

Senate reviews dictator's honorary degree

by Paul Clark

Senate's Honorary Degrees Committee will review the honorary degree given to Forbes Burnham, president of Guyana, in the fall of '78.

Senate made the decision Monday night, following recent reports of flagrant violations of human rights in Guyana before and after the degree was awarded. The amended motion requires the committee to review the con-

ferral of the degree and report back to Senate in two months.

Senate chairman Alisdair Sinclair said that under ordinary circumstances the motion probably would have been passed quickly, but debate went on for a considerable time over whether Philomena Shury, a former member of Guyana's parliament, would be allowed to address Senate.

While it is common Senate practice to allow visitors to

speak, Sinclair said there were procedural objections to having Shury speak and that it was argued it would be more appropriate for her to speak to the Honorary Degrees Committee.

"It was somewhat embarrassing", said Sinclair. "There was a feeling she had come a long way and that it posed a problem in not letting her speak. But the members of Senate voted to let her speak

to the committee instead."

Shury, who was a member of parliament in Guyana from '68 to '71, said she had wanted to make the point that Senate awarded Burnham his degree with inadequate information about his personal history. She said she also wanted to counter the claim that human right violations occurred in Guyana only after Dalhousie gave Burnham his degree in '78 and then she went on to cite a number of abuses of his

power.

"If they had the facts straight they would not have given him that degree," she said.

Shury, who now resides in New Brunswick, said she was forced to give up her position in Guyana's parliament and leave the country in 1971 after the Burnham regime exerted financial pressure through arbitrary taxation laws on herself and her husband, a medical doctor.

Administrators worry over government commitment to education funding

OTTAWA (CUP) — University administrators across the country are lining up to express fears that the federal government intends to cut off funding to post-secondary education in 1982.

Simon Fraser University President George Pederson said last month there were "rumblings at the federal government level" indicating they intended to drastically slash education funding.

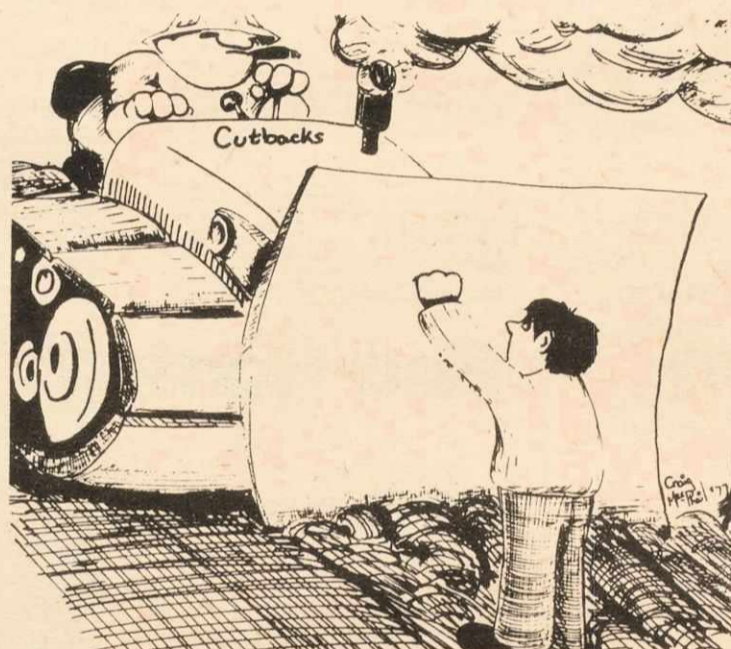
Now Acadia University President Sinclair has added his voice to the growing concern, saying universities could face "serious financial troubles" if the government carried out a major cutback plan.

Fears that the federal government intends educating funding cutbacks stem from Alan MacEachern's budget speech October 28. The Liberal Finance Minister said the government expects to make "significant savings" in the

money now transferred to the provincial governments for health, social services and education.

Ten days after the budget speech when federal health minister Monique Begin indicated her government would

continue to support the medicare system but "would drastically reduce and alter the university section."



