

# Another football player suspended for taking steroids

BY MIKE DE PELLEGRIN

OTTAWA (CUP) — Yet another Canadian university football player has been caught using steroids, bringing the total of suspended players this season to four.

Martin Arsenault, a fifth-year lineman with the University of Ottawa Gee-Gees, was suspended October 15 by the Canadian

Interuniversity Athletic Union (CIAU) after testing positive for the steroid Stanozolol.

Arsenault admitted that after working out for a Miami Dolphins Scout eight months ago, he started taking the drug.

"Coming on the heels of three other positive tests... we were very disappointed to be advised of this latest result," Kerry T. Moynihan,

chief executive officer of the CIAU, said. "The detection system is working and the message we want to send out is that if you take banned substances you will get caught."

"I'm furious," Ottawa head coach Larry Ring, said. "We've had over 80 tests conducted in my seven years here and only two have come out positive, unfortunately back-to-back."

On October 6, Constantin Shousha — also a University of Ottawa offensive lineman — was suspended for steroid use, as were Matthew Demers of the St. Mary's Huskies and Shawn Dyson of the University of Waterloo Warriors. All three were suspended for a period of no less than four years — the same penalty handed to Arsenault.

The CIAU currently conducts mandatory drug education seminars for athletes each year. Players must sign a form to indicate they've read and understood the CIAU's zero tolerance policy on drug use.

Since 1990, approximately 2,250 drug tests have been conducted and 20 athletes have tested positive. All but one of the cases has involved a football player and steroid use.

In the wake of the initial suspensions, officials with the CIAU said they planned to meet with the schools involved and the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sports to see if more could be done to prevent steroid use.

Ring said he has contacted the CIAU about the possibility of conducting more tests for steroids on his team.

"After being through this for a second time, I'm starting to see a trend in which guys are taking the stuff. It seems the guys who aren't mentally tough always give in," he said.

With files from CUP

# Political opposites attract in B.C. coalition

BY CRAIG SAUNDERS

VICTORIA (CUP) — The Reformers and Marxist-Leninists have finally found their common ground and it's in lotus land.

The B.C. branches of these political parties, along with a host of others across the political spectrum, have joined together to create the Electoral Change Coalition of British Columbia to push for electoral reforms in the province.

"It's the reason I got involved in politics in the first place," said David Secord, president of the provincial Reform party and a vice-president of the coalition. "Having recognized that [the electoral system is the problem], it was certainly exciting for me to discover that people from a broad range of perspectives agree."

Secord and the Marxist-Leninists are joined by the provincial Green, Conservative and Family Coalition parties, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, Canadians for Direct Democracy and the Progressive Democratic Alliance.

The group is lobbying the provincial government for an electoral system that they say more accurately reflects the wishes of voters. They would like to see the current first-past-the-post system replaced. Under this system, a party must win a seat in a riding in order to be represented in the provincial legislature — a party's popular vote does not matter.

"We're not advocating a particular system," said Secord. "We're challenging the existing system."

The provincial NDP government does not seem interested in changing the current system however.

"Generally speaking, our electoral system has served us well over the years," said Brian Gardner, provincial secretary of the NDP. "Our opponents can't beat us at the polls, so they want to change the rules."

This is not the first push for electoral reform in the province, according to University of British Columbia political science professor Richard Johnston. The debate also came up in the 1970s, he says, but was short-lived.

"It's likely to be a flash in the

pan," he said of the new coalition. "If the Liberals fail to win the next election, then that will add some more force [to the movement]."

Johnston says the system of proportional representation — where a party's popular vote determines to some extent how many seats it has in the legislature — is common in most democracies. The existing system, he adds, often results in majority governments elected by a majority of the population.

"The NDP has often talked about

proportional representation," said federal Green Party leader Joan Russow. "But they often benefit from [not having it]."

Russow is working with legalists in Ontario to bring forward a federal lawsuit challenging Canada's electoral system. The Green Party plan includes a mixed system incorporating both proportional and regional representation.

"It's an issue that impacts on all parties, so it's important to have all parties involved," she said.

# Women's centre opposes pro-life group

BY KELLI KIELY

ST JOHN'S (CUP) — The possibility that a campus pro-life group may get full recognition from the Memorial University of Newfoundland's student union has raised concerns at the school's women's centre.

The group is being recognized by the Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) student union on a trial basis and will be eligible for full recognition next semester.

