

## CROSSCANADA

### Music prof suing students

SASKATOON (CUP) — In what some university leaders have called a dangerous precedent, a University of Saskatchewan assistant professor has decided to sue seven students in the music department.

Walter Kreyszig is suing the students for material printed in the *Spasm*, a music students' publication, in March 1992. He is looking for a judgment in excess of \$15,000.

Kreyszig is suing the editor, Richard Dubé, and six other students for material which he claims makes him "the subject of a defamatory caricature of his person and achievement and a subject of an attempt at parody."

Kreyszig feels the students' comments were used to "humiliate and expose to ridicule [him] in his office as a scholarly writer and in his musicianship."

The suit has left the seven students scrambling for funds for legal counsel while others in the university community wonder if this might happen again.

Interestingly, there is a university policy meant to deal with these kinds of situations.

The policy allows for student discipline, ranging from total dismissal to expelling students. Many are bothered that Kreyszig went directly to the courts instead of dealing with the matter internally.

### New course focuses on children's rights

VICTORIA (CUP) — Seizing the initiative, the University of Victoria's School of Child and Youth Care is developing a course to help professionals and youth care students deal with children in need.

The course will focus on implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and adapting it to conditions present in British Columbia.

Part of this will involve educating students about the Convention and how students can apply it in day-to-day life.

Phillip Cook, an assistant professor at the school, said Canada badly needs to adopt the Convention because it has the highest rate of child poverty in the industrialized world.

One of the biggest reasons for this is the lack of day care for single mothers. Cook said day care isn't a panacea but it would go a long way in providing part of the answer.

Cook estimates that about one in five children in Canada live below the poverty line. He also said Native children need the help most.

Another area the course will discuss is how to advocate effectively for children's rights.

The course was funded by the provincial government at a cost of \$48,000; \$40,000 comes from the Ministry of Social Services and \$8,000 comes from the Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour.

The course is being developed in response to the Stronger Children-Stronger Families conference held in Victoria last June, and will be taught as a third-year, one-semester course. Pilot testing begins next May.

### Canadian students aren't studying abroad

REGINA (CUP) — Canadian universities should make it a priority to encourage students to go on foreign exchange programs to avoid a disadvantage in future international competition, says a new report.

The report, released by the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE), says that Canada ranks among the lowest of the G7 nations in sending students to study abroad.

The report was critical of Canada's post-secondary education system. It noted that Canada is the most dependent of all G7 countries on external trade, but spends less than any other G7 nation on international education and training. However, Canada's Foreign Exchange Student Program is young compared to those of the United States, Great Britain and France.

"For the best university, there is less than 1.5 per cent of students that go on individual, student, or exchange programs," said Barry Tonge, Education Abroad co-ordinator at the University of Alberta.

Compared to the United States and European countries, Canada has invested very little in international exchanges.

Part of the reason why so few Canadian students go abroad to study is because there is no mechanism to put students on exchanges — Canadian universities don't see these programs as a priority or necessity. Also, students have to finance themselves in most cases.

Another problem is the transfer of credit. The European countries have standardized credit systems. Canada doesn't.

Most universities are beginning to see the significance and the importance of an international education.

"The interest is there in a phenomenal way. There are many more students interested than we can facilitate," said Tonge.

## news

# World AIDS day

Despite efforts by AIDS organizations around the globe to confront the spread of HIV and break the barriers to much needed information, support and services for persons living with HIV/AIDS, the number of persons diagnosed with HIV continues to rise dramatically.

This critical situation is what has sparked the many activities being organized by AIDS groups worldwide, as they prepare for World AIDS Day — the focus of annual efforts to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and spur effective action against the pandemic.

This year's World AIDS Day theme, "AIDS and the Family: Families take care" not only ties in with the fact that 1994 is International Year of the Family, but addresses the devastating effect HIV/AIDS is hav-

ing on an increasing number of families the world over.

Consider the following:

- more than 17 million men, women and children have been infected with HIV since the start of the pandemic [World Health Organization]

### 6000 new infections

every day

- every day, 6,000 new infections occur, and at least 15 million more infections are likely to occur by the end of the century unless the world devotes far more energy and resources to AIDS prevention [World Health

Organization]

- the number of reported AIDS cases in North America continues to rise — approximately 450,000 in North America, more than 10,000 of which are in Canada [Health Canada's Laboratory for Disease Control]

On World AIDS Day and throughout the year, AIDS organizations are endeavouring to increase awareness that today's "family" has many definitions. Gay and lesbian communities in Canada — which have taken the lead in responding to AIDS — are pointing out that traditional and non-traditional families alike play a crucial role in addressing the epidemic.

