

# McMaster prof first Canadian woman astronaut

HAMILTON, ONT (CUP) At 38, Dr. Roberta Bondar, a neurologist at McMaster University, will soon begin a new career as Canada's first woman astronaut.

Bondar describes the excitement of being one of the six candidates chosen from 4,300 applicants to the astronaut program as comparable to "making the cut" for the high school basketball team.

The Canadian astronaut team is divided into two teams of three people. The first team, which includes Dr. Bondar, has a medical background and will research human adaption to space and motion sickness. The second team will concentrate on engineering research.

At the moment, two Canadian-operated flights using an American space shuttle are planned, the first scheduled for the fall of 1985 and the second for the following year.

These orbital flights, which average from five to seven days, will take up only one team member, who will carry out the experiments.

Dr. Bondar is hopeful that "if the program gets expanded probably all (team members) will go up."

One area of research which Canada could seriously consider, according to Bondar, is space medicine. As the human element in space is seen more frequently, space medicine and the study of human physiology in zero gravity is increasingly pertinent.

Bondar described the complications of surgery in space. "With zero gravity, make one slip and the blood is in little globules all over the place."

The medical team will develop experiments to examine the

human body's reaction to a gravity-less environment during the orbit, as well as eye movements under particular conditions, Bondar said.

As the only woman in the astronaut program, Bondar has been questioned about the lack of female participation. Women, especially in her age bracket, Bondar explained, have not had the same opportunities for involvement in medical or technical fields, the way men have had.

"They probably aren't as free. How many single women are there? Because most married women don't look at rushing off to take a job in space when they

probably think a little more about looking after the children than the men do, who have a wife to look after the children."

She does not believe that her status as a single woman was a consideration in her selection to the program.

Worries that women will drop out of a program due to marital stress, is a far lesser concern than in previous years, Bondar believes.

Within twenty years time, it is likely that a far greater number of well-qualified women will take part in such a space program, she said.



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**Brian Mulroney being Conventional.**  
The National Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party was in town last weekend for the provincial party's annual convention. An estimated one-third of the delegates who heard Mulroney speak were P.C. Youth delegates representing school and campus organizations from across the province.

## Manitoba shifts to loans

BRANDON, MAN. (CUP) -- Manitoba's student aid is fast becoming an all loan program, says a Brandon University student official. While most students have received the maximum \$3300 loan this year, the average bursary awarded is only \$550, says Wayne Hurlbert, who sits on the provincial Student Aid Consulting Committee.

"Only the high-need applications have been processed so far, so we can expect the average to be much lower," he says.

The maximum bursary available in Manitoba is \$3300.

Student aid appeals are up over 100 per cent this year, Hurlbert says, but students are receiving loan rebates instead of cash bursaries, if anything. The government doesn't have to pay these rebates until the student leaves school.

Hurlbert is critical of the loans awarded to part-time students, which are like regular bank loans.

"The banks can refuse the loan if they feel that the student cannot repay," he says.

He says students are penalized for academic excellence and for working because scholarships and wages are deducted from

the amount awarded.

Last year the provincial government introduced a new rule for receiving aid which requires students to complete 60 per cent of a full course load.

"Generally, students who cannot make the 60 per cent course requirements are found to have been suffering from health and

personal problems," says Hurlbert.

There is some good news for beleaguered student aid seekers. The Canada Student Loan form will be simplified and the Manitoba student aid branch is computerizing in the hope of cutting application processing time from 12 to four weeks.

## Class scheduling board "goin' down the road"

by Bob Morrison

Students are not the only ones moving from Upper to Lower Campus—even the class scheduling board in the Arts & Administration Building will be making such a move.

The first day that weather will permit, the class scheduling board will be removed from its present location outside the Registrar's Office in the A&A Building and will be put in the University's Physical Plant.

According to Dr. Kirtsaklis, Space Manager at the Physical Plant, the move is being made to provide a more central location in relation to the entire campus.

Classroom allotment for

courses for all forthcoming terms will be done out of the Physical Plant Offices. Kirtsaklis added there are also preliminary plans to install some form of computerized system in the future.

The decision to make the move was made some time ago by a committee made up of Deans, but it is only being done now as they reasoned this was the time of least inconvenience to students.

"The transfer of the classroom allocation function would be least disturbing to students at the present time as B term classes have all been settled now," said Kirtsaklis.

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