

CBC under fire as gays plan demonstration

OTTAWA (CUP) — The National Gay Rights Coalition (NGRC) will organize pickets of Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) buildings in major cities across the country Feb. 19 to protest the corporation's policy of refusing public service announcements for gay groups.

NGRC has also sent letters of protest to prime minister, Pierre Trudeau and secretary of state, John Roberts.

The CBC reviewed its policy on public service announcements following a Halifax Gay Alliance For Equality (GAE) intervention before the Canadian Radio Television Commission hearings on renewing the licence for the Halifax CBC outlet, CBH.

In its intervention, GAE protested CBH's refusal to accept a public service announcement for its

telephone counselling service charging it constituted discrimination against homosexuals.

In a Jan. 7 letter to GAE, CBC vice-president for audience and public relations, Peter Meggs, said the CBC's policy "clearly excludes subjects deemed controversial."

"It is felt that the request of your organization represents subject matter which is still controversial by our audiences and therefore we must continue to apply the policy and refuse your request in the area of public service announcements."

"However, CBC programming will continue, as it has the past, to give suitable opportunity for the expression of the main points of view about homosexuality including opportunity for homosexuals themselves to put their views forward."

Apparently CBH has refused announcements for Birthright, an anti-abortion group for the same reason.

John Duggan, NGRC spokesperson, said "according to the CBC gay people are controversial subject matter. However, the public service announcement refused by the Halifax station was direct, factual information concerning the organization's services and not opinionated messages of subject matter, controversial or otherwise, as interpreted by the CBC."

The announcement read: "The Gay Alliance For Equality Inc. is operating a counselling phonenumber for male and female homosexuals. The phonenumber is for problem solving, giving out information, and for referrals. The hours to call are from 7 to 10 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday. All calls are strictly confidential. The number is 429-6969."

Pointing out that there are more than 50 gay organizations across the country, Duggan said, "there is certainly no controversy about the fact these organizations do exist, and many of them have been long established as respectable social service agencies in their respective communities. The CBC's decision to reject announcements from these organizations is a denial of the right of all people, and not just homosexuals, to be made aware of the activities or organizations in their communities."

The CBC's policy, he said, "ignores the fact that 10 per cent of the audience, which according to Mr. Meggs, still considers gays controversial, is in effect made up of lesbian women and gay men. The CBC's attitude is patronizing and Victorian, and its decision to exclude gays from access to public service announcements is arbitrary and arrogant."

He called the CBC's decision "a concrete example of discrimination at the federal level which clearly points out the need to have sexual orientation included in the proposed Canadian Human Rights Act."

At their annual conference in Vancouver over New Year's, members of Canadian University Press decided to boycott CBC advertising in their student newspapers until the CBC policy changed.

Asked about the boycott's effect, John MacEwan, director of radio for the Maritimes, said, "students are no longer receiving information that they are entitled to have." He did not feel the boycott was having any effect on CBC policy.

Saying that the issue is over, MacEwan's only comment on the demonstration planned by NGRC was that it is their "right".

Young Canada Works: Deadline extended

OTTAWA (CUP) — Manpower and Immigration Minister Bud Cullen announced Feb 8 extensions for receiving applications for the Young Canada Works and the Canada Works Programs.

Applications postmarked before midnight Feb 18 will be considered for Young Canada Works and applications postmarked before midnight Feb 11 from the Yukon and the Northwest Territories will be considered for Canada Works Funding. The press release also stated that "all applications for the Canada Works program received by the department this week would be considered."

The department reported that they had received applications totalling about 272 million for and allocation of 60 million for Canada Works. Applications amounting to 64 million were received for an allocation of 26 million for Young Canada Works.

The Minister's announcement followed more than a week of contradictory and vague remarks by the minister and his officials.

On Feb. 7 Matt Graham, an official in the minister's office in charge of Job Creation Programs,

including Young Canada Works stated that the deadline would not be extended except in cases where weather conditions and other difficulties made it impossible for the applications to be received in time for the original Feb 4 deadline.

Cullen told the House of Commons Feb 4 that he would be "in a better position on Monday (Feb 7) when I have seen how many applications we have, to make that announcement". No announcement was made at that time however.

Cullen had been under pressure from opposition members in the commons to extend the deadline. The National Union of Students (NUS) had also requested a change in criteria and an extension. Cullen had refused their request for an extension at their Feb 4 meeting.

Cullen did announce Feb 7 that "there were some changes I thought necessary in the criteria for the Canada Works and Young Canada Works Programs."

NUS has urged people to apply during the deadline extension period. NUS Executive-Secretary Dan O'Connor said they were asking student councils and newspapers to publicize the program and aid applicants in completing the forms. He said NUS was also asking councils to watch the kinds of criteria changes being made.

Social Club tightens rules

By TOM EVANS

The College Hill Social Club (C.H.S.C.) held a special meeting to fill three vacancies on their Board of Directors on Jan 30. The vacancies were the result of resignations.

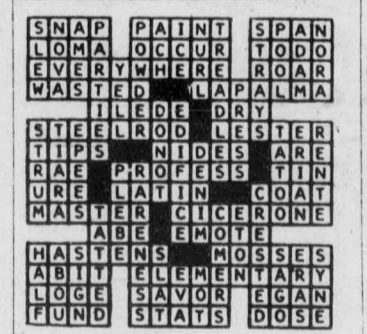
The new directors are David Campbell, Robert Potter and Charles Ackerman. The club membership also ratified the reapplication of the club's liquor licence.

At present the Auditors Report of the club's financial position is not complete. It is expected in about a week.

Effective February 14 a new door policy will be strictly enforced. The rules are (1) only one guest per member will be allowed after 8:30 p.m. (2) members only when club is approaching capacity (3) no soliciting of members to gain

admittance (4) admission at all times will be at the discretion of the doorman (5) in case of any dispute, NBLCC cards will be the only acceptable form of I.D.

In order that regular guests will not be inconvenienced, the Board has made available 300 memberships at a cost of \$5.00 for the remainder of the year. Membership cards are available at the bar and must be supported by appropriate I.D.



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Coffee company loses beans

NEW YORK (LNS-CUP) — Suisse Mochas, Cafe Francais, Cafe Vienna and Orange Cappuccino have all been exposed for what they are — sugar, chemicals and less than one-third coffee. It came to light in a San Francisco courtroom Jan. 21, when Maxwell House Coffee, a division of the General Foods Corporation, was charged with false advertising, fraud, and deceit for labeling these products "international coffee."

A spokesperson for the food agent, quoted in the New York Times, claimed he didn't know the true make-up of the four "coffees." "The contents are listed," he said, "but there is no requirement to list the percentages."