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Energy Resources Conservation Board

Vacancies on GFC

Although only twenty-two of forty student undergraduate positions on General Faculties Council (GFC) are occupied, a student representative on GFC has deemed the situation "not serious."

GFC Student Caucus chairman Chris Hansen says "it's only a matter of time before the positions are filled." Hansen cites student disinterest and a general difficulty in filling various faculty organization positions as reasons for the vacancies.

The Students' Union is holding a by-election later in October to fill nine of the eighteen vacant positions. There are four openings each from the Faculties of Education and Science, and one from Arts. The vacant position from Arts is due to the resignation of Kevan Warner.

The remaining nine positions are to be filled when faculty organizations responsible for electing their own members hold elections.

Students may only vote for the positions open in their faculties.

Students were first given a major role in GFC in 1971. At that time, students were granted parity with elected staff members. In the years following, the student caucus has usually been full, but in the last few years, student interest has tapered off.

Canadian University Press

National Notes

No more working class doctors

NEW YORK (CUP) — Students from families with lower-middle incomes — in the \$10,000 to \$20,000 a year range — are gradually disappearing from US medical schools, while the percentage of children of the affluent is increasing.

Surveys of entering classes by the Association of American Medical Colleges show that from 1974 to 1977 the number of students from families in the \$10,000 to \$16,999 category fell from 20.9 per cent to 14.9 per cent and those in the \$17,000 to \$20,000 group fell from 13.4 per cent to 11.3 per cent.

"We have been fighting for years to broaden the socio-economic level of entering students but now we are concerned that medicine is going to return to being a profession for the rich," says John Cooper, president of the AAMC.

Although the national median family income in the US in 1977 was \$16,000 the median for new medical students was \$26,000 that year, according to the Bureau of Census.

"H.L. Mencken once said that medicine was a rich man's sport and I have been comforted in the last decade that that was past history," says Dr. Henry Seidel, associate medical dean at John Hopkins. "But I am scared for the future because I don't think we can have a viable system unless we have a strong cadre of physicians from the entire social spectrum."

Let them eat cake

HAMILTON (CUP) — Ontario education minister Bette Stephenson apparently expects parents to "starve" if necessary to pay for their children to attend university.

Speaking to students at McMaster University recently, Stephenson said that despite inflation the provincial government expects parental contributions to increase.

"In Japan, many parents starve for their children's education," Stephenson replied to students' complaints.

The remark typified the question and answer session, with the education minister skilfully dodging inquiries about future funding of Ontario colleges and universities, possible tuition increases, student aid plan changes and the status of foreign students in the province.

Door Wars in Montreal

MONTREAL (CUP) — Students at Vanier College have been shown the door — by a campus security guard.

But rebellious students have launched a Door War against the administration's attempt to force them to use side doors instead of the main college entrance. The move was made in an effort to relocate student traffic and minimize cleaning costs.

Campus director Joe Zemanovich said the decision is logical and dismissed arguments from students who protest the non-democratic nature of the restriction.

"What's democratic today anyway?" Zemanovich asked.

"I consider it complimentary that the major issue at this school is the front door," he said.

But the student association doesn't take the action so lightly. A newsletter put out by the association called the door stop an invasion of students' rights and urged Vanier students to defy the regulations.

"I've always used 821 (the main entrance) and I'm still going to use it, ban or no bah," said one militant student.

An idea for Olmstead

REGINA (CUP) — The University of Regina student representative council, plagued by poor attendance of its members, has decided to reward those who attend its regular meetings.

In a variation of the "gold star" reward used in primary school for achievements, councillors will receive, at the end of the meeting of course, their choice of one pub night or two film night passes for showing up.

Quorum has been a major problem for the council, which has been forced to cancel several summer meetings due to a lack of attendance.

Council bylaws allow for councillors to be suspended after missing three consecutive meetings but it is hoped that the reward system will make suspensions unnecessary.

