

Check it out

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Recycled notebook paper is available — but what you see might not necessarily be what you get.

According to Laurie Tombom, a University of British Columbia graduate student working to expand the use of recycled paper on campus, some kinds are better for the environment than others, and not all brands indicate their contents.

Tombom wants manufacturers to recycle more "post-consumer" waste — paper that has gone through a full use cycle and has been printed on for example.

Instead, manufacturers have traditionally concentrated on recycling "pre-consumer" waste — mill ends, cuttings from envelope conversion, deleted stock and so on.

"Both are beneficial (to the environment) but post-consumer waste is especially important in reducing the need for landfills and incinerators and for encouraging recycling programs," she said.

The process for producing recycled paper is less toxic than producing virgin paper. According to Environment Canada statistics, it takes 43 per cent less energy to produce a tonne of recycled paper.

As well, because less pulping is required, manufacturing recycled paper uses up to 7,000 gallons less of water per tonne, 75 per cent less air pollution, and 35 per cent less water pollution.

Efforts to find paper recycled from post-consumer waste can be troublesome, however. The labels on some brands do not include the percentages of each kind of waste, and some include a fair amount of virgin paper.

Moreover, in an effort to make the paper white, manufacturers will often bleach it with chlorine, producing dioxins and other toxic substances in the process.

Same-sex victory

MONTREAL (CUP) — After close to three years of waiting and waffling, Concordia University has decided that lesbian and gay employees have the right to insure their partners.

The motion was passed Nov. 21 at a Board of Governors meeting, extending the same benefits that are enjoyed by opposite sex partners to same-sex partners.

To do so, the term "opposite sex" had to be dropped from the meaning of the term "spouse."

But it might take a while before the new policy is implemented.

Hal Proppe, the associate vice-rector of institutional relations and finance, said Concordia's health insurance carrier — Metropolitan Life — is "nervous" about extending these benefits.

"I still expect some resistance. They [Metropolitan Life] said absolutely no," said Proppe, adding that Concordia may have to find another carrier if the current one refuses.

Concordia's life insurance carrier — Sunlife of Canada — was also initially reluctant to such a policy change, Proppe added.

But Sunlife's account executive responsible for the Concordia dossier said his employer never opposed same-sex benefits.

"As soon as a request comes in [from Concordia] it can be implemented," Michel LeBourdais said.

Concordia's employment benefits committee rejected that same request in September 1989, citing the uncertainties and risks involved in providing insurance coverage where no precedent exists.

In fact, four universities — Dalhousie and Acadia in Nova Scotia, York and the University of British Columbia — have already introduced same-sex benefits.

Slash and cap

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) — Post-secondary education is expected to be one of the victims when Newfoundland's Liberal government slashes its budget in the wake of an unexpected \$120 million deficit.

Memorial University student union president Wade Brake said he expects at least a 10 per cent hike in tuition fees next year.

Less money could also mean the elimination of some services and a possible cap on enrollment. In an interview with St. John's Sunday Express, Memorial president Arthur May declared that nothing was safe except his job and the library.

Brake said the student union would rally students and "show the government our disgust" if the changes occur.

"If these changes are implemented, Newfoundland and its youth will only stagnate and die," he added.

Brake pointed to the vital importance of universities in a province that has "the highest unemployment rate, the highest illiteracy rate, and the lowest post-secondary education rate in Canada."

"The rumoured cap on enrollment would only lead to MUN (Memorial) being an elitist institution. Barriers to education created by the lack of funding would be backward steps for this province," he said.

Dal, SMU talk rationalization

Programs to merge?

by Mary Jane Hamilton

"Discussion of possible co-operative measures in business education between Dalhousie and Saint Mary's University have, to date, been quite unproductive, but they will continue," stated Howard Clark, President of Dalhousie University, in a January 18 news release.

Leonard MacLean, Director of Business Administration at Dalhousie said, "The Council of University Presidents are meeting and discussing the role and capacity, and rationalization of universities [but] these discussions are in preliminary stages."

The government is looking into programs which are being duplicated by other universities. The idea is to reduce costs by amalgamating programs offered at two universities into one source.

Rumours have upset professors and students of the business school. John Young, Acting Vice-President at Saint Mary's University, says, "the numerous public utterances made to this date on this matter [merger of the programs] have shed more heat than light on an embryonic negotiation process."

