

## Frum's video guide

VANCOUVER (CUP) — At the University of Toronto, "nobody cares if you live or die."

And the University of British Columbia is "considered one of Canada's leading institutes of higher learning" because it snows infrequently in Vancouver.

These comments, featured in the recently-released video, "Linda Frum's Video Guide to Canadian Universities," are making some people apprehensive.

The film — which entered limited release in March to buyers from Canada's school boards — is being pitched to video store chains, co-producer Tim O'Brien said.

"Most videos on schools are produced by schools themselves and are very biased. For prospective university students and their parents this fills a definite need," O'Brien said.

The film profiles UBC, Simon Fraser University, the University of Alberta, the University of Western Ontario, the University of Toronto, Queen's, McGill, Acadia, Dalhousie and Memorial University of Newfoundland.

The 90-minute video was funded primarily by grants of \$15,000 from the Ontario Film Development Corporation and \$30,000 from the Secretary of State's Department of Communications.

## Drumming up support

OTTAWA (CUP) — Black activists who opposed the Royal Ontario Museum's exhibit, *Into the Heart of Africa*, are touring to drum up support for their upcoming trials.

During an appearance at Carleton University Nov. 9, the activists showed a video of police attacking a peaceful demonstration. During the spring of 1990, 11 women and men were beaten and arrested while protesting the ROM exhibit.

Nine of the demonstrators go to trial in Toronto Nov. 18 to 29.

The Coalition For The Truth About Afrika was formed in Nov. 1989 following the opening of the exhibit. The coalition organized weekly pickets outside the museum, calling the exhibit an inaccurate and stereotypical portrayal of African history.

Jennifer Issac, one of the activists charged by police, told an audience of 60 people that she had been looking forward to seeing the history of her people at the museum.

"I left the exhibit and I had tears in my eyes," said Issac.

She said the exhibit portrayed African history through the eyes of the missionaries who pillaged Africa. She said the exhibit "reduced me and my people to a bunch of savages."

Issac joined the demonstrations in front of the museum. "The African community in Toronto came together," she said. "It was a unifying experience."

## Crees losing trees

TORONTO (CUP) — Supporters of the Lubicon Lake Cree are taking on a multinational corporation they say is clear-cutting trees on unceded First Nations land in Alberta.

Ed Bianchi, a member of the Toronto branch of Friends of the Lubicon, said the First Nation of 507 people, is in danger of losing their land to Daishowa. The paper company plans to continue clear-cutting the unceded land of the Lubicon this winter.

"The Lubicon traditional territory is 10,000 square kilometres, which is their traditional hunting and living grounds," he said. "It's their land, because historically, they've never signed any treaty giving it away."

Bianchi said the Alberta government began leasing Lubicon land in 1988 to companies such as Daishowa but that Lubicon contested the leases. They are trying to negotiate a settlement with the provincial and federal governments.

In the meantime, they struck a deal with Daishowa which promised not to start cutting on the land until the settlement was completed — a promise Bianchi says has been broken.

Daishowa vice president Michael McCormack said Daishowa Canada has not been cutting on Lubicon land.

Bianchi said Friends of the Lubicon has sent a letter asking Daishowa to honour their agreement. If they haven't received an answer by Nov. 25, they are planning a national boycott of Daishowa products and companies that use them. He said fast food chains such as Pizza Pizza, Mr. Submarine, Holy Chow and Cultures as well as the Ontario Liquor Board use Daishowa products.

# Lifting the lid off the press

BY SHANNON GOWANS

*Pandora*, a local newspaper, has taken a controversial stand. It is women's only space "produced by, for, and about women."

The staff adheres to this policy because they believe it promotes women's equality in the media. *Pandora* is produced by a collective of women. In a recent interview members of this collective outlined why *Pandora* is a women's only organization. They have chosen to remain anonymous because of recent death threats directed at the paper's staff.

"Historically women have not had a voice in the media," she said. *Pandora* is a place to reclaim that lost power.

