

**cross-canada briefs**

**Canada eases rules to sell nuclear reactors**

BY SAMER MUSCATI

OTTAWA (CUP) — The federal government is watering-down its environmental rules to ensure the sale of two Canadian nuclear reactors to China.

The Liberal cabinet plans to amend the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act to exempt the \$4 billion Candu reactor sale from full environmental scrutiny. Prime Minister Jean Chretien is expected to finalize the sale when he visits China later this month.

"The government is behaving irresponsibly by doing this," said Kristen Ostling, co-ordinator for the Campaign for Nuclear Phase out.

Environment and human rights groups are outraged the government is flouting its own rules to sell reactors to a country with one of the worst human rights records in the world.

Environment Minister Sergio Marchi said that the 700-megawatt Candu reactors are extremely safe and are less environmentally harmful than the coal plants China currently uses for its energy needs. He says that if China doesn't buy the technology from Canada, they will buy it from other countries that might be less concerned with the environment.

Canada will also provide a \$1.5 billion loan to help seal the deal.

**Christian Coalition comes to UBC**

BY PETER T. CHATTAWAY

VANCOUVER (CUP) — The Christian Coalition on Campus — an offshoot of the religious right's most vocal lobbying group in the United States — is vowing to take over campus politics at the University of British Columbia.

"We're starting with the politics that are closest to you," said Kim McGee, vice-president of the coalition's UBC arm.

"[Student council] elections, all these faculty elections and whatnot, have notoriously low levels of voter turnout," she said. "It doesn't have to be a life-or-death issue for it to be an issue of responsibility."

According to the coalition's literature, it aims to encourage "active participation" in elections, to affirm the sanctity of life from conception to natural death, to recognize the rights of parents over their children, to oppose deficit financing, to recognize "traditional family values" and to "promote the protection of the vulnerable in our society."

Although the group's aims sound similar to its U.S. counterpart's, McGee said there is no official connection between the two.

Christian groups on campus have been wary of the Coalition.

Although the new club did not apply for membership within the Association of Christian Clubs (ACC), they did ask for an endorsement. Their request was denied.

Peter Dove, UBC's Pentecostal chaplain and the ACC coordinator was concerned the Coalition was pursuing a political, not spiritual, agenda.

**Memorial obstructs Freedom of Information request**

BY DAVE COCHRANE

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CUP) — Memorial University's administration is violating the spirit of the Freedom of Information Act by demanding a fee of over \$10,000 for details on senior administration expenses, says the province's opposition leader.

Late last month history professor Ranee Panjabi requested information on the travel and entertainment expenditures of the university's president and its four vice-presidents from 1994-1996. The university said that compiling and retrieving the information would take 693 hours and cost Panjabi \$10,561.

Tory opposition leader Loyola Sullivan has taken up Panjabi's cause and said the university's response is either a sign of gross administrative incompetence, or else an obstructionist tactic by an administration that has come to think of itself as beyond accountability.

University President Art May said this was a "nuisance request" from a "disgruntled employee."

"Professor Panjabi is a person who has had many different problems of many different kinds over the years," May said.

Panjabi has had her share of disputes with the university's top brass. Most recently she was the centre of controversy this January after refusing to wear a microphone that would allow a hearing impaired student to hear her lectures. Panjabi, a self-described mystic, said it violated her religious beliefs.

In an interview Sullivan admitted to being unfamiliar with some of the controversy surrounding Panjabi but said the price tag of more than \$10,000 is still outrageous.



**Hell**

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Louch insists that, "We have never seen levels [of air quality] that I think are alarming."

There have been also been a number of repairs completed on the Social Work buildings. Sections of floors and roofs have been replaced.

"We are going to have to do something about that building in the next number of years," says Louch, referring to Hancock Hall. "That building is in the last stages of its useful life."

