



Finance minister Allan MacEachen would have us believe that proposed cuts were only a Halloween prank

## Claims exaggerated

TORONTO (CUP) — Claims by federal opposition parties that money for social services and post-secondary education will be cut back in the coming federal budget are greatly exaggerated, according to finance minister Allan MacEachen.

MacEachen told a Liberal party meeting November 5 that although he said the government wanted savings in the social affairs envelope when announcing the last budget, "— never said we intend to cut federal support for health care and post-secondary education."

Rumors concerning MacEachen's budget plans, suggesting he intends to cut up to \$1.5 billion in federal transfer payments, consisted of "false impressions, mainly from the opposition side," said Sean Reilly, aide to the minister. The provinces use the federal payments for social programs, including post-secondary education.

MacEachen said in his speech that the federal track record in funding to health and education "can bear the most minute scrutiny. I'm not so sure the record of some of the provinces could meet the same test."

Reilly said that MacEachen wanted spending restrained in the entire social affairs envelope, which covers government operations ranging from labor, health and welfare to communications. Transfer funding to the provinces represents only 50 per cent of the social affairs envelope.

MacEachen plans to "change the rate of growth" in transfer fundings instead of making actual cutbacks in the amount of funding, said Reilly.

Students, university administrations and other social sectors are gearing up for what they expect to be major reductions in funding passed on to the provinces in the November 12 budget. They claim MacEachen's testimony to a federal task force

on fiscal arrangements last summer included his plans to reduce federal funding, while making provinces more accountable for the money they receive.

The task force report, released this fall, recommended that block federal funding continue without reductions.

Student representatives think the federal budget will

include funding reductions, but will leave the actual programs open to cutbacks up to the judgement of the provinces. It might be politically astute, they say, to pass the problem to the provinces. The minister has been consistent in his claims that the provincial governments are not supporting education as they should.

## THE CHOPPING BLOCK

by Jens Andersen

If you read the fine print in the *Gateway* survey results last week, you may have noticed that there was a person who, though he claimed never to read our sports stories, found the Sports Section "fast and active" (the person was an artsie, if you must know).

Though it wasn't mentioned in the survey results, two other people also made punchy comments about our newspaper, after confessing to not having read the sections in question.

One, a Grad student, read question 5 ("Which of the above sections do you never/seldom read?"), crossed out the "seldom", underlined the "never", and listed Features, Editorials and Arts as the things he never looked at. He then proceeded to call the editorials "boring and stupid", and "high school stuff", and noted: "Editor on Ego Trip." Next, he labelled features "Pretty lacklustre," and added that he would like to see "less on Capitalist or Communist propaganda". Finally he stated that the Arts section is "obnoxious and impertinent," and that it is a "lot of purple prose. Appears to be writing exercises."

All this he determined without doing any reading.

Duplicating this amazing feat was a *wunderkind* from the faculty of Engineering. Unlike the Grad student he did not cross out the "seldom," but he did underline the "never". The sections he avoided were News, Arts and Features, of which the engineer could only refrain from commenting on Arts. News, in his/her opinion is "poorly written" and "often biased," and features are "CUP propaganda".

Of course, one must take into account the fact that in Engineering one can learn a lot about the *Gateway* by hearsay.

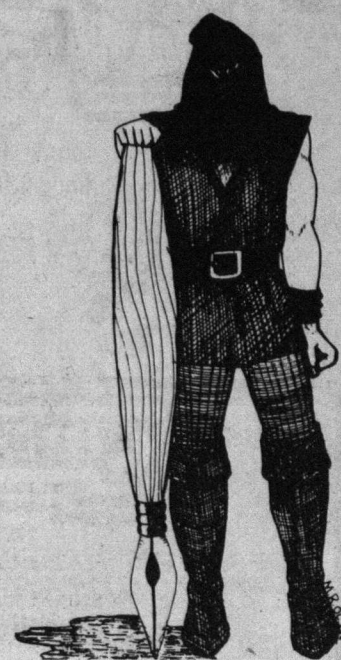
Other interesting notes on the survey:

\*One electrical engineer said that cartoons were "a waste of space," but added that we should run the same number of them.

\*One Artsie requested a feature on "campus sex: where to find women on campus." (Open your eyes, boy. Or ask an engineer.)

\*The assertion by "I am a (sic) Aggie" that this year's editorials are "too much feminist crap." In fact, there hasn't been a single editorial on feminism this year.

Isn't it reassuring that perspicacious students like the people above are going to be the leaders of tomorrow?



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