

## Alternative news service

### Refugees turned away

MONTREAL (CUP) — Refugees from El Salvador have become the victims of the federal government's latest attempt to limit the number of immigrants on Canadian turf.

According to Marie Lacroix of Montreal's Committee to Aid Refugees, "There has been a hardening of the government policy that say, 'coming to Canada doesn't mean you can stay.'"

In Quebec alone, eight Salvadoran refugees were deported to the warring nation in March. Lacroix saw an official memo from Ottawa at a regional immigration office confirming the eight names for deportation.

According to Marie Carmen of the Association des Immigrants Latino-Américains de Canada, there are another nine Salvadorans on a waiting list to leave the country.

This increase in deportations may be result of a policy directive from Federal Immigration Minister Barbara McDougall, according to Lacroix.

But Raymond Lalonde, program specialist at Montreal's regional immigration centre, said, "There is no policy change. It's always the minister's decision. But she has been signing a lot lately."

Lalonde said deportations are based on a case-by-case decision from the Ministry. "It is possible that as many as 15 people have been deported from Montreal," he said.

But according to Pascual Delgado of the YMCA ethnic minorities department, "It's totally arbitrary."

Delgado said McDougall doesn't really make the decision, but just signs the documents her bureaucratic advisors give her.

"This causes a lot of inconsistencies with decisions."

### Hunger strike ends

MONTREAL (CUP) — A hunger strike at the Kingston Prison for Women ended March 8, after the prison's warden granted strikers only one of their demands.

Nine women who began the strike March 4 ended their fast after Warden Mary Cassidy granted a temporary absence pass to prisoner Dawn McKormick, to visit her critically ill mother.

Four strikers suffering health problems were sent to the prison hospital, and one was rushed to an outside hospital when her kidneys failed, said Theresa Eagles, of Kingston's International Women's Day Committee.

The women remained defiant, even as they ended their protest.

"One thing the women inside want everyone to know is that nothing has changed," Eagle said. "Conditions in the prison are still horrible. And they still want an independent review board as well as the other demands."

Other demands have been publicized outside of the prison, but Curtis said the prison did not receive these in writing and does not recognize them.

These demands included an independent civilian review of prison conditions, and visitation rights for several political representatives, and that all women who are in prison for acts of self-defense against abusive individuals have their case re-opened.

### Post-war frightens

MONTREAL (CUP) — The shooting may have stopped in the Persian Gulf war, but the war is not over, according to Montreal's Arab community and anti-war groups.

"The war didn't solve any of the problems in the region at all and instead made many worse," according to Abdul-Malik Al-Jabir, president of the General Union of Palestinian Students.

Heather Miller of the McGill Progressive Zionist Caucus emphasized the importance of settling the Israeli-Palestinian dispute and opposing the American-imposed 'new world order'.

"U.S. hegemony frightens me a lot," she said.

Al-Jabir said, "The road to a peaceful settlement of the problems has suffered damage like that of the highway from Kuwait City to Basra, on which the Americans bombed thousands of refugees. Many people have been pushed to extremism and fundamentalism."

As the U.S.-led coalition makes plans for a 'new world order', Canadians must speak out against the human costs of the war and hold their leaders accountable, he said.

"It is an explosive situation. The Palestinians are still angry. The people of Iraq have suffered tremendously. The economy in Iraq is destroyed and the people are humiliated," said Al-Jabir.

by Chris Lambie

*The Network*, brainchild of *The McGill Tribune*, is an ad hoc union of fifteen Canadian student newspapers that has been operating a news exchange since last October.

Other major university papers involved are *The Queens Journal*, *The Western Gazette*, *The Edmonton Gateway* and *The McMaster Silhouette*. Despite a central Canadian emphasis, Kelly Gallagher MacKay, editor of *The Tribune*, insists they want to encourage all non-CUP papers to join.

John Montesano, national vice-president of Canadian University Press, says "we're talking to a lot of [*Network*] papers and some of them are now taking advantage of CUP's offer of three months of free services for prospective members." Both *The Queens Journal* and *The Gateway* are among those running CUP stories this year.

MacKay says "we are trying to form a looser type of news exchange than that of CUP." CUP papers are bound by a specific statement of principles, claims MacKay, "our only boundaries are the copyright laws that necessitate the use of by-lines on *Network* stories."

