

## CROSSCANADA

## N.B. hikes tuition fee \$400

HALIFAX (CUP) — The New Brunswick provincial government is the latest to stick it to colleges and universities by cutting their funding.

The minister responsible for post-secondary education announced in late December that the government could not afford the recommended four per cent increase in operating grants.

Instead, payments will be frozen for the next fiscal year.

This measure was taken when the federal government said late last year it would decrease transfer payments to the province by \$100 million.

"This means trouble," said James O'Sullivan, University of New Brunswick's vice president.

"We'll probably have to increase class size, decrease student services, and raise tuition even higher than expected."

The presidents of Mount Allison University, Saint Thomas University, the University of New Brunswick and the University of Moncton announced average tuition fee hikes of around \$400 — \$300 more than expected.

## Eyeopening response to censorship

TORONTO (CUP) — Ryerson Polytechnical Institute's student newspaper is crying censorship and has given a front-page "Fuck You" to a proposed code of conduct for campus media.

A large, red "Fuck You" headline led off *The Eyeopener's* Dec. 4 editorial, which claims a recent report from Ryerson's Harassment Prevention Services advocates censoring the press.

The report, which evaluates the caseload of the year-old harassment office, notes that several community members want protection against shoddy or hateful journalism.

It cites the 1989 example of a story published by *The Ryersonian* — another campus paper — that quoted anti-gay sentiment in a story on Gay Pride Day. A student filed a complaint against the paper, claiming the story was unbalanced.

"Some have suggested the establishment of a media-watch tribunal," the report states. It then recommends a review of "the issue of ethical constraints on reporting and the establishment of a code of conduct for internal media and a system of appropriate address."

## U of T sticks it to Phi Kappa

TORONTO (CUP) — A University of Toronto fraternity may be cutoff from university services because of allegations of discrimination by a lesbian and gay activist group.

Last January, a member of the fraternity told Piet Defraeye, a representative from the Committee on Homophobia, that any member of the frat who came out as a gay man would "be kicked out of the residence the next minute." The frat member said it was Phi Kappa Sigma's policy.

Defraeye said the incident occurred when he was distributing committee pamphlets at a display by the fraternity, even though he had been given permission to do so. A frat member demanded that he remove the pamphlets immediately, Defraeye said.

But Ming Zee, Phi Kappa Sigma president, denies the existence of a policy which excludes gay men from participating in the organization.

The fraternity charter states the organization is "open to bona fide male students of an institution" and prohibits the discrimination of members "on the basis of his race, creed, colour or national origin," but fails to mention sexual orientation.

## Postcard commemorates volunteers

VANCOUVER (CUP) — While federal bigwigs prepare for the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro later this spring, a small group of Canadians are working to ensure the roots of the conference are not forgotten.

Project Green Light to Rio '92 will be visiting Canadian universities for the next seven weeks to collect signatures on a giant postcard for the host city and the volunteers who made the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development possible.

The conference is expected to produce a series of decisions to govern the environment and world wide development. These will include an 'Earth Charter' that will outline principles to govern economic and environmental development.

The post card is an eight foot mural by Patrice Boyer which depicts a child floating in space, attached to the Earth by an umbilical cord.

## NEWS

## Opening Pandora's box

BY STEPHANIE NOLEN

The Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission is holding hearings this week into an allegation of sexual discrimination against a feminist newspaper in Halifax.

Glen Keyes, a researcher and former assistant political science professor at the University of Brandon, made the charge against *Pandora*, after volunteers who publish the periodical refused to print a letter from him.

He was angered by an article in the March issue of *Pandora* that said men should never be given custody of their children in divorce cases.

Keyes, who is divorced and does not have custody of his children, contacted *Pandora* and asked the newspaper to publish a rebuttal he wished to write.

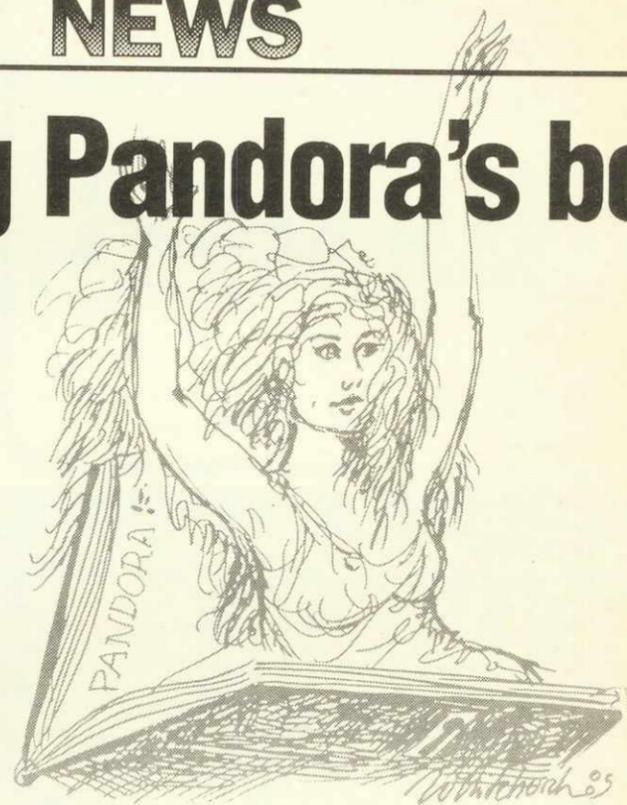
In accordance with *Pandora's* women-only editorial policy, the newspaper refused. Keyes then rejected *Pandora's* offer to have a female reporter write about his concerns, and filed a complaint with the Human Rights Commission in June, 1990.

