

# Simon Fraser TAs make plans to unionize

BURNABY (CUP) - It took the reality of a strike and a repressive administration strike policy to do it, but Simon Fraser University teaching assistants are attempting to unionize.

Fifty of them met September

14 to announce they had obtained a union charter from the Association of University and College Employees (AUCE). They also adopted a position paper which supports the campus' 71 striking mechanical

trades workers and denounces President Pauline Jewett's strike policy.

The workers struck on September 8 after summer-long negotiations for a shorter work week and parity with workers at the University of British Columbia failed. In the midst of these negotiations Jewett announced a policy which in part threatens SFU's non-unionized faculty "or other members of instructional staff" with disciplinary action if they fail to cross picket lines.

Resolving not to "find ourselves in an unprotected position with respect to future labor disputes with the university," the teaching assistants em-

barked on a two month membership drive in a certification bid as Local 6 of AUCE.

If 35 percent of the ap-

proximate 400 teaching assistants sign, a vote in favor of certification is needed. If 50 percent sign up no vote is necessary.

## U of T may unionize

TORONTO (CUP) - Professors at the University of Toronto may follow the lead of their teaching assistants by forming a collective bargaining unit for salary and benefits negotiations this fall.

The U of T Faculty Association (UTFA) will decide soon whether they want the benefits won by the Graduate Assistants Association (GAA) in their recent

contract with the university.

AUTFA committee is preparing a collective bargaining document with "modest and reasonable" demands for a "iron-clad grievance procedure and final choice arbitration according to committee head Jean Smith.

Currently 16 Canadian university faculty associations are unionized.

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## Student aid stays static

HALIFAX (CUP) - Canada provincial education ministers will make recommendations on student aid changes to the federal government soon, but these won't include a proposal to increase that aid.

At the close of the Council of Ministers of Education of Canada (CMEC) meeting in Halifax September 21-22, Manitoba education minister Bennett Hanuschak said, "The federal government has not been approached to increase its funding of the student aid program."

The meeting was called to discuss the federal government plans for increased involvement in post-secondary education policy, according to CMEC chair and PEI education minister Bennett Campbell.

The ministers had nothing to say on the effects expected changes in federal/provincial cost sharing would have on post-secondary education, despite a report from informed sources that the Fiscal Arrangements Act (FAA) was to be on the agenda.

Under the FAA, due to expire in April 1977, the federal government matches dollar for dollar what the provinces spend on their respective post-secondary education systems.

Recent FAA negotiations however, reveal the federal government will abolish this system and replace it with a transfer of tax points to the provinces.

The smaller and poorer provinces have said their small tax bases will mean decreased financing for education when the new system comes into effect next year.

## Unemployment no show in B.C.

VICTORIA (CUP) - High student summer unemployment may be the reason for decreased enrolment at the University of Victoria according to president Howard Petch.

Students just didn't have the money to come, he said. But the university is going to do a survey to pinpoint the reasons why 34 first year applicants decided not to attend.

The enrolment shortfall will have "significant financial implications" on the university, the president said.

"Our net income will be down something in the order of \$240,000."

Petch said budgetary projections were based on 1,700 new students attending and that the 340 who didn't "is a significant number."

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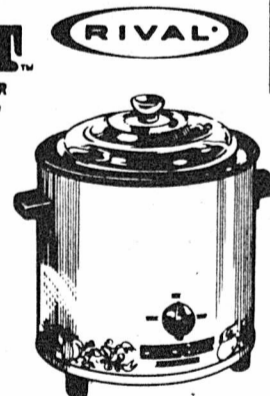
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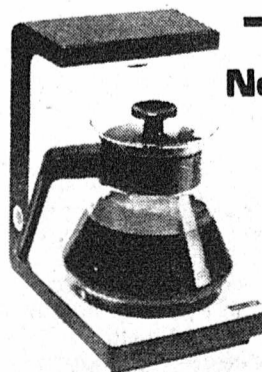
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