

Coalition fights Aconi

U. of Alberta adopts new enrolment program

EDMONTON (CUP) — The University of Alberta has adopted a new policy to increase aboriginal student participation and increase the level of awareness of native culture on campus.

Natives make up about five per cent of Alberta's population, but there are only 129 native students out of the U of A's 30,000 students, said Dexter Young, past president of the Aboriginal Students council. That's less than one half of one per cent.

"We have seen no parity there, so our overall goal in the policy will be to reach that parity by the turn of the century. We're expecting a ten-fold increase in the number of native students," Young said.

The new policy — which becomes part of the university's constitution — will expand and improve a year-long program offered to natives who want to enter the university. It also calls for a native student centre that would provide tutoring, counselling and a community outreach program.

Reinhild Boehm, director of native student services, said increasing native student enrolment is important, especially since the U of A increased its entrance requirements.

The stricter guidelines will make it more difficult for anybody to get into university, Boehm said, but it will make it especially hard for natives.

Frat/Sorority group accused of discrimination

WINDSOR (CUP) — The University of Windsor student council has revoked the club status of a group representing fraternities and sororities on campus after allegations that the clubs are elitist, discriminatory and sexist.

Cinda Serianni, a council representative, argued at an Oct. 31 council meeting that ratification of the Greek Letter Society (GLS) should be blocked because fraternities and sororities are not open to all students.

She said that, by their very nature, frats and sororities are sexist — and since students have to gain approval before joining these groups, the clubs are also elitist and discriminatory.

"They have a private club image, there's no way they can disqualify that fact," she said after the meeting.

"It's nice to know that perhaps our moral conscience won out," Serianni said. "I think people really reflected upon what they were voting (for)."

Members of the GLS said they were shocked by the council decision which bars the society from receiving council funding. The GLS will also not be allowed to book university space for meetings or use the campus pub for official events.

Tal Czudner, secretary of the GLS, said he was surprised by the council's decision.

"I thought it was a little unusual," he said. "It's funny because some of the same points they brought up about us can be easily said (of) several of the other groups."

Pasta pestilence strikes: Mulroneys macaronied

TORONTO (CUP) — Emotions flew and so did the macaroni when Brian and Mila Mulroneys visited York University on Nov. 5.

About 150 students jeered the Mulroneys and pelted them with cooked macaroni and paper balls in a protest against taxes on reading materials and student loans, cutbacks in federal transfer payments and Canada's military involvement in the Gulf.

The instigator of the pasta throwing protest, first-year York student Cheryl Hockey, said it was organized "to show solidarity" with University of Ottawa students who showered MPs with Macaroni during Question Period on Oct. 17, National Student Day.

"I was hoping the media would link the protest to what happened in Ottawa," she said.

Mulroneys were at York to speak to about 100 business students about the economy in a closed-door session.

Some protestors demanding to be let in were knocked to the ground by police.

"It was a violent and unwarranted, physically abusive act," said Nikki Gershain, who was picked up and thrown to the ground during the incident.

by Paul Webster

A coalition of Nova Scotia environmentalists announced last Thursday they are challenging the \$500 million Point Aconi power project in Federal Court.

The coalition includes the Ecology Action Center (EAC), Greenpeace, and three Cape Breton residents.

They are challenging the Nova Scotia Power Corporation for inadequate consideration of the project's impact on Cape Breton groundwater resources, inadequate consideration of public concerns surrounding the project, and inadequate concern for the project's carbon dioxide output.

Speaking about the decision to go to court, Lois Corbett, director of the EAC explained, "We're hoping to pick up on the successes at the national level of various groups out west. The Canadian Wildlife Federation's actions against the Rafferty-Almeda Dam in Saskatchewan, and the success of the Friends of the Oldman River in Alberta set important precedents."

Corbett added "Eastern groups like us are joining the legal fray to show that the Federal Government has a responsibility."

Throughout the history of the fight against the Point Aconi Project Corbett has stressed groups like the EAC and Greenpeace are doing the work which, according to Federal Environmental Assess-

ment legislation, should be done by the Federal Government.

