

# Single mothers shut out of education

**VANCOUVER (CUP)**—Some parents and childcare workers in B.C. say single mothers face incredible barriers to post-secondary education because the B.C. government does not provide enough money for campus daycare centres.

Lee McKay, a member of Vancouver's lesbian and feminist mothers' action group, says government cutbacks in daycare subsidies mean single mothers must often choose between going to school and ensuring their children are well looked after.

"If universities want to be accessible to women as well as men they have to arrange some first-rate childcare, otherwise the situation is just not equal," McKay said.

Universities and colleges, she says, are designed for students without dependents and many in B.C. have substandard facilities for children.

Although the Canadian Federation of Students-Pacific launched a campaign three years ago urging

the government to upgrade daycare on campuses, CFS-Pacific chair Tami Roberts says subsidies have been frozen since 1981.

The cutbacks have severely affected daycare facilities on two B.C. campuses so far. At Kwantlen College in Surrey, the on-campus daycare centre closed its doors in September, while the Simon Fraser University daycare centre is selling raffle tickets to pay for its maintenance and utilities.

"Why do cashiers, for example, make more money than us? We are responsible for children. We are helping to better society."

SFU daycare workers, however, are more optimistic about their situation. Although they are faced with a \$66,000 cut in funding for maintenance and utilities over a three-year period, they hope they will raise \$10,000 this fall to upgrade the centre's 10 large playgrounds and provide bursaries to subsidize parents' childcare fees.

"The playgrounds have to be safe," said centre director Joyce

Branscombe.

At the University of Victoria, the daycare centre got a boost from students who voted last Spring to kick in a dollar per student per year to fund the centre. Most of the money will go to a five per cent salary increase for the workers at the student-run centre.

Although daycare centres collect fees from parents that range anywhere from \$100 to \$500 a month,

most daycare workers only earn minimum wage. Crystal Saunders of the Capilano College women's centre, a single mother herself, says the wages are a reflection of the poor government planning of daycare.

"It's not set up with any kind of intelligent rationale at all. I think we single parents are discriminated against all the way down the line." □

## No sign of end in strike

**TORONTO (CUP)**—After three weeks on the picket lines, teachers from Ontario's 22 colleges see no end to their strike, and one union official says the government is not taking the union's position seriously.

Caught in the middle are the 120,000 full-time and 160,000 part-time students who continue to be shut out of classes and risk losing their academic year.

Some programs with rigid certification standards, such as nursing and Canada Manpower training, are most severely affected.

Despite these problems, teachers are gathering much support from student and morale is high among the 7,600 faculty involved in the dispute.

"We don't have any control over the Tory government, but what we

would prefer is for the Council of Regents to take this situation seriously," says Katie FitzRandolph, spokesperson for the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, representing the teachers.

The union is standing firm in its demands for a 45-hour work week for teachers, but the council, representing the government, refuses to discuss the matter further.

The council examined the union workload proposal but considered it unworkable in the college situation, according to Bob Burnhardt, staff relations officer for the ministry of colleges and universities.

Seneca College union rep Ted Montgomery told a recent rally it is a now or never situation for Ontario colleges. "If we don't stand up now, the quality of education will slip-slide away until their [students'] certificates aren't worth the paper they're printed on."

Many teachers have taken to wearing buttons with the slogan "I'd rather be teaching."

Another teacher at Centennial College, Eileen Burrows, said: "We are going to continue with this struggle until we have a just workload that is going to result in quality education in Ontario."

The council said little else but "no" at the bargaining table, but has infuriated teachers by taking out province-wide newspaper ads calling the strike "unnecessary" and demanding union leaders call it off "before more damage is done to the community colleges and to the careers of the students."

Union negotiator Ron Martin says the council is wasting money "in one of the most senseless ways imaginable."

"We don't have the money government does [to run ads]," Montgomery said, "but we have right and reason and that's why we're going to win this thing." □

## Hollywood

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drums to so many boxes of cardboard.

The performances on the album more than make up for the lack of production technique, and the preservation of the garage sound proves the authenticity of True West as one of the pre-eminent new bands emerging from the West Coast. The grittiness of the sound, together with the raw styles of the musicians involved, make *Hollywood Holiday* a rough diamond well worth seeking out. □

## Bowie LP

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"Blue Jean" is a cute pop song—no more, no less; no more to be said. "Tumble and Twirl" and "Dancing with the Big Boys" present two very distinct sounds, fine lyrics, and are a sign to the listener that they are indeed listening to a Bowie album.

On the whole, production is good but just good. Bowie, Derek Bramble, and Hugh Padgham do not seem to want to take any chances. The horns and synthesizers synonymous with David Bowie are basically used in the same way as usual. When different things are attempted, as in "Don't Look Down", the rest of the song detracts from anything good which could have come from the changes.

Unfortunately, "Tonight" seems like something Bowie did while "playing around" in Le Studio in Morin Heights. If there is still any doubt as to the validity of the many complaints which have been written in this review, here are some lyrics from "Tonight":

*I am gonna love you til the end  
I will love you till I reach the end  
I will love you till I die  
I will love you in the sky  
Tonight*

Need you read more? □


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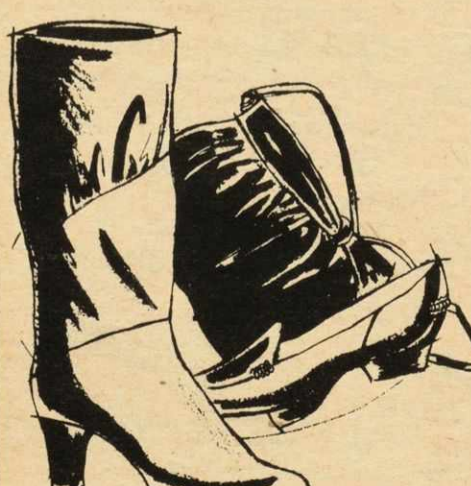
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