

# CROSSCANADA

## Government the only winner

(OTTAWA) — Financial aid as it exists now may be on its way to extinction.

At an Income-Contingent Loan Repayment Plan (ICLRP) symposium held in Toronto September 23 and 24, more than 400 university representatives showed up, about one-quarter of them students.

With this system, the government gives everyone access to a student loan, regardless of need. It then gets the money back through taxes or directly from salaries. Some graduates with very low incomes would not have to pay the full loan back. But it may adversely affect people who traditionally make less money, like women or visible minorities.

At a press conference, Canadian Federation of Students chair Guy Caron said that income-contingent loans were only being introduced as part of a federal government plan to make students pay higher tuition.

Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance spokesperson Rick Martin said income contingency would get rid of means-testing, the calculation of whether a student is really needy or not.

Human Resources Development Minister Lloyd Axworthy made a presentation at the symposium, saying Ottawa will be cutting back its support of Canada's colleges and universities.

ICLRPs were first introduced in Australia.

## Degree no guarantee against poverty

OTTAWA (CUP) — There were 15 per cent more parents with post-secondary degrees who earned family incomes below the poverty line in 1991 than in 1981.

Poor families are those which spend more than 55 per cent of their income on food, clothing and shelter, as defined yearly by Statistics Canada. The study, which was released September 23, suggests that a university degree is less of a guarantee against poverty than ever before.

However, a university degree has not become totally worthless in today's society says Clarence Lochhead, one of the three authors of the *Fact Book on Poverty — 1994*. He says the levels of poverty for university students are low when compared with other groups with less education.

Students fresh out of university find the only jobs available are low-paying, part-time jobs with little or no benefits. The study cites this as one of the main causes of poverty.

"Things don't look bright for graduates, but it'll always be hard to find a job," says Helen Collins, a fourth-year journalism student at Carleton. "It really depends on who you are, past job experience, what your degree is and any other experience you might have."

## Obscene to government, art to university

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) — Red Trench, a controversial piece of sculpture that is said to depict a vagina, was recently returned to public view after eight years in storage.

The initial installation of the Don Wright sculpture in a provincial legislature building in 1986 caused a fuss when several workers interpreted the non-figurative artwork as a graphic representation of female sexual organs.

After considerable debate, the sculpture was removed and has not been available for public viewing until recently, when the provincial government donated the painting to Memorial University.

Lynn Peddle, St. John's Women's Centre co-ordinator said: "Personally, I think it's great. Why should it be hidden away? Was it hidden away because it's supposed to represent female genitalia? Everywhere you look at classical art, you find men's genitalia."

Peddle said it is a good thing Red Trench is finally public. "Couldn't it be positive to get some open dialogue and open debate about the public fear of female genitalia?"

Wright's Red Trench, one of the few non-temporary sculptures he completed, is the first permanent sculpture piece to be added to the university's personal collection.

Wright, who died in 1988, was a popular artist whose work has been included in many shows and exhibitions across Canada.

Canadian University Press (CUP) is a national organization made up of over 40 student papers from St. John's to Victoria. CUP enables student papers to exchange stories and ideas through the wire service, regional and national conferences. As a founding member of CUP, the Dalhousie Gazette makes sure that our university news becomes national news.

