

## CROSSCANADA

## Gay Guide Gathers Momentum

TORONTO (CUP) - The first-ever lesbian and gay guide to Canadian colleges and universities is in the works at a Toronto-based publishing company.

The guide - which will be available next fall - covers a variety of subjects, including lesbian and gay coming-out groups, sexual harassment codes and same-sex spousal benefits. It will also include listings of gay and lesbian service groups.

The guide is aimed mainly at helping new students adjust to life at college or university.

"Frosh week is a time when people can get together and meet their peers and form friendships, but for lesbians and gay men it is more difficult to meet others," said Lori Reinsilber, a fourth-year women's studies student at York University in Toronto.

"There is no sense of community, no reflection of ourselves and no validation because events and programs are exclusive to heterosexuals," she added.

The project is being funded by the Ontario and Canadian Federation of Students, the Ontario government and York's Student Federation.

Copies of the guide will be sold at campus, lesbian and gay, and women's bookstores. It will also be made available as a special outreach program to high schools, university libraries, and admission offices.

## Food Fight at McGill

MONTREAL (CUP) - The new food service contractor for the McGill student council has drawn fire for the treatment of its employees. Marriott Foods, which replaced Scott's Foods (McGill's last food contractor) last year, is accused of breaking its word on a commitment it gave to re-hire old Scott's employees at the same wages.

Student council president, Jason Prince, said that Marriott verbally agreed to re-hire employees at their old salaries.

But one employee of Marriott, who asked for anonymity, claimed that Marriott pays her 20 per cent less than Scott's used to. She also said many of her benefits have been cut.

The employee added that between ten to fifteen former Scott's employees have been brought back. Instead, new people have been hired at much lower wages.

When questioned, McGill food service director Sabina Pampena would only say that "something was agreed upon." She also said Marriott got a list of employees from Scott's and that Marriott interviewed the employees on the list. "I think most of the people have been hired back," said Pampena.

## A DAG eat DAG world

by Jennifer Beck

On Thursday, October 8, the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS) will hold its annual by-election to flesh out vacant council positions. This year, however, the primary position that requires filling is that of Council President.

Adam Wellst, the elected president for the 1992-93 Council, officially resigned on September 8 of this year. According to acting President Linda Forbrigger, his resignation was prompted by his desire "to finish his thesis by Christmas and graduate at the February convocation. There was an issue about honouraria, but that only indirectly had something to do with it."

Wellst denies that his studies were his motive for quitting. "My prime reason for resigning was over the honouraria. After that, I decided to change my overall academic course," he said.

According to Forbrigger, the conflict originated when the honouraria committee put forth a motion to decrease honouraria. Every year DAGS Council forms an honouraria committee to assign the values of the honouraria given to Council members. These values are then presented to council and voted on individually.

Traditionally, the honouraria have comprised some 25% of DAGS' operating budget, totalling over \$10,000 out of approximately \$55,000. The honouraria committee for the 91-92 session decided that this figure was too high, and proposed changes that would reduce the amount to \$3,325.

"Some members believe they weren't given sufficient warning," said Forbrigger. "They found out honouraria were being reduced the evening it was being voted upon.

They were counting on that money, it was sprung on them, they felt it wasn't entirely fair."

Despite the short notice, the amounts were passed. "Last year's council unanimously approved all but two of the amounts," said Wellst. "Each amount was voted on and constituted with full quorum."

The split within DAGS occurred during the summer council, when Wellst began his term as president. "At my very first meeting the opening item on the agenda was a presentation from Peter Potier, last year's Student Union president. He had been approached by a group of DAGS council members who wanted to reinstate the higher honouraria, and he was representing their suit. He did not contact me prior to the meeting. He tried to give us a slap on the

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wrist over by-passing the DSU with the honouraria question, and he told us that, after all, the DSU controlled our finances."

"I told him he was out of order," Wellst said. "We formed a committee to deal with the issue, and it decided that the amended, lower amounts should stand."

Two meetings later a letter written by current Student Union president Lâle Kesebi raised the honouraria issue again. "People were trying to by-pass the executive and run things through the DSU," said Wellst. Also, a petition calling for a referendum on the issue was presented to Council.