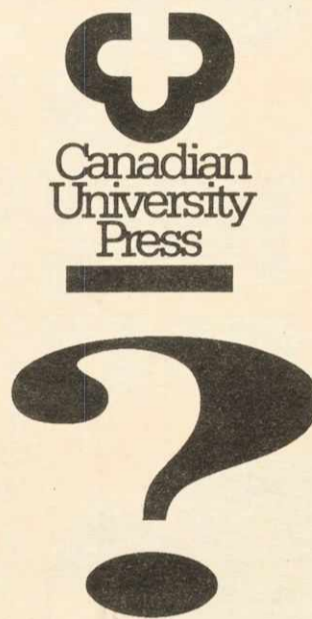
MacKay says she has "no problems with CUP's statement of principles [herself], but formalized restrictions often tend to scare people away because they hint at censorship." She is of the opinion that "a lot of CUP papers use their wire material as inert filler; our impression of CUP is that you have to take what you get, without the freedom to localize stories so they apply to your own university's specific situation." She thinks news, rather than features, would

be a better focus for a story exchange.

However, Montesano says, "CUP papers are always encouraged to localize stories."

Shannon Gowans, *Gazette* CUP editor, says, "actually, I'm localizing a story at this very minute." She is adamant in the fact that "making news exchange stories locally relevant is an integral part of CUP."

Montesano says, "how papers interpret the CUP statement of principles is entirely up to them." There is a clause in the statement that says CUP papers cannot tell each other what to print.



*The Tribune* is presently funding, and hence — controlling *The Network*; MacKay says "the organization is democratic in so far as we've done most of the initiation." She says the cost has boosted her total operating budget by approximately \$1500. Most of this money has gone towards paying

fax bills - *The Network's* mode of story transference. She hopes to reduce this cost dramatically with the introduction of electronic mail.

MacKay says the idea of a national student news exchange "is really quite exciting; something new happens every week, and we're actually experiencing mental conflict between printing the copy our own writers generate over that which comes in off the wire."

*The Tribune's* autonomous competition, *The McGill Daily*, is one of the founding members of CUP. MacKay says, "sometimes they [*The Daily*] think the network idea is really cool, and other times they pull back when they realize we're the competition. We have been working very closely with PEQ (Presse Etudiant de Quebec) — they want our info and we want theirs." At a PEQ conference two weeks ago in Quebec city, McGill's *Daily Francaise* expressed a serious interest in dropping CUP to join *The Network*.

Montesano says, "what they're trying to do doesn't compare to what CUP does. CUP is a committee of student newspapers that support each other with council and administration problems. We organize conferences and seminars to educate on every aspect of newspaper production, as well as run a news exchange service."

Lara Friedlander, *the Network's* present coordinator, receives between two and five stories from each member paper every week. She chooses the superlative articles from this pool to fax back to *Network* papers.

Friedlander says, "a national perspective is especially important for issues which concern all students, such as tuition fee hikes or international crisis like war in the Gulf."

## Learn a summer language

by Marie-France LeBlanc

It's summer in Halifax, and your looking for a change of scenery and attitude. Maybe that summer course on macroeconomics just isn't as interesting you thought it would be. Perhaps it's that attempt at responsibility, otherwise known as summer employment, which is giving you a headache. Or maybe it is the thought of going down, once again, to the Seahorse to see the same old faces.

If you can foresee this being your plight this summer, there is a program which can not only help you; but also get you to help others. Every year the Secretary of State and the Ministry of Education co-sponsor an immersion program in the city. Come the beginning of July, 180 French speaking students will inundate the Dalhousie campus with only one purpose in mind (or so they told their parents), to

learn the English language.

These bursary-subsidised francophones will go about this task by attending classes every morning, and partaking in workshops every afternoon. The workshops range from photography to theatre to ecology. Their purpose is to expose the students to activities which will enable them to practice English. Although Henson College has organised this program very carefully, and has planned everything from the curriculum to day trips to dances, there is one thing they cannot supply. That is, companions for the visitors.

While the students are encouraged to mingle among themselves, this leads to much "French discussion" as opposed to the "English dialogue" they are here to learn. The organisers, therefore, would like to encourage any Eng-

lish speaking student who will be here over the summer to get involved. This can be done in a variety of ways. If you like to play tennis, maybe its time a French Canadian showed you how its really done. Perhaps you are going shopping, and could use some input from someone with Montreal flare. Or maybe you simply need a guinea pig for your latest culinary concoction. Whatever your need or motive, these students could be at your disposal. The worse that could happen is that you could laugh at each others jokes, cultivate a friendship and manage to break down the cultural barriers through stimulating conversation.

If you are interested in volunteering your time, this summer, to be a "buddy" to someone who is trying to learn the English language you can contact Gail Boylan at Henson Center: 494-2375.