

Carleton cutting back

OTTAWA (CUP) - Provincial cutbacks to post-secondary education may force an end to Carleton University's open-door admissions policy, and to its "Last Chance U" reputation.

University president Robin Farquhar says the university's admission policy will have to change because of government cutbacks and guidelines set out last year detailing how many students will be subsidized.

"Last spring, the government told us, 'Here is the number of students you can have that we will pay for,'" Farquhar said.

He added Carleton has already reached this limit and a decision regarding the admission policy will have to be made this year.

Farquhar said any revisions to Carleton's admissions policy could not come until the new NDP government has spoken on the issue of post-secondary funding.

If Carleton's current admission policy continues, the quality of education would eventually suffer, said Farquhar.

"How thinly are we prepared to stretch ourselves in order to maintain these B.A. and B.Sc. programs?" he said. "The right answer will depend on how the university community feels about it."

Carleton's student council plans to oppose any move to tighten the university's admission requirements.

"This is the hardest decision this university has ever made," said Heather Fraser. "It's a matter of our whole philosophy, it's an issue of access to education."

UBC conscience class

VANCOUVER (CUP) - Some engineering students will be getting lessons on current social issues in their classrooms this fall.

At the University of British Columbia - where an engineering newsletter was condemned last March for its racist, sexist and homophobic content - a mandatory course for first-year engineering students will be forcing students to talk about issues.

The offensive newsletter was a factor in the course's speedy inception into the core curriculum, said Axel Meisen, UBC's dean of applied science.

The weekly newsletter featured an "Indian Application for Employment" which asked applicants to choose which statement reflects their "approximate estimate of income."

Choices include: "welfare", "theft", "unemployment", and "beer bottles". Under "abilities" the choices allowed were "demonstration leader", "pimp", "evangelist", "rapist", "chief beer drinker", "sleeping in bar".

"The publication of the (newsletter) last March made it clear that these issues had to be addressed in a more structured way," Meisen said.

The engineering student council, which published the newsletter, agreed the course is necessary, but council president Darren Sanders said they have had not feedback from their members yet.

"It's a good idea and it is supported by the (council) but we don't know how it's going so far because it just started," said Sanders.

Memorial turns green

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) - Seven months after being told it wasn't "mainstream" enough to be a campus group, the Green Party is finally set to establish itself at Memorial University.

In the past, only mainstream political groups - the New Democratic, Liberal, and Progressive Conservative parties - were given campus club status.

But during the summer, Memorial's student council reversed the policy, finally opening the door to the environmental group.

"All national or provincial registered political parties will now be treated equally," said student council executive Neil Grandy.

Parties must submit a 25-name petition and a constitution before being ratified. If the Green Party is accepted, it will qualify for \$85 in funding and will be eligible for another \$350.

It's good that the council has seen their mistake and corrected it," said Michael Stowe, a Memorial Green Party member. "It shows that changing the council executive each year is a good thing."

Stowe said the party is becoming increasingly involved in Newfoundland politics.

"There is a good chance we will be running candidates in the upcoming municipal elections in St. John's," he said.

Despite policy...

Rushton remains

by Karen Hill

TORONTO (CUP) - The University of Western Ontario has finally adopted a race relations policy that was three years in the works.

But a campus group pushing for the dismissal of controversial professor Philippe Rushton says it isn't much good.

"The policy is fairly useless in fighting academic racism," said Kizito Serumaga, president of the Academic Coalition for Equality (ACE). "It only deals with overt racism," such as racial epithets, he said, rather than systemic racism within the academic community.

At the Sept. 20 senate meeting that passed the policy, about 60 protesting ACE members were ejected for shouting questions from the gallery.

Under the new policy, racial discrimination is defined as "differential treatment of an individual or group that is not based on individual or group performance, but arises only from racial-group membership."

Racial harassment is explained as, "unwelcome attention of a racially oriented nature...verbal or physical...directed at an individual or group who knows, or ought to reasonably know, that this attention is unwanted."

The most contentious part of the policy is a section which states the university opposes doctrines declaring inherent superiority due to race, and statements that race determines human abilities.

