

Tax cripples libraries

Canadian unity forum

OTTAWA (CUP) — "Our intention is to get the pulse of the youth in Canada," says Paul Huston, chair of the Students' Forum on Canadian Unity.

The 10-member forum wants to tour the country in February to ask young people how they feel about Canadian unity. They hope to present their findings to the Spicer citizen's forum on Canada's future next spring.

"The Spicer commission will be visiting town halls and municipalities. We felt that youth was being excluded," said Huston, a third-year economics student at the University of Ottawa.

"We want to hear what the students have to say, what they think the problems are in Canada, what can be done to solve these problems."

The forum, made up of U of O and Carleton University students, will be fundraising in January to help pay expenses.

Universities doomed

TORONTO (CUP) — Universities are doomed to a state of ill-health because post-secondary education is not a priority, says Stuart Smith.

"I think the average citizen is quite content with lower quality if it means more people are going to get into the education system," he said.

Smith chairs the Commission of Inquiry on Canadian University Education which is hearing from students, administrators and professors across the country. The commission was set up by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

"The politicians aren't interested in the universities' complaints" because the public isn't, he said. And until voters push for more money for universities, underfunding is going to remain, he said.

While research and graduate education have weathered years of chronic underfunding, it's been at the expense of undergraduate education, Smith said.

"Undergraduate education is bearing the brunt of the cutbacks," he said. "That was a gut feeling, and it's turned out to be true in spades."

Larger classes, multiple choice exams instead of essays, and less class discussion time are leading to students with extremely poor communication skills, he said.

Who'll police police?

TORONTO (CUP) — African-Canadian youth have reacted angrily to the acquittal of Toronto police constable David Deviney in the shooting of Lester Donaldson.

Deviney, who shot Donaldson in August 1988, was cleared of manslaughter charges Nov. 13 by a jury.

Members of a university student group called African Youth say the incident is symptomatic of the justice system's aggressive attitude towards African-Canadians.

"In practical terms...when confronted with a police officer, 'To Serve and Protect' does not mean the same to me as it does to a youth of, for instance, European descent," said group member Karen Dixon.

The group called for the creation of an independent civilian board to review police actions in cases like Donaldson's.

Currently, police are too close to the justice system, making it impossible for courts to indict officers, said Dixon.

"The police cannot police the police," she added.

Sergeant Mike Sale of the Toronto police department's public relations office said a civilian review board is being considered.

Financially, he said the idea of a board is sound — "The police complaints department is costing us an immense amount of money each year" — but he disagrees that the Deviney incident has worsened the force's race relations.

"I feel it's regrettable that they would say that," Sale said. "I'm not aware of any evidence that that has happened."

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by Heidi Modro
and Ryan Stanley

MONTREAL/HALIFAX (CUP) — University libraries may have to cut down on buying books next year to make up for money they'll have to spend on the GST, says the president of Canada's university library association.

"There's no doubt that the actual cost of the GST on library reading materials will have an impact on a library's purchasing power of books," said Pat Appavoo, president of the university division of the Canadian Library Association.

"Academic libraries across the country very often have serious underfunding problems," she said. "The GST just adds another burden onto an already underfunded system."

The tax will affect the Killam

and Kellogg libraries at Dalhousie to the tune of about \$45,000 a year, said Elaine Boychuk, Associate University Librarian. However, she said the University is considering adding this amount to its library budget to compensate for the impact of the GST.

Appavoo predicts universities will probably start by cutting on periodical subscriptions, rather than on books.

"This is going to worsen the trend academic libraries have had over the past few years of cutting periodicals first and consequently depleting their magazine collection."

University libraries will have to pay the seven per cent GST on every book and periodical they buy, says Arnold Gosewich, an official from the Don't Tax Reading Coalition, which includes

publishers, booksellers, magazine and newspaper associations.

And although some university libraries will be entitled to a 67 per cent refund on what they pay out on GST from the federal government, universities will still have to make up the difference.

"University libraries will either have to cut back on book purchasing or find other ways of raising funds," Gosewich said.

And even with the government partially refunding the cost of GST on books, there is still no guarantee that a university administration will transfer the funds back to the library's budget.

"How each university will allocate the rebates they get back from the government is a matter for the university administration to decide," he said.

Boychuk said Dalhousie's book buying may not be directly affected if the University compensates the libraries for the impact of the GST. But she said the libraries' resources will suffer in other ways.

"The impact on staff time is going to be considerable," she said. As well, she said the libraries will be forced to pay higher customs brokerage fees when books are purchased.

Gulf spells oil

by Bernice Landry

The situation in the Gulf all hinges on one word: oil. That's the view of Dr. Chris Giannou, who accused the United States of hiding its true objectives while claiming to be upholding democracy. Dr. Giannou said that the entire crisis has become a competition among world powers to see, "who can be more bloody and cynical."

Dr. Giannou spoke last Thursday at the Weldon Law building. For the past 15 years, this surgeon has served as director of several hospitals in the Middle East. The author of the recently published book *Besieged: A Doctor's Story of Life and Death in Beirut*, Dr. Giannou said that the war was, "not at all about the 250 million human beings" living in the region. The real reason for war is the resource "that cannot be emphasized too much," oil.

Dr. Giannou said that in both the Middle East and the U.S. "the vast majority of humanity for a small minority" is being exploited. In the Middle East, waving either the flag of Islam or Pan-Arab nationalism, Arabs are brought to the brink of war. In the U.S., the slogan changes to one of Democracy, but the essential reasons for war in both cases are the same. It is a war waged by those powerful few who actually own most of the world's wealth, said Giannou. It's a war that "the vast majority of humanity does not want."

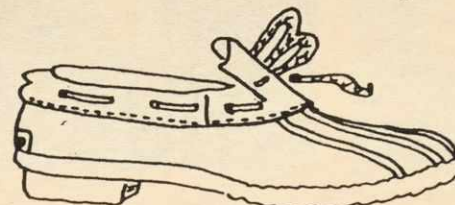
Governments can get away with the "rape and pillage of weaker countries because of a system of power politics, cynicism, the threat of cold war and of nuclear annihilation," said Dr. Giannou. The only way to alter this system is to maintain stability among nation-states and have a system of international law "based on respect for the rule of law and the United Nations." He denounced Joe Clark

for the "renunciation of everything this country has stood for in foreign policy in the past 40 years," for supporting the U.S.'s stand in the Gulf crisis without the approval of the U.N.

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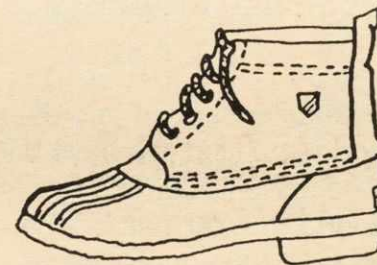
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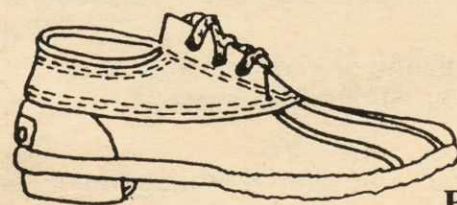
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