During the trial period groups are allowed to operate on campus and establish a presence, through things like information booths. Once a group is granted full recognition it automatically gets money from the union and is able to apply for special project grants and office space.

Gloria Williams, a spokesperson for MUN's Women's Resource Centre, says abortion is a complex and emotional issue and the presence of a pro-life group on

campus will add to the anxiety for women who face, or have already faced, decisions about abortion.

"This is the hardest decision a woman will ever have to make in her life," she said. "Nobody wants to have an abortion."

"When we have organizations that put pressure and more strain on these women... already undergoing enormous strain and stress, it's really scary for them."

Williams also says that student union support for the group will reinforce the negative associations society already attaches to abortion.

"There is a lot of stigma attached to abortion in our society and we don't need a group that promotes [that stigma] on campus," she said. "It doesn't create an atmosphere for choice. The university should not promote biases."

Mike Down, president of the group — MUN For Life — says his group does not condemn women who have had an abortion.

"Our group is totally non-

condemnatory and non-judgmental," he said. "[For] any woman who has had an abortion... if we can do anything to help whatsoever, then we would be happy to do whatever we can to provide her with the help she needs."

Down says MUN For Life is primarily interested in helping groups that support pro-life policies.

Student union vice-president Karen Kiely says the group has a right to form on campus — as long as they do not attempt to counsel students on abortion matters.

"Within Canadian democracy, everybody has the right of free speech," she said.

Kiely said that when the student union first debated whether to grant MUN For Life trial status, there was a fair amount of disagreement on the issue.

"There was a lot of debate as to whether or not this would be a good thing for the university, and I think

that right now MUN For Life does have to prove to students on campus that it is a worthwhile group and that it deserves a place in the university community," she said.

Kiely adds that she hopes MUN For Life will not focus strictly on anti-abortion issues.

The women's centre was also upset with literature the pro-life group distributed on campus last winter. Literature it says contained inaccurate information and provoked guilt.

Entitled "Should Rape be an Argument for Abortion?" the pamphlet indicated that there have never been any reports of pregnancy resulting from rape.

"The possibility of pregnancy is reduced even more by the severe stress reaction related to assault rape," the pamphlet read in part.

Down says circulating the pamphlet was an oversight on his part and adds that the group will, in future, more carefully screen any literature it distributes.

# Student loan hotline: 1-900-RIP'D-OFF

BY CHAD LUFF

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) — The Newfoundland government won't replace a 1-900 student aid information line despite complaints from students about expensive phone bills.

While local calls to the St. John's-based number are free, there is a charge of 50 cents for the first minute and 40 cents for each additional minute for non-local callers. As a result, students from rural Newfoundland say they are running up high long-distance phone bills checking the status of their student loans.

The Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) Student Union began lobbying the provincial government to drop the number last year, after rural students complained.

Student union vice-president

external Randy Miller says that while the union is still pushing to have the phone line removed, the government continues to avoid the issue.

"[The phone line] has been on the agenda of every meeting I've ever had with the government...and the government's response is to always ignore it, or to say the money is not there," he said.

Miller says some students have complained of being placed on hold on the line for up to 15 minutes, all the while being charged.

"It is not an efficient system," he said.

Last year the government unveiled a student aid website where students could obtain information about their loans over the Internet.

"There are alternative services other than the 1-900 number and they are there for [students] to use as often as they wish," Rob

Feaver, acting service quality coordinator for the phone service, said.

He adds that the web site can answer most of the questions people call the 1-900 number for.

But Miller says he does not see the website as a viable option for most students.

"Although Internet access is slowly catching on, the majority of students still aren't using it," he said. "The internet is not the solution."

But Feaver says that Internet access is available through most high schools and public libraries and provides an opportunity for students to get the information they need without using the phone line.

Feaver says there are no plans to get rid of the 1-900 number — a toll free number would cost the

government too much, while the 1-900 number recoups the cost of the service.

Currently, several other government departments do have 1-800 numbers for their telephone services.

"A 1-900 service is not going to cost a tremendous amount of money to students," he said. "The biggest problem now is that they could be waiting for a long period of time in terms of speaking to somebody."

He adds that changes are being made to the 1-900 service to improve its efficiency. These include upgrading the automated voice system to inform callers of specific problems with their application so they won't have to wait to talk to an official.



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