# Some codtroversy

ST. JOHN'S (CUP)-Thanks to the efforts of a newlyformed local organization, untold millions of codfish may soon have their lives made a little easier. Codpeace, the organization dedicated to saving the defenceless cod from the gnashing, marauding jaws of the harp seal, was introduced to the St. John's Rotary Club at a recent luncheon by businessman and former city councillor Miller Ayre. Ayre is now the official cod-ordinator of the group.

Disgusted with the humanlike mannerisms attributed to harp seals by such lobbyist groups as Greenpeace and the International Fund for Animal Welfare, Codpeace plans to take the same line in its fight

for the rights of the cod. It aims to publicly expose the previously ignored plight of the cod, which faces violent death daily at the flippers of the savage harp seal.

Being relatively defenceless creatures, cod can only attempt to flee for their lives when threatened by seals. Ayre's codservationist group now plans a massive campaign, revealing to the world the terrible deeds of the harp

Society has been callous with cod, said Ayre. When referring to species, one would say so many head of cattle, or mention the loss of human life. Cod, on the other hand, are tactlessly listed by

the pound. It's this kind of mistreatment that Codpeace hopes to squelch.

It is unsure whether or not the ten pounds of cod said to be eaten by a seal every day comes from two five-pound cod, or from random bites out of hundreds of cod. If that is the case, one can visualize the countless numbers of mangled cod, left to a slow death floating in frigid waters after having been chomped on by ravenous, depraved seals.

Education has also been denied to the cod, which has now gained a reputation for stupidity. This is because harp seal attacks have frightened them out of their schools.

argue for saving the cod from the harp seal's guerilla tactics. Schools of cod, butchered by renegade seal herds, would leave messy layers of cod-liver oil washing up on beaches along the coast, said Ayre.

Of course, science must play a role in proving the rights and roles of the helpless cod. Research by Codpeace has revealed that the embryonic cry of the cod, when magnified 1200 times, resembles the cry of a human infant. Further studies have found that cod always have

peace.

Environmental factors also

tears in their eyes.

Small wonder, notes Cod-

## **CUP** Briefs

## Waterloo takes pinball money

WATERLOO (Imprint-CUP)-The financial squeeze at the University of Waterloo is so tight the university is including revenue from pinball machines in its budget next year.

Previously, the money from the games room in the campus centre had gone towards student scholarships. But, with a provincial grant increase that didn't meet inflation the university told the campus centre it had to reduce staff salaries by \$5,000 next year. Instead of cutting staff, the centre added a new line item to its budget—the games room revenue, estimated at \$5,000

The scholarship money will not be the only victim of tight budgets next year at the University of Waterloo. Student services, including the Arts Centre, counselling services, and health services have all had

According to budget estimates, 16.2 full-time equivalent faculty positions, 52 teaching assistants, and 52 staff positions will be dropped next year. All the faculty cuts will be on term appointments; no tenured faculty will be touched.

### Govt. saves student journalists

TORONTO (CUP)-The Ontario government has backed down from prosecuting two student journalists for exposing poor controls on government-issued liquor identification cards.

Ontario Consumer and Commercial Relations Minister Frank Drea told Janice Bell and Cathy Perry last month he would not give consent to prosecute the two for violating the Ontario Liquor License Act.

Bell and Perry were charged earlier that month after they had printed a story in the Oblique Times at Seneca College on how Perry had obtained an age of majority card in December using Bell's ID.

### **Education savings plan** proposed

OTTAWA (CUP)-The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) has recommended that the federal government allow Canadians to save for a post-secondary education through a tax-free educational savings plan.

The CAUT plan would allow a parent or student to bank up to \$2,000 per year to a maximum of \$20,000. In a brief submitted March 1 to the federal commission on educational leave and productivity, the association said its proposal would be similar in operation to the registered home owners savings plan (RHOSP).

## Council firing

Student Council fired housing secretary Janice Ferguson at its February 25 meeting, charging that she hadn't attended the meeting to explain why she didn't write a report of her activities in January

Ferguson told the Gazette that she was ill at home until the evening of the February 25 council meeting. Student Council president Michael Power didn't try to contact her at home or at her Halifax apartment.

Power said that a letter was placed in Ferguson's mailbox

in the student council offices on February 12 asking her to attend the February 25 meeting. "We asked her to appear, and she didn't. If there are extenuating circumstances, the decision will be reconsidered," Power said.

Ferguson served as interim housing secretary last year, after former housing secretary Sheilagh Beal was fired. Ferguson says she'd like to be housing secretary again, but she doesn't "want to go through a lot" to regain her

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