

## Teachers can write, from page 1

has not taken an official stand on this matter, either.

As for minimal writing competence exams in the faculty, "We could have a competency exam, but I'm not sure it would solve the problem of literacy," she says.

"Being literate is not the sole quality for becoming a good teacher, in my opinion," Melnyk says.

"However, it definitely is an asset," she admits.

Letter writers Loov and Schell stand by their accusations. They advocate a language competency exam, quotas in the Faculty of Education, and a mandatory year in another faculty for all would-be teachers.

They say they've received a lot of verbal support from other education students. And they

maintain that the faculty's problems are more widespread than Education officials acknowledge.

"I still think there are a large

## Native women, from page 1

educating the Indian people.

"If we don't know where we come from, how can we know where we're going?" Campbell asked.

"Once we understand there is nobody who can put us down, nobody can wipe us out."

Former Native Students Advisor Marilyn Buffalo MacDonald explained that the government wants Indians to believe in "the complex complex" — that things are so complicated that Indians can't understand them.

number of people in the faculty who will not be competent as teachers," says Schell.

"I still believe there is a definite problem," Loov adds.

"I believed it, but I was mad enough to get out. What was keeping us in there was the Act 'the Indian Act'."

Any education, though, has to reinforce Indian identity, MacDonald said.

"When we have to rely on those jerks at the Department of Indian Affairs, we will never go anywhere," she said. "We have to take the bull by the horns."

"If assimilation is necessary, let us assimilate on our own terms."

Canadian University Press

## National Notes

### Education treaty rights

LETHBRIDGE (CUP) — The protection of treaty rights — especially for education — was the focus of the second general assembly of the Alberta Native Students Association (ANSA) held at the University of Lethbridge Feb. 15-17.

"Indians have the right to education, whatever education they choose," said Joyce Green, a U of L student who attended the congress.

Lobbying against the F-12 circular, a federal government document which would make education a privilege, rather than a treaty right, is a priority for the Alberta Association. Federal government policies would take education upgrading off the reserve and encourage Indian students to go into employment training programs.

Both policies would discourage Indian students from going into higher education and university, said Green.

### Executive purge in Quebec

MONTREAL (PEQ-CUP) — Three executive members of L'Association Nationale des Etudiantes du Quebec (ANEQ) have been fired by member associations for failing to respect their wishes and acting in an undemocratic manner.

At a central council meeting February 24, Andre Remillard, Jean Latraverse and Andre Chabot were said to be making decisions without consulting the member associations. Although no vote was taken, a motion of non-confidence was tabled against them.

The motion, presented by the Quebec City region of ANEQ, is currently under discussion in regional councils throughout the province.

Jacques Beaupre, Secretary-General of ANEQ, and the only executive member not named in the non-confidence motion, said the internal upheaval brings up the question of who makes the decisions in ANEQ, an autonomous executive council or the association.

Helene Zachaib, chairperson of the February 24 meeting said she thought the three members have a "funny notion of democracy".

This conflict is seen by many as the worse upset for the organization since the expulsion of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) in 1977.

### Asbestos a health hazard

OTTAWA (CUP) — As many as 150 schools and educational institutes in Ontario have been told by the government to remove or seal up asbestos material because it is a health risk to students.

Inhaling asbestos particles can lead to serious lung diseases, including cancer. The material is used as a fire retardant.

"We're telling them this is a danger to health, that for safety and security they should do it (remove or seal the material)," says Stan Orłowski, associate chief architect for the ministries of education and colleges and universities.

Orłowski said the institutions known to have asbestos were built in the 1960's and are located throughout the province.

Health hazard problems caused by asbestos have also hit other institutions in Canada, including Bishop's University in Lennoxville and Pacific Vocational Institute in Vancouver.


Although some of the schools have very little asbestos, Orłowski says any amount is enough to cause concern.

"If the material is flaky, it doesn't matter what the percentage is — they have to do something about it."

Orłowski said education minister Bette Stephenson has not decided who will pay for the necessary repairs, but he added that most schools will have to do their own work. Each school has been sent a manual with information on asbestos and instruction on taking samples, removal and sealing.

New Democratic Party MPP Ed Ziemba is angry at government inaction on the asbestos problem. He said that asbestos hazards are taken much more seriously in the US than in Ontario.

"Students are especially at risk," Ziemba wrote in a letter to Stephenson. "Their remaining life expectancy provides a long development period for asbestos-related diseases."




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