

# Canadian bookstores exploit us, charge 50 Canadian writers

By ED RUDDY

On a Saturday late in October, roughly 50 of Canada's best known writers paraded in front of a Coles bookstore in Ottawa to protest the store's exploitation of Canadian writers.

Pierre Berton, Margaret Laurence, W.O. Mitchell, Matt Cohen and June Callwood were among the placard carrying demonstrators.

According to Graeme Gibson,

## Prof. is glum

TORONTO (CUP) - A University of Toronto professor charged that the university's middle management treats the teaching staff as "immature, unnecessary nuisances."

Horace Krever was speaking to U. of T. alumni November 3 when he made the statement. The Alumni Association was honoring him at the time for his contributions to the community.

Krever said that the gesture of respect was never more welcome, because according to him, faculty morale is at its lowest, and in most need of support now.

He said that a professor's job is not secure at a time when administrations are drawing up contingency plans in case tenured professors have to be released.

Krever also criticized the course evaluations printed in the Varsity as causing more harm than good. He said that evaluations assume that university scholars are expected to teach, rather than to challenge the intellectual potential of the students.

He suggested that if higher education is demoted any further on the government's priorities, universities will cease to be a great reservoir of advice and assistance to the community, resulting in universities being viewed as irrelevant.

## Runaways

SAN FRANCISCO (ANS-CUP) - According to the Wall Street Journal, twice as many women desert their homes as men in the past two years.

Fifteen years ago runaway husbands outnumbered wives 300 to one.

According to the president of Tracers Co. of America, an investigative agency specializing in missing persons, most of the women are running away from someone rather than to someone. The typical runaway wife, he says, has been married for over ten years and feels abandoned by her grown children.

chairman of the Writers' Union of Canada, "Coles is conspiring with American publishers to dump books in Canada."

The Union claims that Coles has for some time been importing mass American editions of Canadian books at discount prices and then placing these books on the Canadian market at competitive Canadian prices.

The problem is that Canadian writers who want to reach the huge American literary market are often willing to sell their books at cost in the States and not demand royalties. There is no law preventing such stores as Coles from buying large quantities of unsold Canadian books from American publishers, paying the cost of the over-run and then stacking the books on Canadian shelves.

As a result of the practice, Canadian writers and publishers lose both ways. They don't get wide circulation in the U.S. and they don't get fair compensation for their efforts.

"In spite of many promises, the Canadian government has taken no effective action to stop it," said Gibson, adding that Canadian books cannot compete with comparable American editions because of U.S. copyright laws.

The reason that Canadian authors find it impossible to establish efficient copyright laws in American publishers' contracts is that stores such as Coles purchase their books through middlemen, thereby rendering American guarantees invalid.

The Union is currently striving to implement a ban on the dumping of these American editions in Canada.

## Students challenge rector

MONTREAL (CUP) - An administrative proposal handed down November 7 was accepted by sociology students at Université de Montreal, meeting most of their demands and ending a three month protest over teaching methods.

The proposal included pilot research projects of student choice and participation, and a promise of working towards more student involvement in U. de M. administration.

Université rector Paul Lacost warned that the projects were not the declaration of an "open door" or precedent for other departments. He said that no institution could hope to function with "a

chain reaction of pilot projects".

Students were told that they could make up time lost during the nine week protest, and that there would be no extension of an anti-picket injunction requested by Lacost.

The protests, which began in September with the occupation of the sociology department offices, were eventually joined by students of other faculties until the November 4 injunction.

Lacost has been censured by the deans and staff, who denounced the injunction against the students. It was the first time that faculty members did not support the rector.

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