

Women conclude

Sexism alive and well in U

OTTAWA (CUP) — Sexism is alive and well, and present in post-secondary institutions across the country, agree 50 women representatives from student councils.

This was the consensus at a women's caucus, held at the opening of the founding conference of the Canadian Federation of Students October 14.

Women gathered at Carleton University to discuss what one delegate described as somewhat "of the chicken and the egg syndrome. What comes first, the student or the woman?"

The closed caucus served an educative role and was a personal forum for the women participants. "Having a women's caucus gives me encouragement to face the struggle, meeting people who are going through the same issues I am," said Catherine Glen, of the Carleton University Women's Centre.

"As we develop, we do it alone, there's not a type of networking," said Glen. "We don't have a role model and that type of thing (struggling alone) gets discouraging."

Problems faced by women students across the country were discussed, including the underrepresentation of women on student councils.

Of the fifty women present (more than 75 per cent of the total female delegates) only four were presidents of their councils. Many were external vice-presidents.

Lorraine Mitchell, executive

officer of the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) suggested that women begin "to examine their own level of leadership." This would include determining the political structures of a student administration, where women fit in, who makes the important decisions, and who does the actual work.

In addition, "what we're trying to do in Alberta is educate our own leadership," said Mitchell.

Alberta is not the only place with a problem. "The University of Toronto Students' Administrative Council was created in 1904 by men," stated one woman.

"It hasn't changed," whispered a U of T delegate.

Esther Tailfeathers, of the Alberta Native Students Association, described the Indian society in which she lived as based on remnants of the old culture. She said those who have power, the middle-aged population, were reared in a sexist society. "This is where women have a certain role and men have a dominant role."

"I just hate it because I'm not taken seriously. I think the worst thing is the attitude," said Tailfeathers.

Delegates expressed their frustration in dealing with means of combatting sexism. "You can't legislate attitudes," said Paula Synnowich, of the McGill Women's Union.

The participants agreed a process of education was a

primary goal.

Citing heterosexism as a problem of lesbians and gays. Kerry Burke, an Ontario Federation of Students fieldworker, said one of the tools culture uses against women forming in groups is the whole phenomenon of rape and violence against women. Another tool is abuse hurled at women for participating in

women's affairs, for example, men assuming that they are all "dykes".

Not only were men's attitudes criticized, but also those of some women. "Sometimes our straight sisters turn against us because they are afraid to be labelled dykes," said Burke.

"Women who gather in groups really scare society which

benefits a certain part of the male population," said one delegate.

Janet Mrenica, external vice-president of the Concordia students' association, said the caucus "provided one of the best forums for personal scenario. It was a reflection of what most women face in the university, college and CEGEP set-up."

We are not amused



Photo Ray Giguere

But Premier Lougheed was smiling last week when he officially opened the Ag-For center on campus. We

wonder if he thinks he can buy off the university with one major capital expenditure every four years or so.

by Greg Harris

One of the greatest opportunities for the diversification of the Alberta economy "stems from our people resource."

So said Premier Peter Lougheed at a special convocation commemorating the official opening of the new Agriculture-Forestry Centre, last Friday.

"We're striving to make this province of Alberta a brain centre for Canada," he said.

The Premier noted that the fields of forestry and agriculture have a great deal of economic potential for the future. Too great an emphasis is put on the non-renewable resource, he said, and not enough on the renewable.

"Many young Albertans seek to attain their life work within the agriculture and forestry areas."

"It's obvious that these facilities are needed and required," he said.

Dr. Arthur McCalla was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of science at the ceremony. His convocation address, which preceded the Premier's address

was critical of government underfunding.

"Our best hope for the future lies in an educated and informed public," said McCalla.

He cited reports on post-secondary education which point out that university's can no longer afford to hire their "most capable graduates."

"Young people are being short-changed."

"In its own interests, industry must consider this matter seriously," he said.

McCalla said that "scientific illiteracy" is rampant, and that post-secondary institutions should provide both a scientific and liberal arts education.

"We must have respect for education and achievement."

"The core of the university is people, its students and staff," he said.

The Premier responded by saying that while there are different views with regard to the priorities of the university, "...we have complete accord that the university needs to continue with

vitality and vigor..."

University President Myer Horowitz reserved criticism of underfunding in his introduction of the Premier.

"From time to time I will still reflect on the duties of the province to fund the university...but not today," he said.

He thanked the Premier for supporting the university with oil sands research grants, medical research grants, supplementary grants, grants for new programs in East Asian languages and special education, library endowment grants, and the Heritage fund scholarship grants.

He introduced Lougheed by the former football player's nicknames, "fleet Pete, swivel hips," and "the leader of the peoples' pigskin party."

The Premier noted that it had been "some time" since he had been at his alma mater in an official capacity, and added that "the most enjoyable period of (his) life..." was spent here at the U. of A., where he met his wife.

World games are plunging into debt

Though the World University Games are still over a year and a half away, the budget already appears to be in the red.

In October, 1980, the Games organizers presented a budget of \$52 million. On Friday, October 9, 1981, that figure was estimated at \$88 million.

The Games' original budget was based on the budget of the 1978 Commonwealth Games (also held in Edmonton).

"There are different things in these Games ... they are much larger," says Edmonton mayor Cec Purves.

"This must be taken into consideration," he says.

"The budget we committed funds to is no longer the budget they (Universiade '83) are working with," Abbie Hoffman, director of Sports Canada, told the *Edmonton Journal*.

The Universiade '83 Corporation, the official body created to represent the Games, presented a revised budget to Hoffman.

Availability of extra money is not guaranteed, Hoffman told the *Journal*.

\$42 million has been committed already by the City of Edmonton and the province for Games' facilities.

Three levels of government promised financing for the Games. The federal, provincial, and municipal governments each

agreed to provide \$3.1 million of the original estimate of \$52 million.

Now the three levels are going to be asked to increase their expenditure to \$9.7 million.

The rest of the funds are to be raised through ticket sales and revenue from media rights.

The City of Edmonton will study the new budget, which must be ratified eventually by City Council.

"We are in the process of going through the budget," says Purves.

"It is a preliminary draft," he says, "and we will look at it very carefully."

Purves does not foresee an overrun in the budget, whatever it may be.

"Number one, there will not be an overrun," he emphasizes. "Obviously the governments themselves, if there is one (an overrun), will look after it."

"The Universiade Corporation was created to look after the budget," Purves adds.

"They can't spend money they don't have."

Alex Fallow, chairperson of the corporation's Board of Governors, and Ed Zemrau, corporation president and ex-director of the U of A Athletic Services, told the *Journal* the increase in cost for the Games can be blamed in part on

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