Begin has stated the Established Programs Financing (EPF), which is the mechanism for transferring money from the federal government to the provinces, is unacceptable.

The Liberal Health Minister says EPF is not equitable because it has been transferring large amounts of money to the rich provinces.

The EPF arrangement is an agreement between the federal and provincial governments which expires in 1982.

Under the British North America Act, provinces have control over education. However, following the Second World War, when universities began to expand quickly, the federal government began to help the provinces pay for new facilities.

Last year the federal government transferred almost \$789 million to the provinces for education. This year that figure is expected to rise to over \$1 billion.

Project aims to improve environment record

by Cathy McDonald

Canada's track record at evaluating the environmental impacts of large developments is not very good, according to Dr. Gordon Beanlands, currently at the Institute for Research and Environmental Studies at Dalhousie University. Dr. Beanlands is heading a two-year research project aimed at improving guidelines for environmental "impact" analysis.

Developments such as offshore oil and gas drilling and the Alberta tarsands project can have serious effects on the environment he said. Beanlands described current methods of analysing these effects as a "shotgun" or "shopping list" approach.

"Instead of analysing the (ecological) system as a whole, they look at little bits of it", Beanlands said.

The Federal government is currently developing environmental impact legislation instead of the policy that now exists. Beanlands said the federal government was "very receptive" to his proposed project. The project's \$215,000 budget

is funded by the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office, Environment Canada and Dalhousie University.

Beanlands criticized current studies for looking at isolated impacts of a development, for example determining how offshore oil and gas drilling will effect certain species of seabirds or fish. Ecological theory and practices have now progressed to analysing the effects on the ecosystem as a whole, in this example starting with photo-plankton, the bottom of the ocean food-chain.

The project's aim is to develop improved guidelines which may be incorporated into legislation as appendices to formal assessment guidelines. "Field biology hasn't progressed to the point where you can define certain binding guidelines" Beanlands said.

Environmental impact statements are now being reviewed by a research team comprised of Dr. Beanlands and three assistants. Technical workshops will be held across Canada to discuss these reviews, to which experts in field-working

will be invited.

Beanlands said it was important to have input from the "principle actors" concerned with environmental impact as-

essment. These actors, namely the federal and provincial governments, industry, consulting agencies, and University scientists, will take part in the workshops. A senior advisory committee, with representatives from these groups, will

review and eventually endorse the recommendations of the project. "This will go a long way in seeing that something will be applied" Beanlands said.

The project arose out of concerns expressed by both scientists and public organizations. The Canadian Arctic Resources Committee, a public group that has been highly critical of technical aspects in environmental impact assessments, is

not formally included in the technical workshops.

Beanlands is on a two-year leave of absence from Environment Canada where he was the Atlantic Regional Director for the Lands Directorate. Graduate students in environmental studies will be involved with the project. Research results will be incorporated into courses at Dalhousie in environmental assessment.

Students form new ad co-op

While you may not know it, you have just become part owner in a national advertising co-op through your student newspaper.

Over the Christmas break delegates to the 43rd annual conference of Canadian University Press (CUP) in Val Morin, Quebec, decided to establish a student owned and controlled national advertising co-operative.

"It's an incredibly positive step for the Canadian student press," said CUP President Mi-

chael Balagus. "It ultimately means that papers will have a much more stable financial base in the future. This will allow them to adequately serve their student readership".

The decision to establish Canadian University Press Media Services (the new advertising organization's name) means the end of CUP's relationship with Youthstream Canada Corporation. "Youthstream" is a private company based in Toronto which CUP had contracted to sell national ads

since 1970.

The move to terminate dealings with Youthstream is an "indication of the maturing of Canada's student press," Balagus said.

Cam Killoran, President of Youthstream, indicated at the Christmas conference that Youthstream will attempt to make individual agreements with student newspapers to do advertising.

However conference delegates voted unanimously to support their own ad co-op.