

McDonald elected CUP Features Writer

by Ken Burke

Former Gazette Editor Cathy McDonald is moving up in the journalistic world. McDonald, a third-year Dal Engineering student, was elected National Features Writer of Canadian University Press (CUP) at its national conference held during the Christmas break.

"I'm really thrilled," enthused McDonald. "It's a unique kind of job."

Canadian University Press is a co-operative of over 50 Canadian

student newspapers of which the Dal Gazette is a founding member. McDonald's term will begin this coming September, and will necessitate a move to Ottawa, where CUP's national office (CUPOTT) is located.

As National Features Writer, she will be responsible for writing original features as well as collecting and editing features culled from CUP member papers for a features exchange regularly sent to all member papers. Among the fea-

tures selected for re-printing this past year have been several Dal Gazette articles.

McDonald intends to focus on writing three or four in-depth features next year on Canadian post-secondary education. "It's in a terrific state of change," she explained. McDonald targetted education funding, pressures on universities and colleges to switch from liberal arts to job-related training courses, and decreasing accessibility to higher education as three main

areas of concern.

The job also involves close contact with the finances of the organization. Currently, CUP, and Media Services, CUP's wholly-owned national advertising company, are experiencing a shortfall in revenue due to a decrease in revenue (see story p.) This has meant a deficit budget for the first time in CUP's

45 year history. The budget is among McDonald's main concerns, particularly regarding the future

survival of the organization.

"We're hoping our national ad company will survive the economic depression and be able to help us out financially," she said. "But it's a precarious year — the advertising industry is very unstable."

However, McDonald is optimistic about CUP's future. "CUP has survived for 45 years — even through the last depression. I don't see why we can't get through this one."

Penny pinching in a big way

by Gazette staff

With so many stories of over-spending, it's good to know thriftiness is still around.

Dalhousie, Mount St. Vincent and St. Mary's universities have combined net savings of over \$200,000 on purchases made through the Purchasing and Centralized Services Office. Bulk purchasing of office, janitorial and audio-visual supplies through the jointly operated office since it opened in September, 1981, comprise a major part of the savings.

Savings of approximately 17 per cent on supply purchases totalling over \$1 million, plus additional saving of \$22,000 on additional purchases, place Dalhousie as the biggest saver. However, at Monday's Senate meeting, university president Andrew MacKay commented "I don't know what we've saved, we just made it go a little farther."

Mount Saint Vincent realized 21 per cent savings on \$103,000 worth of purchases and St. Mary's saved 23 per cent on \$121,000 worth of purchases.

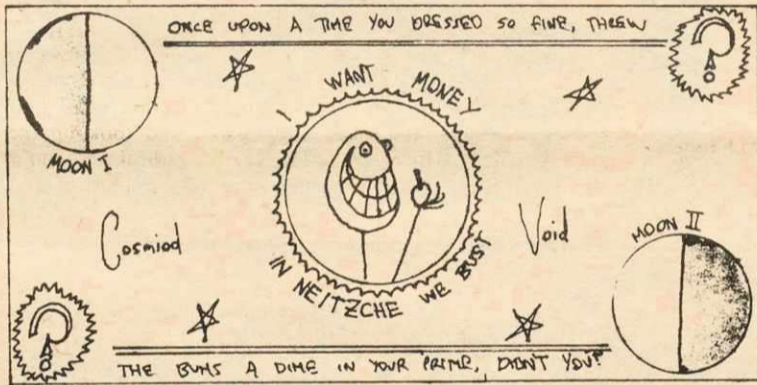
The universities plan to increase their co-operation in an effort to continue to reduce costs. Art galleries and libraries have been working together for some time, co-ordinating exhibits and allowing reciprocal borrowing of materials among five university libraries. A future possibility would be a common data base file for the libraries, aiming at an integrated, centralized file for acquisitions, cataloguing and circulation.

With the constant need to update and expand computer facilities consideration is being given to sharing software packages, to jointly hiring computer maintenance personnel, and increasing machine compatibility so each university might rely on another's services should the occasion arise.

Some computer equipment, microcomputers and word processing supplies have already been bought through the joint purchasing office.



Cathy (Ms. Gazette) McDonald



gingers

Hollis at Morris


Ron-Doug PARKS ONE MAN BAND

Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday Nights

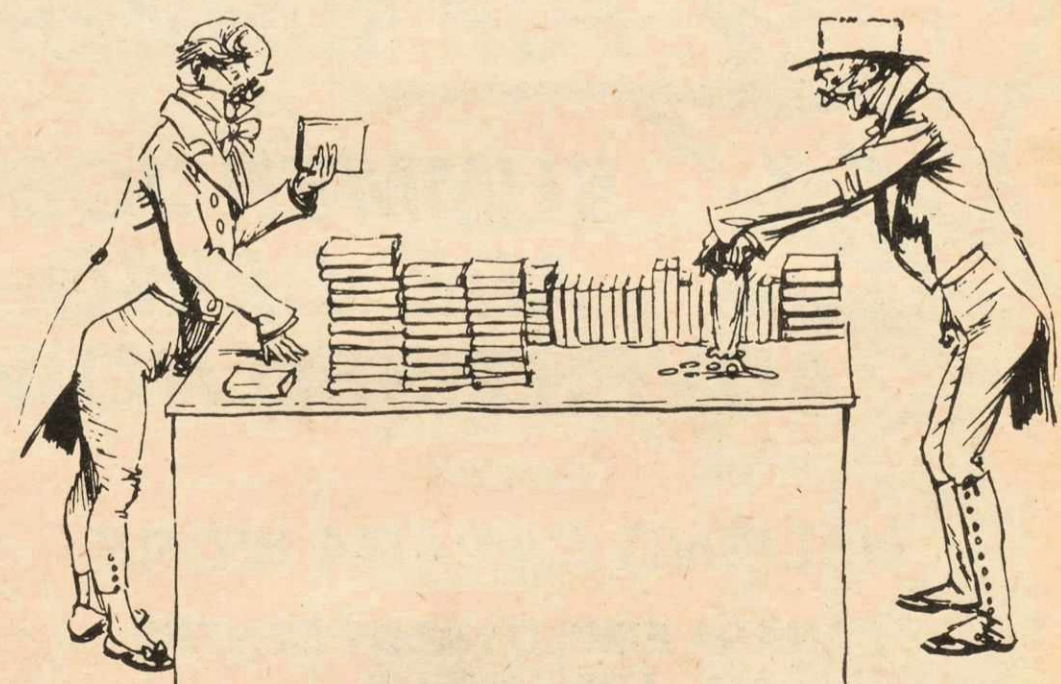
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