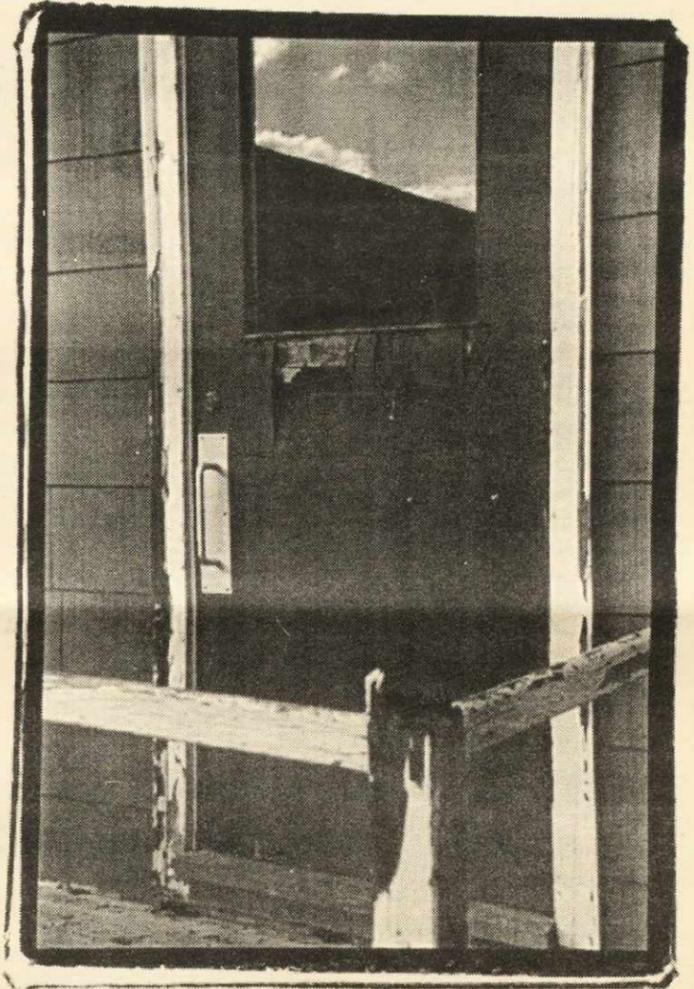
In response to students' requests for action, Bill Lord, director of the Physical Plant and Planning, asked why money should be thrown into a bad building.

Lord believes that the merger between Dalhousie and the Technical University of Nova Scotia will make better space available on campus for the MSSW.

He suggested that the Engineering department might move, and that the Social Work library could also be moved from its present home on Coburg Road into the Killam Library.

Dalhousie Student Union Vice-President Katherine Hannah, who sits on the Dalhousie Environmental Health and Safety Committee, is aware of the problems concerning the Social Work building.

The MSSW students' commu-



**IN NEED OF REPAIR** — Social Work students in Hancock Hall (above) are upset that Dalhousie is building a new Arts building while their department buildings are literally falling apart.

nicated their concerns to Hannah during the Arts building public forum held in October.

"I'm trying to get this item on the agenda for the next meeting," Hannah said.

The director of the Maritime School of Social Work was unavailable for comment, while another professor in the MSSW refused to comment on air quality concerns.

**NSCAD students rage in protest**

BY PIA PACE-ASCIK

The Nova Scotia College of Art and Design faced an angry crowd of student protesters in the College lounge during the registration week for the Winter/Spring semester.

Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) students organized the November 4 rally to rage against the hike in tuition fees, additional fees for supplies, and communication problems that have existed between administration and students.

"The general communication between the college and the students is inept," said Jessica Squires, a member of the college's

student union.

One of the many issues that the students wanted to communicate to the administration was the lack of input that students feel they have in college decisions.

Squires said that many decisions are made by the administration without informing the Student Union. Rather than playing an active role, the union then relays information about program changes or additional material fees to the students.

Other protesters who rallied were upset by the extra material fees that were charged to the sculpture and ceramic students. These students are being charged an additional \$25-50 fee, but

have not been notified as to where the money is being allocated.

Alice Mansell, NSCAD's president, assured students that she would meet with them on November 6 to discuss the issues at hand.

As a result of the protest, Mansell has agreed to attend the Student Union's meetings every two weeks to help improve communication between the two groups.

Mansell has also agreed to involve the Student Union in future decisions made by the college.

Also, registration was extended an extra day as many students had forfeited registering for courses until their concerns were addressed.