. In a separate arbitration hearing, that suspension was reduced to six months.

Many architecture students said they are pleased to have Collin back.

"He's an excellent and very intelligent man," said one of Collin's students, who asked to remain any-

mous. "I just think Jacques stepped over a boundary that he shouldn't have."

Kent Woloschuk, president of the university's Association of Architecture Students and a student of Collin's, said his association supports the reinstatement.

"Personally, I love it, I think it's great," Woloschuk said. Like many architecture students, Woloschuk downplayed Collin's assault.

Collin's reinstatement is conditional for one year. In that time he must refrain from using inappropriate language and not touch students physically in any way. Collin, who resumed his teaching duties January 3, said he does not want to discuss the assault: "It's in the past and I don't want it to interfere with the future."

Modifying his teaching style has been difficult, Collin said, but adopting "a language that is more correct and less detrimental" is not an insurmountable task. In his ruling, arbitrator David Bowman said Collin showed a strong willingness to alter

his behavior and that he deserved the opportunity to demonstrate his intent. Bowman also said Collin's progress during psychiatric therapy and his lengthy career as a respected professor weighed in his favor. Collin was experiencing a painful marital break-up at the time of the incident and Bowman identified that as a mitigating circumstance.

Faculty association President Robert Chernomas said if the administration had given Collin the opportunity to change his behavior in the first place, a costly arbitration procedure would have been avoided. Instead, the faculty association spent over \$100,000 to represent Collin.

"If [Collin] does this kind of stuff again, he won't be defended by us," Chernomas said. "He's been warned, he knows."

University vice president James Gardner said he does not understand the logic behind the arbitrator's decision but added that the university must go along with the ruling.