

Education breeds racism

VICTORIA (CUP) - Canada's education system is breeding racism by not educating young people about the history, culture and achievements of native people, a Cree professor recently told a meeting of B.C. student leaders.

"What has the Canadian education system provided you with in terms of awareness and information about first nations?" Verna Kirkness, a professor in the native education and training program of the University of British Columbia, asked. "I suggest very little.

"What did you learn in school about Indians? Did you learn for one thing that 'Indians' is certainly not what we are? You learned that Indians are hostile, that Indians are savages, squaws, raiders. They massacred. Whenever Indians won it was a massacre, whenever the white people won it was a battle. Warlike, howling."

The end result, Kirkness said, is that Canadians are being educated to be racist.

"Racism is when you believe that someone is genetically inferior. Because you're Indian you're poor. That somehow, because you're an Indian, your language doesn't have to matter to you. Racism is rampant. We have apartheid in this country. We've had it ever since the settlers came to this country."

Women not intimidated

OTTAWA (CUP) - More female students applied to L'Universite de Montreal's Ecole Polytechnique than ever before this year, quashing fears that women would shun the school where 14 women were murdered last December.

Twenty-three per cent of those applying this year were women, compared to 19 per cent last year.

"We're very happy," said Louis Courville, the dean of undergraduate studies. He said the school was worried that students from out-of-town would think Montreal is "too violent," and stay away.

The school has also increased security and is making plans to set up a permanent committee on women's affairs.

Students won't pay

by Heidi Modro

MONTREAL (CUP) - Some Quebec students will be holding their tuition fees hostage this fall, in an attempt to get a recently-imposed 130 per cent hike rescinded.

The 10,000-member arts and science student council of l'Universite du Quebec a Montreal (UQAM) is calling on students to deposit their fees in a special account set up by the council.

The money would be used as a "negotiating tool" in talks with the university and the government, said council executive Andre Trepanier.

"The only thing they seem to understand is money," he said. "Maybe if they don't get it, they'll listen to us."

Fees in Quebec - frozen at about \$540 since 1968 - are increasing this year. The provincial government announced last December that fees would be about \$890 next year, and up to \$1240 in 1991-92. In addition, universities are allowed to slap on an extra 10 per cent for administrative costs.

continued from p. 1

But Nova Scotia Attorney-General Tom McInnis said the province only committed itself to administrative support for the program.

"At no time did we discuss this business of matching what the federal government gives to natives," he said.

Last year's \$126,000 program was funded largely by the Bar Society and private donations, with \$15,000 from the province. With six new black students this year, the bill for student assistance alone has risen dramatically.

McInnis said although "it's not a big amount of money," he doesn't think Nova Scotians would want the province to pay all the costs of sending black students to university.

"I don't think they'd want to pay their living allowance, their books, their tuition. I think there would be a backlash," he said.

Jones said widespread public support for the program proves McInnis is wrong.

"Black students shouldn't be second-class to anyone. We're involved in a program for blacks and natives. Sure, no one could argue there would be a backlash against that," said Jones.

Bagamire agreed, noting that Nova Scotians are already paying the indirect cost of "the social evil of a racist justice system."

Yvonne Atwell, who heads the Afro-Canadian Caucus of Nova Scotia and sits on the program's advisory board, said the government will try to get away with doing as little as possible in implementing the Marshall inquiry recommendations.

The Caucus has repeatedly demanded an inquiry into racism in the province's school system.

"I tend to think that maybe this

government is showing some racist attitudes toward this program," she said.

A Halifax newspaper columnist suggested recently that the government may be reluctant to fund the legal education of activists like Jones.

"I don't know how threatened the entire provincial cabinet is because I'm going to get a law degree. If it's that insecure, then we're in real trouble," said Jones.

McInnis said he is still trying to get the provincial cabinet to approve more money.

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Law - Regular Bursaries	Friday, 14 Dec. 1990
Medicine	Friday, 14 Dec. 1990
Social Work	1st Friday, 16 Nov. 1990
(BSW and MSW)	2nd Thursday, 28 Feb. 1991
Under graduates	1st Friday, 16 Nov. 1990
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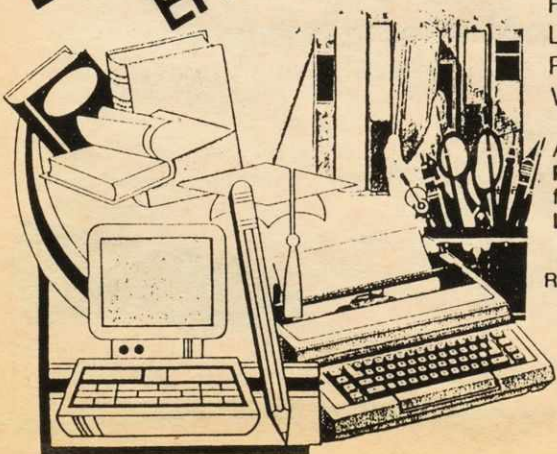
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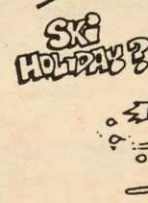
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