"It was a virtual witch hunt," said Wellst. "They were making personal attacks against me, questioning my ability to perform my job, and beginning procedures of impeachment. At that point, I gave up and resigned. I was sick and tired of the whole charade."

A second committee was formed to further consider the issue. Its composition included former council members from the 91-92 session.

"That's a clear conflict of interest," said one DAGS member. "They would stand to gain from their own decision."

The DAGS council has received four written requests to consider raising the honouraria amounts. In response, concurrent with the by-election this October 8 there will be a referendum on the honouraria, expanding the issue to include all students.

"I feel bad about this going to a referendum," said Forbrigger, "if this goes to a referendum, then almost anything can go to a referendum. Obviously we are accountable to the students, but if it goes too far then every cheque we have to write potentially can go to the public."

In past years, the usual amount of money gifted the president and vice president is \$2,500 each. The amended amount allows \$500 to the president and \$350 to the vice president.

"I just wanted grad students to know that a high percentage of the money they gave us was going to such a small portion of people" said Wellst.

"I have nothing against the current executive," he said. "On the contrary, they work amazingly hard. I'm just sorry they have to deal with this childish behavior from certain grad students who are just in it for the money. I hope the students shoot this honouraria thing down."

## Senate proposes program cuts &amp; tuition hikes

by Alex Boston

"The university is not likely to offset the budget deficits projected without significant reductions in programs," reads a report submitted to senate last week.

The first recommendation of the report, *Deficit Reduction: The Continuing Struggle*, suggests "cuts can be implemented either by total elimination of a program or by reduction of a program through eliminating parts of programs such as majors or specific areas of study." It argues under the Collective Agreement of the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) reductions can be justified by "bona fide academic reasons."

DFA President, Tom Sinclair-Faulkner, said, "If we are cutting programs for financial reasons, we can't pretend that they are for academic reasons. There are significant legal

implications." This broad concern prompted Ray Carlson, chair of the Senate Financial Planning Committee which wrote the report, to table the first recommendation.

The impetus for the report is a forecasted \$5.5 million deficit for

**"... Further erosion in the quality of the University's staff and programs,"**

next year when the faculty wage-freeze is lifted. The Committee rejected the option of encouraging faculty and staff to accept lower salary increases. "Such a policy would lead to a further erosion in the quality of the University's staff and programs,"

it said.

The projected deficits in the report already assume "an additional 10 percent tuition increase" for this year and adds that "substantial increases will likely be needed for subsequent years."

The report recommends demand for programs, program costs, and the potential earning power of graduates should also be considered in setting fees. This could conceivably translate into competitive and/or high cost programs like medicine or law being five or ten times more expensive than arts or science programs.

The Dalhousie Student Union Academic Vice-President, Mausumi Banerjee, said, "such a policy not only restricts access to certain programs to the wealthy, it unduly discriminates against students in law or medicine, for example, who end up working in community health clin-

ics or public legal education services where wages tend to be lower." Banerjee drafted a response to the report which states explicitly, "the University should focus on present earnings of students rather than potential earnings when setting tuition fees."

The Committee recommended that "since several [international students] come from high income families or receive subsidization, it seems only appropriate to increase the differential fee..." Banerjee commented, "the basis upon which the committee recommended international students pay more is unfounded speculation. It also challenges the University's commitment to promote development and to internationalize."

As a further means to help pay for infrastructure costs, faculty overheads and salaries, the committee

recommends securing private contracts. "University-affiliated consulting companies" are suggested as means to facilitate such support.

In her response Banerjee expressed grave concern for this scheme which threatens the academic integrity of Dalhousie and the viability of programs which are not able to generate profit. "Furthermore," Banerjee asked rhetorically, "if professors are engaged with earning salaries, office rent, heating bills, and stationary costs on private jobs, when will they find time for students? Aren't universities essentially here for our and the public's good?"

Banerjee mentioned the DSU's Academic Affairs and Quality Committees, which are open to all students, are committed to ensuring such a report does not further jeopardize students' rights to high quality and accessible education.