There are a number of activities planned for this day in Halifax. Consult the Dalendar on page 27 or call 425-4882 for more information.

## A short history of tuition

by Rachel Furey

OTTAWA (CUP) — University tuition fees have not always been high. Believe it or not, there was a time when full-time jobs during the school year and loan repayment extending long after graduation were not necessary realities.

In real terms — meaning adjusted to present day prices using the Consumer Price Index — tuition fees in 1929 were on average about \$600 per year. Today, most students pay more than \$2,000 for the same service.

The reason for the price increase is the government decrease in financial support for post-secondary education.

This has become especially evident in recent years. As the Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada points out in its 1991 publication of *Trends*, a document which examines finances at Canadian universities, "It is clear that government support has not kept pace with inflation and student growth."

According to *Trends*, "Government support has declined steadily from 1977 to the present."

In the past, many provincial governments took measures that made university education readily accessible to students. During the 1940s, the Ontario provincial government paid the university tuition of all returning war veterans.

The Newfoundland government took this concept a step further in the 1960s when it decided to pay the tuition fees for all full-time students who were residents of Newfoundland, a practice which continued until 1974.

In Quebec, the provincial government imposed a fee freeze, which kept fees at 1967 levels in current dollars. It unfroze fees in 1990, and since then they have risen more than 200 per cent. However, Quebec uni-

### Government support

has not kept pace with inflation and student growth

versities' tuition fees are still the lowest in the country.

In other countries such as Sweden, there are no tuition fees and students attend university at the expense of their governments.

But as the Council of Ontario Universities points out in its 1989 publication, *Focus on Fees*, there is not a greater number of students in Sweden due to the accessibility of post-secondary education.

The choice by young people to

attend university "is more likely the result of parental influences on motivation and career choices."

According to Statistics Canada, tuition fees increased about 120 per cent from 1980 to 1990. Fee increases at Ontario universities were consistent with this 120 per cent.

The greatest increase was seen in B.C., where fees increased almost 200 per cent and the smallest increase was in Quebec where, due to the pre-1990 freeze, fees increased by 75 per cent.

The 1993 Profile of Post-Secondary Education in Canada reveals that the portion of government funding for university decreased from 1982 to 1992.

This led to an increase in tuition fees, which now account for 30 per cent more of the percentage distribution of total university income than they did in 1982. That means 13 per cent of the total university income now comes from students.

Many have suggested that the proposals in the Green Book, the federal government's recent attempt to reform education, health care and unemployment, will lead the provinces to hike tuition fees by as much as \$2,000 to \$8,000 as early as next year.

The book itself says that the trend of rising tuition fees "will no doubt continue" as the federal government goes after the national debt.

## 25 years of help line

by Milton Howe

In 1969, the Nova Scotia Welfare Council sponsored an eight-month pilot project to operate a "help line" to be staffed by Social Work students.

Twenty-five years later, the Help Line (421-1188) is still up and running, in fact stronger than ever. They recently launched a province-wide toll-free number, 1-800-420-TEEN.

Along the way, Help Line has had a number of important milestones.

In 1971, they were officially born, with a board of directors, recruitment policy and mandate to provide the public with counselling services. They continue to do so, with fund-

ing coming from both the provincial government and the United Way agency. The municipalities help out in other ways, and a number of corporate sponsors kick in with product and service discounts.

Helpline:  
421-1188

Kirsten Kelly, Public Relations Coordinator for Help Line, says that it is too early to gauge the response to the 1-800 service but she adds that the calls have been coming in from across the province. She says that despite the launch-

ing of the Youth Help Line (420-TEEN) in 1989 and the new service, the size of the volunteer base has changed little over the years. The various telephone operations and community outreach workshops are conducted by a paid staff of three full- and two part-time employees, who are supplemented by a strong contingent of approximately 120 volunteers working a few hours each per week.

Persons interested in volunteering for Help Line are asked to call the office (422-2048) and an application will be sent out to them. Upon receipt of the application, the Help Line staff will contact the applicant and arrange for an interview to assess the suitability of the candidate.

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.