

Ontario universities in squeeze play

OTTAWA (CUP)—The long-expected rationalization of Ontario universities has begun.

Bette Stephenson, universities and colleges minister, announced Oct. 29 that Laurentian University and three colleges in the north eastern Ontario mining belt will be amalgamated into one university in September 1984.

The new university will be administered from Sudbury, the site of Laurentian University. Algoma College in Sault Ste. Marie, Nipissing College in North Bay and Le Collège de Hearst in Hearst will still exist, but will lose their autonomy, including their boards of governors and faculty unions.

The Ontario government has appointed a committee to recommend a name and funding levels for the new university. Jeanne Stephens, a researcher for the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario, said the hybrid institution will probably be named the University of Northeastern Ontario.

Stephenson's announcement stated that the move will make university education more accessible to students in isolated northern communities, but Stephens thinks the opposite is likely to happen.

The government plans to

eliminate most programs offered at more than one of the four campuses, said Stephens. This will force students who want to take a certain program to move where that program is offered, reversing the past principle that a wide variety of programs should be offered in smaller centres.

The government will more easily convince one centralized board of governors to direct each campus to specialize in certain programs than to convince four separate boards of governors, said Stephens.

"This is certainly a method of gaining more control."

Government officials began discussing "rationalizing" Ontario universities during the late 1970's. Those ideas came together in the 1981 Fisher report on the role of universities. The report gave the government two options: increase university funding each year by one or two points more than the inflation rate, or merge institutions and eliminate duplicate programs.

The government has chosen the latter option, according to Stephens. "They say they can't afford to keep all the universities open, but Ontario has dropped from fourth to tenth place among the provinces in per capita funding during the last five years," she said. "Their priority is buying out

Suncor (an oil company now 25 per cent owned by Ontario), not funding universities."

The government plans this amalgamation as a trial run, "intended at least to some extent to see how rationalization of programs could work."

This move will give the government more control over how universities allocate resources by cen-

tralizing decision-making powers in fewer institutions, said Stephens. And she said funding for the new university will almost certainly be lower than for the four current institutions.

Further moves to rationalize the universities are still being studied, so critics can only speculate about who's next. But "it's safe to say they're considering merging the two univer-

sities in Ottawa and the two in Waterloo," said Stephens.

The Ontario College of Art may become part of the University of Toronto fine arts department, said Stephens. Proposals to cut courses or merge institutions that would involve Ryerson Polytech, York University and the University of Toronto are being considered, she added.

U of A supreme librarian

by Cathy McLaughlin

A former librarian to the Supreme Court of Canada succeeds Bruce Peel as the University's new Library Director.

Peter Freeman took office as Chief Librarian in September of this year, after two years in Ottawa at Canada's highest library post.

Mr. Freeman returns to the U of A, where he held positions as professor of law and law librarian from 1975 to 1980. His first appointment with the University was in 1968. "It's like coming home."

But there are problems at home. Rising book prices and increased student demands are straining the dwindling funds of a three year, \$900,000 annual conditional grant from the Heritage Trust Fund. The grant ended in March, 1982.

"We have not reached the book fund level in 81-82 dollar equivalents."

Fifty-six per cent of spending on new materials this year went to periodicals, a reflection of climbing costs, not increased acquisitions. As many of these are scientific publications, humanities spending may suffer. Money is needed to restore the balance.

"The library needs 1.5 million additional dollars just to stay where it is." This means delving into the University's operating budget to meet inflation and a rising international exchange rate. Many books are bought outside Canada.

Mr. Freeman stressed the library's role as a "service organization," with responsibilities to its



photo by Martin Beales

New Chief Librarian inherits a tough position as lack of funding and increased use put a strain on the U of A library.

users. A new automation project will allow public terminal access to catalogue information. The library is looking at remedial assistance and library instruction for mature students, as these students tend to be more demanding "in a positive way." A committee of consultants is study-

ing shelf and study space problems. "We're noticing an increased use of the library this year." More students are asking more questions at the reference desk; loans are up. This could reflect the swelled enrollment, or, says Mr. Freeman, "a new interest in the library on the students part."

Mushroom fight

VICTORIA (CUP)—The kind of mushrooms you don't put on your steak are the centre of a kerfuffle at the University of Victoria involving a Mountie, long-haired hippies, abusive language and the freedom to fry your brains on any substance as long as it's natural.

The affair began Oct. 23 when senior do Dale Brasnet was informed that four U Vic students had psychedelic mushrooms in their room in residence. "Magic mushrooms," which produce a mild euphoric high, grow wild around Victoria. They are considered "natural hallucinogens" and are therefore legal.