# news

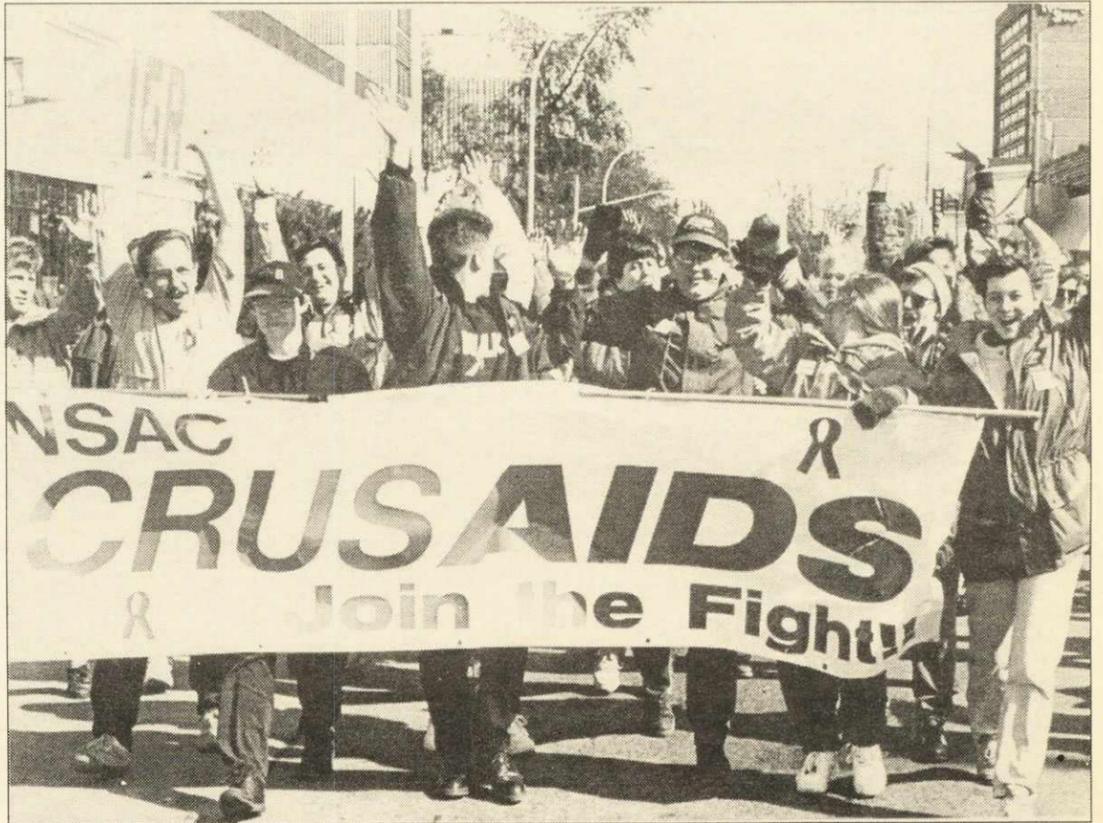


PHOTO: MIKE DEVONPORT

## Joining the fight against AIDS

by Jennifer Partridge

Red ribbons fluttered everywhere in the brisk wind as more than 1000 people converged on the Halifax Commons Sunday afternoon to take part in a march know this year as "the walk...because AIDS touches everyone."

For organizer Gary Woodrooffe, raising awareness and desperately needed funds are two important reasons to hold this community effort.

Woodrooffe said that there are still many people who are not aware of the disease and are therefore at great risk.

Activist Janet Conners, who saw her husband Randy lose his own battle with AIDS, shared her experiences.

"After the walk last year, after I pushed Randy the whole way in his wheelchair and I complained at the end of the day how sore the palms of my hands were... [I] would give any-

thing at the end of today to have those sore hands again."

The AIDS walk launched the start of National AIDS Awareness Week, October 3-10; the one week of the year when the Canadian AIDS Society challenges Canadians to take the time to learn, understand and act on the issues of HIV and AIDS.

The \$36,000 raised on Sunday will go to community-based organizations fighting the disease.

## Tuition fees may double

by Milton Howe

Federal Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy released his long-awaited social policy review, "Improving Social Security in Canada" Wednesday and it doesn't bode well for students struggling their way through post-secondary education.

Under the current system, the federal government transfers about \$2.6 billion per year to the provinces which subsidise universities and colleges.

In a section of the report titled "Learning: Making Lifelong Learning a Way of Life," Axworthy recommends that the old financial process end and a new system of repayable loans be offered directly to students,

with some accommodation for low-income students.

If that sounds to you like huge tuition hikes, read on. "It is true that replacing federal cash transfers would put upward pressure on tuition fees. This may be a necessary price to pay to put in place a permanent system for ensuring accessibility to post-secondary education," the report says.

With regard to the issue of income-contingent loans, the report states that "If fiscal constraints on governments mean that students must bear a larger share of the costs of their education or training, then linking repayment more closely to ability to pay has an obvious element of fairness."

Derek Ferguson reported in

Wednesday's *Toronto Star* the story behind the glossy report, garnered from a leaked cabinet document which says that "The rapid and complete phase-out [of federal transfers to the provinces for education] is expected to cause tuition fees to double by 1997." According to Mr. Ferguson, the document also goes on to say that "the government doesn't want to reveal the cuts until the next budget."

Needless to say, the provinces, universities and students of Canada are gearing up to challenge this policy recommendation, and this is but one plank of the report. Axworthy is in for a long series of fights with various groups who will be affected by the contents of the controversial report.

## New Dal president

by Gazette staff

After a lengthy candidate selection process, the Dalhousie Board of Governors (BoG) announced the appointment of Dr. Tom Traves as Dalhousie University's 10th president, to take effect in July 1995.

This pulls Dr. Traves away from his current position as vice-president academic at the University of New Brunswick (UNB) in Fredericton.

Reaction around campus was generally muted, with many people not aware that the presidential search process was taking place, let alone already over. A number of students were surprised to read early this week

in the metro newspapers of Dalhousie's new president. This is due to the silence of the Presidential Search Committee ever since the committee decided to keep their shortlist deliberations and decision-making confidential — including the delivery of its recommendation to the BoG.

This committee, composed of 14 people from all areas of the campus, met extensively in the early stages of the search process with many groups on campus. However, some groups feel that all should have been involved through the whole process — up to the interviewing and shortlisting of the candidates.

Despite the unanimous commit-

tee recommendation and the heaps of praise accorded Dr. Traves in all communication from the Board of Governors and the President's offices, some people remain sceptical about the appointment. Attempts to reach anyone from the Presidential Search Committee for comment met with little success. It seems likely that barring any outrageous incidents we will never know what led them to select Dr. Traves.

Traves, born in Winnipeg, studied at the University of Manitoba and York University, served as history professor and dean of arts at York, and then was appointed as vice-president academic at UNB-Fredericton in 1991.