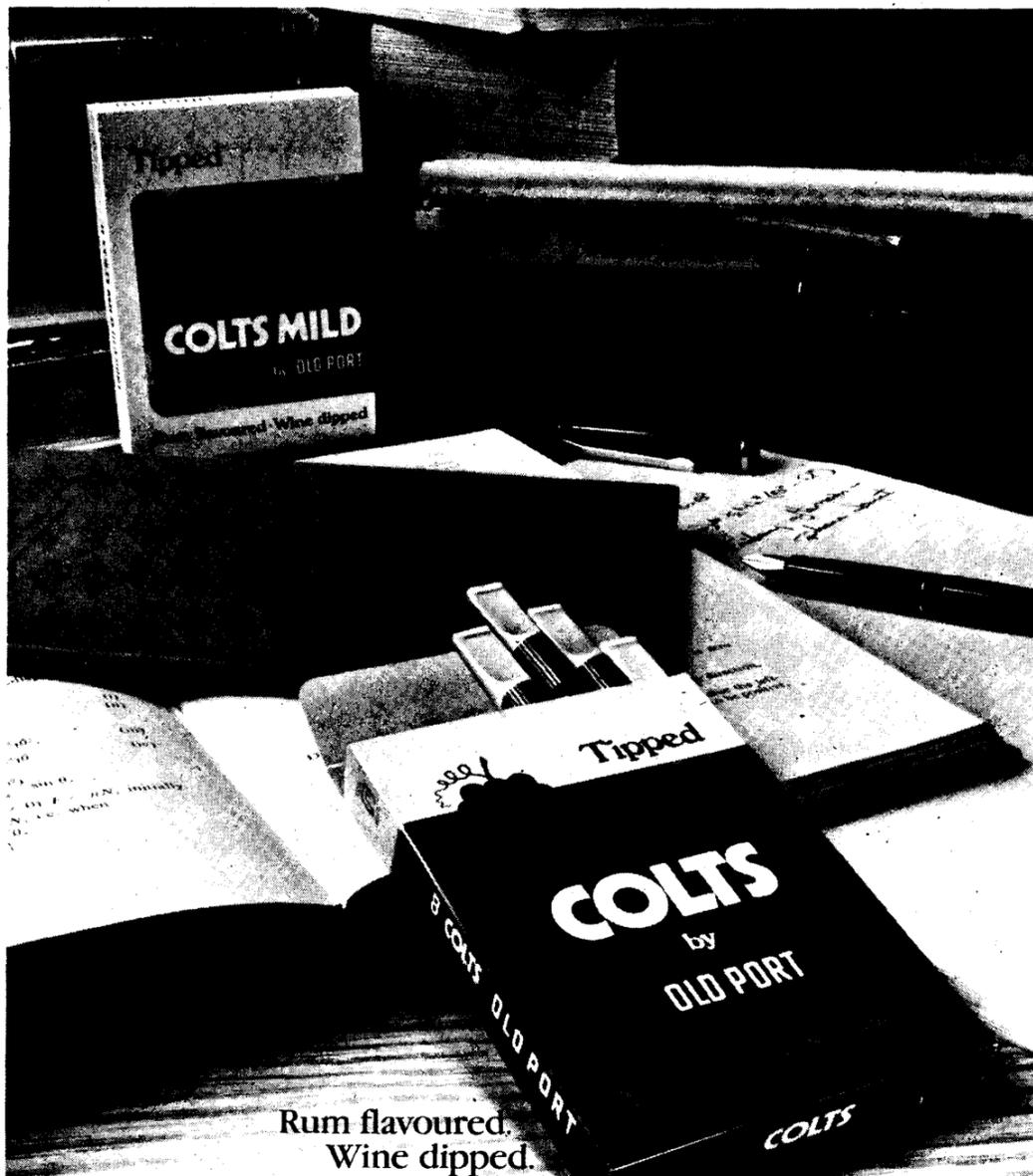
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