

## Ontario squeezes students

**Hamilton (CUP)** - The Ontario government will "squeeze the soul out of universities" through underfunding unless students take action, says a Liberal member of provincial parliament.

Financially strapped students face decreased student assistance, increased user fees for technical equipment, and increased tuition fees, Sheila Copps (Hamilton Centre) told the McMaster University Liberal Club recently.

"We are reaching a crisis situation," she said.

But Copps said today's students are politically unaware and the "political will to oppose (education minister Bette Stephenson) has not been developed."

She said when she was a University of Western Ontario student in the early 1970's, she helped organize a rally where 10,000 students showed up. Today's students face unprecedented cutbacks and increasing inaccessibility to post secondary education, but fail to alert the public of their plight, she said.

Few students heard her message, however. Copps said the meagre turnout at the Liberal Club's annual meeting was another indication of student apathy.



On a lovely fall day the birds sing in the trees, unaware of their impending doom.

## Minister ignores students

**Victoria (CUP)** - The students wanted to talk, but BC universities minister Pat McGeer wasn't there to listen.

About 50 University of Victoria students staged a picket to protest government education policies Oct. 4 at a campus building where McGeer was scheduled to speak.

But U of Vic administrators and protestors were told McGeer was unable to attend because of pressing business at the legislature. The demonstration went ahead anyway, and continued until 2:30 PM.

Fifteen minutes later, McGeer arrived.

"Pat McGeer is a coward," said protestor Warren Huxley when he heard of McGeer's eventual arrival. "He's a heartless coward who hasn't got the guts to hear what students have to say."

Despite missing the opportunity to confront McGeer, participants were pleased with the turnout of the hastily organized affair.

"If one day of organizing can scare away the minister of universities, think of what we can do with more time," said Terry Johnson, a member of the Solidary coalition.

Students across the province have been mobilizing against

government cutbacks to post-secondary education, plus Social Credit moves to remove community participation in decision-making for community colleges.

About 1000 students attended a special general meeting Sept. 27 at Simon Fraser University to plot a strategy against the government's restraint program.

Students voted to establish emergency shelter, food and childcare for students hurt by the recent legislation. The students also voted to join operation Solidary, a province-wide coalition of groups opposed to the budget brought down by the Social Credit government July 7.

## Atomic Energy attacked

**Montreal (CUP)** - The forces of free speech and free enterprise clashed at Concordia University Sept. 20, disrupting a day-long corporate information session.

The presence of representatives of Atomic Energy Canada and the Canadian Armed Forces at the session sparked a protest of the Quebec Public Interest Research Group.

They waved placards and handed out pamphlets until session organizers called in security guards. But since the protestors were all students, they could not be driven away.

The Association Internationale des Etudiants en Science Economique Commerciale complained that Q-PIRG was destroying the creative work put into the session. One company representative added his voice, saying "we don't make bombs, we make clothes."

"Well, this is a democracy we live in," said one representative from Atomic Energy. "We expose our information and people draw their own conclusions."

Jackie Lamarche, manager of the Conference Information Centre, was responsible for booking the session location.

She was upset that campus security was called.

"You never go to security," she said. "They (the demonstrators) are our students, not bums from the street."

# GARDNETS

Absolutely no minors admitted.

**DINWOODIE**  
2nd Floor SUB

Tickets are available from the SUB Box Office (2nd Floor SUB) and various club members. **NOTE:** These events are open only to U of A students, staff, and guests.

Friday, October 14 8 p.m.  
U of A Education Students' Assoc.  
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- Saturday, October 29  
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- Saturday, November 5  
David Wilcox

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