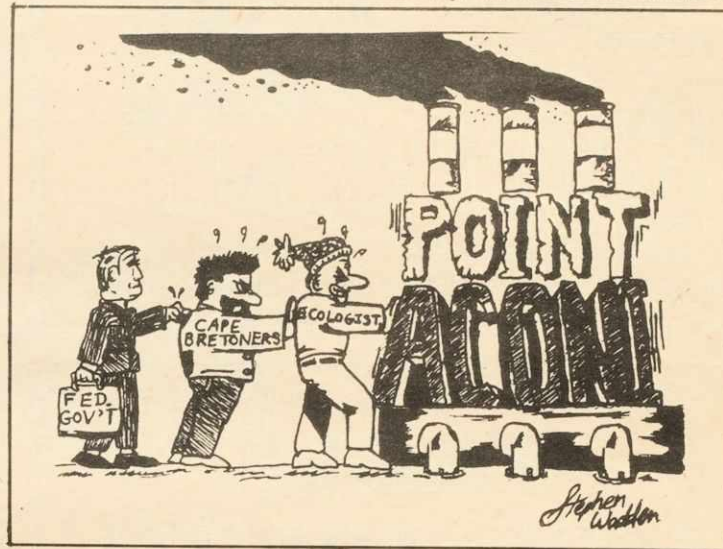
Corbett said, "we pay them a lot of money to look after the environment and protect the public interest."

Discussing the project at a Campus Environmental Action Group meeting last Tuesday Corbett noted the plant is being promoted as environmentally

friendly, due to its use of circulating fluidized bed technology which reduces sulphur dioxide emissions by 70%, and nitrous oxide emissions by 90%. But similar technology used at a Chatham N.B. plant was not as friendly as the engineers had predicted. And the need for the plant has been widely questioned.

Corbett said "We could postpone this project ten years if the province would just get a move on reducing power consumption. We could conserve 150 megawatts, or 50% of energy now used, the amount which will be produced by Point Aconi"

Corbett makes it clear that there are real alternatives to schemes like Point Aconi. "It's part of a very outdated 1950's development theory. Investment in efficiency



and conservation makes more sense. Apart from anything else, it's more fun!"

Opposition to the plant appears to be growing as the once quiet residents of Cape Breton are becoming more vocal. Originally, local people supported the project but according to Corbett "This has radically changed. There is now almost total opposition to the project in Cape Breton".

Socialists meet in Halifax

by Paul Webster

"I often talk of Nova Scotia as being the most regressive province politically and the furthest progressed in terms of racism" said Carol Ann Wright.

Wright is a Nova Scotian who ran for Mayor of Toronto in 1988 and for the Ontario New Democratic Party (NDP) in the recent Ontario election.

Speaking at the "Future of Socialism" conference organized by Halifax socialists over the weekend, Wright presented a novel approach to participation in Canadian politics, based not on careerism, connections, opportunism, ambition and a law degree, but rather on genuine communitarian concern for the underprivileged residents of Toronto's Riverdale neighborhood.

Wright shared the Forum platform Saturday night with Bafo Nyanga of the South African Congress of Trade Unions, and Marianne Roy of The Parti Communiste du Quebec.

Roy's discussion of Quebec politics focussed on the emergence of a Quebec left-wing coalition in the past five years, defined in opposition to the Liberal and Parti Quebecois mainstream establishments.

She pointed out the Quebec NDP has divorced itself from the national party and endorsed the legitimacy of a "socialist, independent Quebec".

Discussing the Oka crisis as an example of the "bankruptcy" of the mainstream parties Roy pointed out something also emphasized last fall by the Halifax Committee in Solidarity with Native People.

"The media never indicated that there was important support for natives in Quebec. They simply did not want to show that there is mass support for the First Nations. The Trade Unions in Quebec have support for the First Nations at the top of their agenda."

Nyanga's presentation of the circumstances socialists live with in South Africa emphasized the need to abolish apartheid, to put an end to authoritarian politics in South Africa and to alleviate the social disaster posed by South Africa's six million homeless and seven million unemployed.

Nyanga noted "in Canada being a Communist is a stigma; in South Africa its, a compliment."

Nyanga's speech included large doses of Leninism, of revolutionary rhetoric and hints at the historical inevitability of a socialist South Africa.

"Our freedom" he said "is no

longer a remote dream, it is an unfolding reality. The workers have done a lot to repeal anti-labour legislation. The Government has been forced to extend rights granted to industrial workers to agricultural and domestic workers. We have to continue to fight on these sorts of issues."

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DSA update

by Alex Burton

At the time of press, no new developments had been reported in the negotiations between the Dalhousie Staff Association (DSA) and the Dalhousie Administration.

The two sides were to meet Tuesday and Wednesday with provincially appointed conciliator Dannie Hood.

The DSA, which represents approximately 750 clerical, technical and library staff at Dalhousie, held a strike vote a week ago, the results of which were not made public.

If an agreement is not reached Dalhousie students could find themselves adversely affected