Rushton is the proponent of a racial theory which states that Asians are superior to whites, who

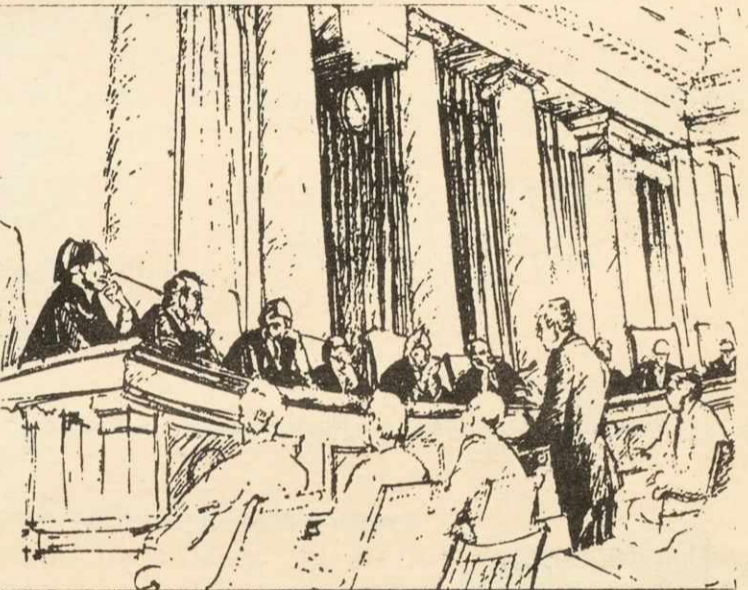
are superior to blacks, in such areas as intelligence and sexual restraint.

Under Western's new policy, a tribunal composed of students, faculty, staff, and presidential appointees will hear formal complaints, and make recommendations to president George Pederson.

Serumaga said the university should remove Rushton because

"I would acknowledge that is one interpretation," he said. "For me to try to say 'yes, that argument will work' will greatly harm the appearance of objectivity and neutrality."

Steve Deighton, student council president, said a "blue-ribbon" commission composed of student representatives has been struck to survey students' attitude toward



his theory clearly contravenes the university's position on racism.

"All the evidence is in. It's time to make a decision. Can we define Rushton's work as racist? Can he be removed under this aspect of the policy?"

But Bill Wilkinson, Western's employment equity officer and a policy author, said a decision would be up to the members of a university tribunal that will hear complaints.

Rushton. It is slated to make recommendations Oct. 29.

The student council has not taken a stand on whether Rushton should be allowed to teach.

"It's a very difficult situation. While the other universities don't have this problem, they're very quick to criticize. We're trying to deal with this in the most sensitive manner possible. You can't really tell what it's like unless you're here."

Budding buddy system

by Jane Hamilton

A great turn out for Dalhousie Students Union (DSU) "buddy" program, in which first year students are matched with returning students, has made the idea a successful reality.

The idea was returning students would be able to show first year students from outside the country, province, or city where essential services could be found as well as to provide support to those unfamiliar with city. The new students would have someone in Halifax they could contact if they wanted or needed anything.

Patti Dow, Vice-President of the DSU, instigated the program because she was concerned about the drop out rate of first year students.

"I was overwhelmed by how many people volunteered for the program" she said. Over two

hundred returning students volunteered to be a "buddy".

Dow said she was given negative input at the beginning of the program from other members in the DSU. They did not believe returning students would give up their time to help the first year students she said.

However, over 165 matches were made in this, the program's first year, and more returning students volunteered to participate than did first year students.

Dow hoped the "buddy" program would relieve tensions, stress and anxiety of the first year students, especially international students.

"They're not adjusting" she said. "University is a whole new ball game. If there was someone there for them, to show them around and help them through it, the drop-out rate might be lower."

Dow organized the program over the summer. She said "a lot of faculties have their own system, but this is an over all program."

There have been two meetings to bring the "buddies" together. Dow hoped the "buddy" and "little buddy" would meet at least once, but she said if a friendship developed that would be even better. "I know of at least 50 people who have met their match" she said.

Dow has had some difficulties with the program. She wanted to send out a questionnaire to get ideas for next year and to find out how well this year went, but she does not have local addresses for many of the participants.

Volunteers for next year's program will be recruited in the spring of 1992, and its success this year suggests it will likely be around for many years.