

Patriarchy wins again

MONTREAL (CUP) — A bimonthly Montreal women's magazine has fallen victim to the recession and is calling it quits after 16 years of publication.

Communiqu'Elles was one of the few feminist magazines in Montreal. The magazine's primary goal was to provide women with information usually unavailable in the mainstream media. It covered women's health, violence against women, sexuality, women and AIDS, and feminist organizations.

"Women are the first to be fired," said Jacquie Manthorne, editor of *Communiqu'Elles*. "In Montreal last November, 18,000 people were laid off. Of them, 17,000 were women... When you're worried about having a roof over your head and feeding your kids, you don't buy magazines."

She also attributed the collapse of the paper to a dramatic fall in advertising sales. The removal of postal subsidies for second-class mail by Canada Post and the GST on magazines caused further problems.

Communiqu'Elles magazine, published in both French and English, had six thousand subscribers and was widely distributed across Canada.

Questioning our security

VANCOUVER (CUP) — A national coalition of peace groups is asking Canadians what security and military policies Canada should adopt as it moves into the 1990s.

The Citizens' Inquiry into Peace and Security, organized by the Canadian Peace Alliance, will be holding public hearings in 21 communities across the country over the next six weeks.

Citizens' Inquiry coordinator Gideon Forman said the CPA is doing the government's work.

"The government isn't going to do it, have an objective inquest, so we have to do it."

The Vancouver-based peace coalition End the Arms Race — which is organizing the Vancouver hearing — is expecting to hear from labour, women's, peace and environmental groups.

Forman said Canada's role in the Gulf War will be a major part of the hearings, as will the nature of Canada's role as a peace keeper. Issues such as low-level flying from bases such as Goose Bay, Nfld., and its effect on wildlife and native culture will be addressed.

Security should encompass all types of security, such as safety in the home for the individual, the security of social services and environmental protection, said Forman.

Bursary blues

HALIFAX (CUP) — The majority of part-time students are older and have family and job commitments, and one of the greatest hurdles they face is the student loan system.

"Part-time students aren't eligible for loans or bursaries at a provincial level," said Paula Gauthier, vice-president of the Canadian Organization of Part-time University Students.

The regulations also state part-timers cannot exceed a maximum of \$2500 in loans either as an outstanding debt, a new application, or a combination of the two.

"With the redirection of the economy, people are experiencing more than one period of intense study in their lives," said Deanne Fisher, liaison officer for the University of Toronto's part-time student association.

"People have to change as technology changes too. For example, someone might have to go back to school to learn how to be an engineer all over again."

Styro vs. china

TORONTO (CUP) — Campus environmentalists are claiming victory as York University's largest caterer switches from styrofoam to china.

Marriott, which operates three large campus cafeterias, will be replacing about 95 per cent of styrofoam products with dishes and cutlery, said Suzanne Cullen, York Marriott director.

"The school has a lot of pressure on it to become environmentally-conscious," said Jon Burke, a member of the environmental group Envision York.

Styrofoam products are made using chlorofluorocarbons which are believed to damage the ozone layer. Styrofoam is difficult to recycle and does not break down in landfill sites.

Marriott used 9,742,500 styrofoam cups, plates, take-out containers and white plastic cutlery items in 1990, according to Envision York.

Faculty stop and listen

*When I ask you to listen to me
and you feel you have to do
something to solve my problem
you have failed me, strange as that
may seem.*

— Anonymous

BY JERRY WEST

On Sept. 25 the Black Canadian Student Association asked the Dalhousie Faculty to stop and listen. What the faculty heard was quite astounding both for the strength of the message and the style of its presentation.

The focus of the afternoon was on listening, and the students spoke as loudly and as softly as they needed, in order to be heard. Tracy Ash, Tara Hudson and Tanya Hudson presented monologues tracing black cultural history from the Auruba plains in Africa (literally *land of the free*) to the present day. Stops along the way saw Blacks doing such things as inventing the traffic light and finding a way to preserve blood, yet often being treated as less than human.

"In 1865 the Education Act set up a separate school system for Blacks, effectively legalising racism in Nova Scotia," said Barbara Hamilton. "It was not until 1954 that all references to race were removed from the Act."

Other scenes were taken from the students' personal experiences. These ranged from negotiating for an apartment, being accepted over the phone, and then refused upon meeting the landlord in person, to having other students assume that well-spoken Blacks must come from another country. One woman recalled her professor saying that "the Black people are the stupidest



DAL PHOTO: MHE DEONOPART

Tanya Hudson of the Cultural Awareness Youth Group.

people in Canada."

Smaller discussion groups later tackled specific questions on a more personal level. Professors raised concerns such as "is it racist to ask a black student for insight into a story by a black author?"

Again the focus was on listening; group participants were encouraged to hear each other out and not to interrupt with questions

or advice. The result was a calm, relaxed atmosphere as people dealt with what can be a tense issue.

"It was a great first step," said Deena Noseworthy, President of the Black Canadian Student Association, "but we expect the next step to be better. We plan on taking this to a much larger audience, and hopefully we'll reach more of the university."

Writing across the curriculum

BY ERIN MOSER

On October 24, 1991, Barbara Walvoord of the University of Cincinnati will be holding a day-long seminar on Writing Across the Curriculum. The seminar is being held in hopes of introducing more writing into classes which in the past had very little writing content.

It has always been the job of the English Department to educate students in writing, but students in many other faculties don't continue to write, especially after the first year writing requirement has been completed. It would be impossible for the English Department to teach every student to write, so this education must take place within the different classes.

Eileen Herteis, Program Coordinator for the Office of Instructional Development, said that often students don't even get a chance

to write paragraphs. She believes writing allows students to work out logic and ideas.

The Writing Across the Curriculum program will allow students to do this. Its aim is to help professors introduce more writing into their courses without creating too much extra work for themselves and their students. It will allow students to express themselves more freely through their work.

more writing without much extra work

Professor Leonard Diepeveen said next year Dalhousie hopes to have writing intensive courses listed in the course calendar. There will be classes specifically designed for students who would like to gain valuable writing experience in their

courses. He also said students who take these courses will receive credit for them on their transcripts. This could be an asset when the student is searching for employment.

Diepeveen said he has a good feeling about the program. He hopes it will be followed by workshops throughout the academic year where students and professors can meet and discuss what they feel is working and what is not working in the courses.

The funding for the seminar came from the Office of Instructional Development, the President's office, the Faculty of Science, the Faculty of Arts and Social Science, and from the School of Nursing.

The broad range of organizations involved could be seen as an indication of the many faculties that feel this program is necessary and beneficial.