cross-canada briefs

Faculty and staff opt for early retirement at Waterloo

BY MICHELE PARENT

TORONTO (CUP) - Three hundred and forty faculty and staff at the University of Waterloo have taken an early retirement package as the university wrestles with a \$19 million cut in provincial funding.

Waterloo vice president Jim Kalbfleish says 10 per cent of faculty and staff at the university took the package by Jan. 15. It was offered to any professor or staff member who had been with the university for a minimum of 10 years and was at least 55 years of age.

Kalbfleish says the majority of retirees will leave by the end of July, with the balance leaving by Sept. 1. He says with approximately 85 per cent of the school's expenditures going to human resources, that's where Waterloo had to look to cut costs.

"We recognize that with the very significant grant reductions we are about to get, we would have no option but to reduce the numbers [of staff and faculty] at the university," he said. "This seemed to be the most humane way."

College prof resigns amid sexual abuse allegations

BY ALAN HARI-SINGH

TORONTO (CUP) — A divinity professor at the University of Toronto has resigned after admitting to the substance of complaints that he had sexually abused three people - one of them a student at the college.

David Holeton, a professor of divinity at U of T's Trinity College and a former Anglican priest, tendered his resignation Jan. 11, according to Donald Wiebe, acting dean of the faculty of divinity at Trinity College.

Holeton's resignation follows a year-long investigation stemming from a sexual abuse complaint made by a Trinity College student in the divinity program in December 1994, at which time Holeton was the college's dean of divinity.

As a result of the allegation, Holeton was required to resign his position and undergo counselling.

At the same time, the Anglican Diocese of Toronto "inhibited" him from functioning as a priest, pending the investigation. However, Holeton was suspended from his clerical duties by the church in April 1995, after he admitted there was truth to the student's complaint.

Two further complaints of sexual abuse, not associated with Trinity College, surfaced late last fall.

Consequently, Holeton was asked to resign from his position at the college, and was permanently suspended from the Anglican priesthood in December.

Wiebe says Trinity College in the future will look at issues beyond academic qualifications when it hires an individual. He says future candidates for positions at Trinity College will face a much closer screening process.

Maclean's catches bogus university info

BY LAURA CONNELL

TORONTO (CUP) — Several student papers were thwarted in their attempts to get fake information printed in the Maclean's Guide to Canadian Universities.

In the past, the issue has included a section listing "what's hot/what's not" from each university based on submissions from campus newspapers.

Last year York University's excalibur sent in fake information, including non-existent breast feeding facilities, which made

This year, the "what's hot/what's not" feature appears in the new, more comprehensive Maclean's university guide published this month, instead of the fall rankings issue.

And once again, campus journalists were up to their old tricks. Editors at Simon Fraser University's Peak in B.C. submitted a fake item about a dance troupe that spontaneously performed at campus pubs to expectant crowds.

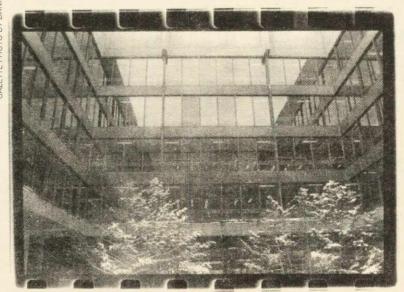
But the fictitious troupe never made it into the guide book. The University of Regina's newspaper The Carillon also submitted false information, which included listing the head of security at U of R as one of the university's top professors.

Dionne Stephens, editor of excalibur, says student journalists were sending in false information because they were unhappy with the fact that they were doing work for Maclean's and not getting the credit.

The argument was [that] Maclean's were not willing to do the work themselves. They were making money off the backs of students and pretending to care about students," said Stephens. "If they really wanted to do the legwork they would have. They were just letting students do their work.'

Earlier this year, the Canadian University Press, a collective of more than 40 Canadian campus newspapers, voted to send a letter of disapproval to Maclean's.

Libraries seek input from students, faculty



Getting inside the Killam

BY DANIEL CLARK

The Dalhousie University Libraries (Killam, Kellogg, and Pharmacy) are giving students and faculty a chance to decide which services they consider essential.

As of Wednesday, Feb. 7, the libraries will be sending out 3,200 questionnaires. Students will receive 1,500 of these, while the remaining 1,700 are being sent to faculty members. A smaller survey, consisting of about 250 questionnaires, will be directed towards the university's support staff.