*Pandora* is written and produced exclusively by women. The members of the publishing collective say women are a disadvantaged group and as such need an alternative media source that can address their specific interests.

Keyes told the commission *Pandora* had violated two sections of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act, by denying him a public service because of his sex and by discriminating against him in a publication. He also charged that *Pandora* publishes hate literature about men.

*Pandora* lawyer Ann Derrick, who has also represented Donald Marshall Jr., and Henry Morgentaler in Nova Scotia, told the inquiry that *Pandora's* policy is justified under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms because the publication is attempting to improve the position of a disadvantaged group, and as such is not discriminatory.

On Monday, Keyes, and the lawyer representing the commission,



Randall Duplak, told the inquiry non-custodial fathers are a disadvantaged group. Duplak called *Pandora's* statement that all men are advantaged a "broad-brushed, stereotyped generalization," claiming that some men are disadvantaged and that Keyes was entitled to use the newspaper to present his case.

"I suffered the disadvantage of not being able to participate in the socio-political debate," Keyes told the inquiry.

But hearing chair David Miller rejected their submissions, saying the issue was not the concerns of non-custodial fathers, but *Pandora's* editorial policy.

Rev. Darryl Gray, a Halifax racial equality activist, testified as a commission witness Monday. Gray, the editor of Nova Scotia's only black newspaper, *The Monitor*, told the inquiry his newspaper would accept submissions from white writers, and that decisions about publication were made solely on content.

But Gray also pointed out that because *The Monitor* receives money from government advertisers, it is obliged to accept submissions from everyone. He also said his policy was for *The Monitor* alone, and that he could not judge the editorial policy of any other publication.

A coalition of women's groups supporting *Pandora* has released a statement condemning the human

rights commission for even holding an inquiry into the charge against *Pandora*. It said the commission is "in the ironic position of representing the interests of a white, highly educated and privileged male, and prosecuting a small volunteer women's newspaper which exists as a way to advantage the disadvantaged situation of women."

Coalition member Lara Morris, of the Dal Women's Group, said the commission has shown it does not understand the nature of discrimination.

"In my understanding of discrimination, there is someone in a position of power who discriminates against someone who is in a position of disadvantage," Morris said. "In this case, we're talking about a women's volunteer collective not printing a letter from a man."

"The man is in a position of power, so it can't be discrimination."

The hearings continue all week. *Pandora* has called several witnesses to testify about *Pandora's* role as a "safe, woman-positive space," including Debbie Forsythe-Smith, of the provincial Status of Women office, and peace activist Muriel Duckworth.

A judgement is not expected for several months. Should *Pandora* be found guilty of discrimination, collective members say they could be forced to change their editorial policy.

## Sodales club heats up Ireland

BY DALEY ROBERTSON

Despite jet-lag, colds, and the effects of a week of complimentary Guinness, Dalhousie debating team performed well at the 1992 World University Debating Championships in Dublin, Ireland.

This marks the second straight year Sodales has done well in World Championships.

The Dublin showing was another in a string of successes by the team of Stephen Pitel and Laura Stewart, who are former national champions and captured the Atlantic Champ-

ionship last October in Fredericton.

During one debate, Stewart was inadvertently referred to as "sir" by the Scottish debaters, prompting her to start referring to them as "ma'am" and blaming her apparent error on

## Much to the delight of the crowd

their kilts, much to the delight of the crowd.

Before losing to Sydney University, Dalhousie reached the semi-

final round, which was held at the famous Guinness plant in downtown Dublin.

"I knew we were fighting an uphill battle," said Pitel, "when they asked us to debate Australians in a brewery."

The Dalhousie performance was the best showing for Canada at a European World Championship since the first such event in 1981.

Sodales now sets its sights on the 1992 North American Championships to be held at McGill in February, and the 1992 Nationals at the University of Western Ontario in March.