That's what the courts say, but that's not what the local Saanich police told the dons at A Vic. Dons are students elected by residence council to enforce rules in residence. Brasnet and several other dons, under the impression that magic mushrooms are illegal, had two of the students, Gerald Fahey and Lee Anholt, removed from a dance floor for questioning.

Unfortunately, as Anholt admitted, the two had been doing a lot of drinking, dope-smoking and mushroom-eating, and they did not react well to the questions. In fact, they got abusive.

"The dons got us when we were a little loaded," admitted Anholt. "They all but told us we were kicked out of residence for something we thought was legal. Of course we (verbally) abused them."

Both students were placed on probation for verbally abusing a don,

and Fahey was also fingered for consuming alcohol in public.

Brasnet then went up to the students' rooms with another don, Al Black. He asked roommate Kiffa Roberts to turn over the mushrooms.

Roberts claims Brasnet told him he "would be thrown out of the room if I destroyed the mushrooms or wouldn't let the dons see them."

Brasnet claims he told Roberts he could destroy or hide the mushrooms if he wished, but if so Brasnet would not give him a letter of recommendation when he took the affair to the standards committee.

In both versions, Roberts then turned over the 'shrooms.

Later that morning, an RCMP friend of Brasnet's told him magic mushrooms are indeed legal, but advised him not to return them to Roberts.

The Mountie then complied with Brasnet's request to destroy the mushrooms, a request that Brasnet has no explanation for.

Brasnet refused to apologize to taking the mushrooms because he said he acted properly given the police information. The other dons involved did apologize, as did Anholt and Fahey for their abusive language.

But the meeting soon struck a sour note.

"I think all dons are assholes," said one student.

Retorted Brasnet: "I think you're a long-haired hippy, and I don't want you or your dope-smoking friends around us."

BAZ

by SKEET and Nielsen



Christmas carrels may come early

Students may soon see more carrel space available for general use if the Academic Affairs Board (AAB) is successful.

The AAB is drawing up a proposal which will change the library's policy of allocating carrels.

At present all fourth year students and graduate students are eligible for an assigned carrel.

The AAB hopes to change this policy so that only students conducting research will be granted reserved carrel space.

The students will have to provide notification from their faculty to prove they are conducting research and require constant access to the libraries.

In addition the AAB will be advising the university to purchase more carrels.

"This would provide more carrels for general use, which I think is a really good thing...it's fair," said SU VP academic Wes Sawatsky.

In addition the AAB will be advising the university to purchase more carrels.

The proposals will have to be taken to the University Board of Governors for final approval. The

provincial government will also be approached for funds to buy the additional carrels.

Perry pleased as punch

Adam Wessel

New students and staff, Campus Security offers a lost and found service.

Lost and found items from campus can be reported to the Campus Security Office, just north of the Education Building, by the bus stop area.

Security staff there check reports of lost and found items and attempts to match them.

Found items will be held four months. If the item is not claimed within this time, and the finder does not wish to reclaim, Security turns over to charitable organizations such as CUSO and The Salvation Army.

Gordon Perry, Campus Security

Director, warns, however, "considerable difficulty is encountered trying to trace ownership of found property, mainly due to the lack of any identification marks." Available free at Security are gummed i.d. tags for glass cases, calculators, books, etc.

Security also engraves identification on skis, bikes, and the like.

Perry recommends this service highly. He says, "During the average University term, literally scores of items are disposed of owing to lack of identifying information." Perry calls on students to mark their equipment and end any confusion.

Campus Security is open 24 hours a day.

Attempted Sumor

Abner Malle



Three students were discovered alive after being lost in the Biological Sciences building for almost five weeks. To survive, they were forced to eat a fourth student who succumbed to starvation early in their entrapment. The deceased was Hoozon Furst, a foreign student from China.

The students had lost their way while looking for a lab they were due to attend.

After a campus-wide search proved unsuccessful in finding the four students, all efforts were dropped.

35 days after their untimely disappearance, a cleaning woman happened to stumble on the three survivors while they were reviewing the last few chapters of a physics book they had with them.

The three boys were suffering from dehydration but were otherwise in good health, thanks to the meat of the student who died.

A police official was quoted as saying, "They did the only thing they could to stay alive."

One of the survivors looked back on his cannibalism by saying, "We had to do it. We are alive today because of it."

Asked how the substance fared as nourishment, he replied, "It kept us going, of course, but after eating we would be hungry again in no time."

The three survivors can be heard in the Home Economic faculty this week, giving lectures on *Eating Without Cooking*.