It is important to have the input of all faculty members, said Betty Sutherland, who led the team that designed the survey. She is also the coordinator of the User Services team and Associate University Librarian (Health Sciences).

We chose to survey the entire faculty, because they have an ongoing use of the library," said Betty Sutherland. "Students are here for three or four years, where faculty are probably here for much longer.'

'We are surveying students, faculty, and staff on which services are most important to them." she continued. "What are the services that we should continue to offer, what we may have to cut, and what new services do we bring in, and if we do, what services will consequently be eliminated."

According to MacLean's magazine, the Dalhousie libraries are, proportionally, among the best funded in Canada. This may change, said Sutherland.

"We are being faced with budget cuts," she said. "Given what is being announced by the federal government in terms of transfer payments, the chances are extremely high that there will be continued cuts in the foreseeable future.'

The survey is expected to cost several thousand dollars, but the exact cost is unknown, said Suth-

'We will not know how much it will cost, we don't have the bills," she said. "There was no specific budget for it.'

The libraries and the Registrar's office collaborated in creating a random sample.

'We have been very careful to get a random sample of students," said Sutherland.'

Students who aren't included in the random sample, but would like to participate in the study, may pick up a survey from any Dalhousie library next week.

It is Sutherland's hope that students will take the opportunity to answer the questions in the surcerns about the library facilities

"We tend to hear less from students, yet we suspect that their needs are different from the faculty's," she said.

The on-campus students, faculty, and staff will most likely receive their surveys today or tomorrow via on-campus mail. Offcampus students will probably have to wait until Monday before their surveys arrive by Canada Post.

The off-campus students who receive surveys will have the option of returning them by regular mail in a self-addressed envelope which has been included with the questionnaire (postage not provided), or delivering them to drop-off boxes that are available in the Killam, Kellogg, or Pharmacy Libraries.

"We are expecting a 25% return rate, but the higher it is, the greater the accuracy of the data," said Sutherland.

Dal PC Youth fight for survival

BY DANIEL CLARK

The Dalhousie chapter of the Progressive Conservative Party is trying to raise its youth organization from the ashes of the country's burnt out Tories.

Drew Campbell, Dal PC Youth's former acting president and treasurer, and now student senator, explained, "We have been stagnant these last few years...we have been inactive for about three years, and as a result we have lost our membership to other parties on campus.

'We have been very big in the past, and by no means do we have to do the same thing as in the past," Campbell said. "We have to show people we've changed in the last few years, that we are a new party, and that we're coming out of the Mulroney era."

Marsha Stagg, the party's current president, supports Campbell in anticipation of renewal within the youth wing of the party.

"Dal PC Youth has had its problems," she said. "We have lost a lot of people, and this has become a rebuilding year. We are rebuilding, getting some new ideas and some new blood."

The party, which was once the largest political organization on campus, now has just three members, and one eighth of the budget it did just five years ago.

Campbell explained that in their attempt to rebuild the party, they had to show the student body "that we are a party who will be

"Our goal is to get our party elected, but also to do a good job, and then hopefully to get elected again," he said.

Campbell explains that the job of a student political party is not only to provide services including forums for political discussion, so-

cial services (recreation, pub crawls, etc.), and access to political leaders for students, but also to educate students about partisan politics.

When asked why it has been so difficult to rebuild the party, Stagg said, "Most people at university are looking at everything, and are trying to find their little niche. It is harder for young people to remain focussed on anything."

The National Conservatives can boast of a resurgence in the latest federal politics. Jean Charest, the party's leader, played an important role in the recent Québec referendum, and was one of the more popular and vocal "NO" leaders.

Charest is an example of the new Progressive Conservative party that is unafraid of the fresh direction being taken, said

"The party isn't static, and the country isn't static, and I don't think we should be afraid of change. What the party members want is how the party is going to be, and if I'm overrided then that's fine," he said.

In the last thirty years, right wing politics have often been labelled as "racist." This label does not apply to the Conservatives, according to Campbell.

"We have to separate the far right wing thinking [from] what I'm talking about; it is a very important separation," he said. "Minority groups can and should play an important part in right wing politics. We can and want to pull these people in; the question is how do we get people involved, but we would never turn any minority away."

The Dal PC Youth are holding an open meeting Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Killam Library,

Room 3616.