Although Joel Matheson made some public statements which implied that Dalhousie's Business School may move to Saint Mary's University, Maclean says the Business School has "every intention of continuing efforts to improve [Dalhousie's] existing programs and projects."

Geology is another department the government is looking at. Patrick Ryall, chairperson of Geology, said there are four university departments of Geology in the province (Dalhousie, Saint Mary's, Saint Francis Xavier, and Acadia Universities).

Ryall does not think Dalhousie Geology students should be concerned as "Dalhousie is the only [university] which offers a spectrum from first year to PhD."

Other departments under scrutiny are Education, Physical Education, and Engineering, which are already rationalized to a certain extent.

Keith Sullivan, director of Education, says since the early 80's, the different universities have offered different programs so some programs are not duplicated. But there is always room for more rationalization.

According to a report released by the Physical Education Committee of the Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents, physical education programs will not be affected by the rationalization process. The report said this is because of the different focus of each of the programs and thus there is no duplication.

According to J.C. MacKinnon, Director of Engineering, engineering students can take their first two years at Acadia, Dalhousie, Saint Mary's, Agricultural College or Saint Francis Xavier Universities and then go to the Technical University of Nova Scotia (TUNS).

This is a result of a common core curriculum which was established in 1907. Mackinnon said there is always room for improvement and the associated universities has met and held discussions.

The library system which includes Dalhousie, Saint Mary's, TUNS, Mount Saint Vincent, and the College of Art and Design, is already rationalized, said Dr. William Birdsall, a Dalhousie University Librarian.

Through discussions, the universities have reciprocal borrowing privileges and have jointly purchased an automated library system (NOVANET), an on-line catalogue to replace the card cata-

logue. They are starting to rationalize collections and journals in certain areas. The ordering and cataloguing of books is done together.

Computer Science is also being looked at by the presidents. One idea is to amalgamate the Dalhousie and TUNS' programs.

The Mathematics departments in the Metro area have met informally to see if there is some way to cooperate on buying materials, but are in early stages of discussion.

Other departments do not feel rationalization of programs at universities across the province will affect them directly. Some departments say they welcome and support rationalization, but some do not agree.

Michael Bishop, chairperson of French at Dalhousie, said he feels it would be "extremely bad for students [as they] would have to shift from one university to another to take a particular course."

China refuses dissident visit

by Huang Chen Chung

VANCOUVER (CUP) — After failing to reach the trials of Tiananmen Square dissidents in Beijing, a dejected Mao JiYe returned to the University of British Columbia Jan. 21 to start classes.

"According to Chinese law, the trials must be open. I am a Chinese citizen — I have a right to observe the trials," said Mao in an interview late Monday.

His plane arrived in Beijing on the afternoon of Jan. 12. However, an hour later he left on the same plane.

The UBC Commerce graduate student said police intercepted him before he reached customs at Beijing airport and used his parents as pawns to prevent him from proceeding on his journey.

"They knew I would not argue against them with my parents there," said Mao, who is also secretary-general of the Federation of Chinese Students and Scholars in Canada. "I was concerned about their safety."

Mao said he was supposed to meet a group of journalists awaiting him at the airport, but instead was confronted by at least 12 police officers.

Mao did not inform his parents of the trip, but said Chinese officials knew of his arrival through the Chinese consulate in Vancouver.

"My parents' presence surprised me. They said 'tell us what your real purpose is here, tell us the truth.'"

"They told me, 'Go back to Canada and don't join any organization — it does not help your studies,'" Mao said.

Officials in Beijing were aware of his vocal criticism of their government.

"They (government officials) knew I was in a determined mood because there are certain risks in going back to Beijing. I might not return to Canada again," he said.

After the brief encounter with his parents, police escorted Mao onto a plane which flew him to Japan.

But Mao said the attitudes of Beijing police have changed dramatically since the massacre.

"They could've thrown me in jail after declaring I had 'anti-government' purposes and they did not harass my family. My parents are government employees," he said.

His father, an engineer, went to Japan as planned for a business trip after Mao left Beijing.

In Vancouver, UBC students from the 400-member Great Wall Club, a chapter of the FCSSC, will continue demonstrating in front of the Chinese Consulate every Sunday at 2 p.m., Mao said.

"Many of the students feel exiled in a foreign country," he said, adding that he has no relatives in North America. His encounter with his parents was his first in three years.

The Great Wall Club, which helped sponsor his trip, is one of 25 university chapters of the 8,000-member FCSSC.