Choosing to be a women's only publication is not without risks. This is illustrated by a complaint filed with the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission, and the death threats the paper received this month. However, the collective believes the benefits are worth it.

"Women need a space as women... to grow in our own voices," said a staff member. *Pandora* provides a safe place for women to express their opinions without the fear of being ridiculed or silenced by men. Because the collective is women only it is not subverted or distracted by men's issues. Also the staff do not have to

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defend their feelings or reasons to men, she elaborated.

Another main function of *Pandora* is to develop women's skills in writing, producing, and publishing a newspaper. Women may gain confidence through *Pandora*'s women positive environment and later branch out into other publications, she said.

*Pandora*'s decision to be women only affects every aspect of the paper.

Many contributors would not have joined *Pandora* if it had been set up any other way. The stories covered and the manner in which they are covered are different from papers which involve male participation.

One of the major differences is that *Pandora* is run by a collective rather than a hierarchy of editors, which creates a much more cooperative atmosphere, where every-

one's contributions are valued, she said.

The perception of the paper by the community is colored by the fact it is women only. "A lot of women trust us more, because we are women, and we are small, with no big government bucks. We aren't compromised by what is out there," said one member of the collective. However, most people who read *Pandora* pick it up because they know it is women positive, and because they are interested in the content, she said.

*Pandora*'s women only status is vitally important to the staff at the paper. This status is being challenged at a Board of Inquiry of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission. *Pandora* needs financial assistance for legal fees in the case. A benefit is being held November 30, at 9 pm, the Church, corner of North Street and Fuller Terrace.

# Medicine makes changes

BY MATTHEW MURPHY

Next fall, the Dalhousie Medical School administration will begin a new method of teaching, de-emphasizing lecture based information in the pre-clinical years (first and second years).

The Associate Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education, Dr. Karen Mann, says, in the place of intensive lecturing, groups of seven or eight people will meet regularly with only three formal lectures held each week. The groups will concentrate on a clinical problem under the tutelage of a faculty member. She says the faculty member's role will be as "a coach rather than a teacher".

Dr. Mann says the administration is reacting to incongruence existing between the study and practice of medicine. "There is a lot of information in medicine and it is 'changing all the time. The present system of education does not breed flexibility in its students' learning patterns," she says.

"Students today, must concentrate most of their energy on memorizing vast amounts of knowledge which will soon be outdated. The new system will alleviate some of that burden. Understanding and

the ability to adapt to new problems will be stressed instead. These qualities are better suited to the practice of medicine," she says.

In examining "case studies", Dr. Mann says the students will have to simultaneously handle the health of the patient and broader social issues that exist in society.

While such consciousness is a concern in the present curriculum, it is not integrated to an effective level, she says.

Under the new program, the style of examination will have to change, she says. It will test the problem solving ability of the students rather than the ability to regurgitate facts.

Dr. Mann says there will be no change in the formula for admission or the cost of education.

The group formula will produce a learning environment which is closer to what the students will encounter when they become doctors. The students are not the first to go through such a program, Dr. Mann says. McMaster's medical school is organized in a similar way and universities across Canada are following suit, including Toronto, Ottawa and Queens.

Penelope, (not her real name) a first year medical student at Dal-

housie, is not so confident in the new development. She says she is quite satisfied with the education she is receiving today.

Penelope says that the lectures provide an outline to the individual research required of the students. She says she pities the future students who she doubts will know what is expected of them come exam time.

"There are a thousand-million resources for us... like old exams in the library," she says, adding, "this year the teachers know what to tell the students about exams and requirements, but next year they will be as lost as the students."

She says that random groupings of people for the purpose of learning can be unproductive. When study time is so precious, the weakness of a fellow student can be very frustrating, she says.

She says the emphasis on training to be a doctor could be a distraction when trying to learn the large base of knowledge required to practice medicine.

Penelope and her class will continue with the same curriculum they started. For students already in the program there will be no changes in the curriculum.