

Feminists feared

MONTREAL (CUP) — Campaign posters of a feminist slate running in Concordia University's student council elections were defaced with violent messages earlier this month.

Co-presidential candidates Eleanor Brown and Charlene Nero had their "Feminism Works" posters defaced with the message "Would you join a fraternity that didn't let you rape your date?"

"It's terrifying to think that people react to something they disagree with, or are frightened of — of the word feminist — by lashing out against women in general," Nero said.

Nero and Brown won the election, which took place Feb. 5-7.

Nero said she was even more outraged because of the attack's timing, pointing out that it happened four days before sexual assault awareness week.

"This is very demoralizing," Nero said. "A lot of people have worked hard to make people aware of the sexual assault on campuses and in frats."

She blamed the campaign incident on the Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) fraternity for producing the original poster, which included the offending message.

Anna Katsafouros, president of the Inter-Fraternity Council, said the TKE poster was part of a campaign trying to change the common stereotypes associated with frats.

She said the poster was meant to be "eye-catching" and if someone stopped to read the words, "Why join a fraternity that won't let you rape your date?", then they would see the equally-large print underneath reading "Because ALL fraternities oppose date rape!"

"Even if the poster is meant to be anti-rape, and give the message that the fraternity administration want to reform, the poster itself was irresponsible in its presentation, it simply doesn't work," Nero said.

Protestors beware!

BOSTON (CUP/CPS) — The city council in Medford, Massachusetts, has called on Congress to make Gulf War protesters give up their student loans if they are arrested and convicted for illegally demonstrating.

Council members Fran Giordano introduced the resolution, which the council passed 5-2 Jan. 22. It was soon after protesters had blocked traffic in downtown Boston, and tried to obstruct operations at Westover Air Force Base in Chicopee.

About 50 anti-war activists, students and war veterans crowded into the council's meeting Feb. 5 to ask the council to rescind the resolution.

The council refused to back down.

"The Bill of Rights doesn't guarantee you the right to block driveways or lie down in traffic," Giordano said, adding that "economics" also spurred him to sponsor the resolution.

The state faces an \$850 million budget deficit this year and is slashing aid to cities and towns. Money is tight, and demonstrations cost cities much-needed money, he said.

Medford itself, home to Tufts University, has seen few war-related demonstrations.

The resolution, which Giordano admitted is "more or less a symbolic gesture on our part," has been forwarded to the Massachusetts Congressional delegation, one of the most liberal in the nation. It is up to them to decide whether to bring it up to the rest of Congress.

Networking group

MONTREAL (CUP) — A new environmental networking group has been launched by students to create better communication links between campus groups across the country.

The Canadian Unified Students' Environmental Network (CUSEN) was founded at a conference held by the Queen's University student council in Kingston, Ontario Jan. 25-27.

CUSEN has a mandate "to facilitate communications and education and sharing amongst its members." The group will act as a form of communication between students in environmental groups on national, regional and local issues.

This communication will help keep students up-to-date and informed on various issues. "It will act as a resource bank, ideally," said Aaron Freeman of Quebec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG), Quebec delegate to the Steering Committee.

The steering committee will include representatives from across the country and will govern the network until a permanent governing body is established.

Eastern Canada's representative on the steering committee is Thea Wilsom Hammond, chair of St. Mary's Environmentally Concerned Student's Society (ECOSS).

Students ousted

UPEI reading month

by Jerry West

Students at the University of Prince Edward Island are in the midst of what may be the longest spring break in history.

Over 3,000 athletes taking part in PEI's Canada Winter Games have taken over the campus for an entire month, and students have been told to stay away.

When PEI was chosen as the site for the games in 1987, the university's administration kindly offered its campus — including the students' residences — to organizers for the month.

This year students were told that they would have a break from February 10 to March 9, a sort of "reading month" and that they were

not only free to leave campus, they had no other choice.

UPEI president C.W.J. Eliot said he expected "some minor inconveniences."

"The students have all been looked after," said President Eliot. Is that so?

For the month that the university is shut down, the students had to find a place to stay. The university residence office tried to find free billets for the 24 students who didn't have the money to go home or friends in town to stay with.

One student, Wendy Nicholson, the single mother of a two-year-old, found a place to stay two days before the deadline. Because she is a single mother Nicholson could not get a billet.

The residence manager, "made every effort to find me a place," said Nicholson, "but in the end I had to get an apartment." With the cost of moving, telephone and electricity hook-up, damage deposit and rent, the Canada Games is costing Nicholson \$1,300.

According to Jack Kane of the Canada Games Host Society, the displacing of students is standard practice.

"Since the first Canada Games in '67, the athletes have been put up in schools or universities the majority of times," said Kane. "It's really only a problem for the winter games."

With the university entirely taken over by the athletes, classes have been cancelled. The students were given a number of options as to how to make up the lost time.

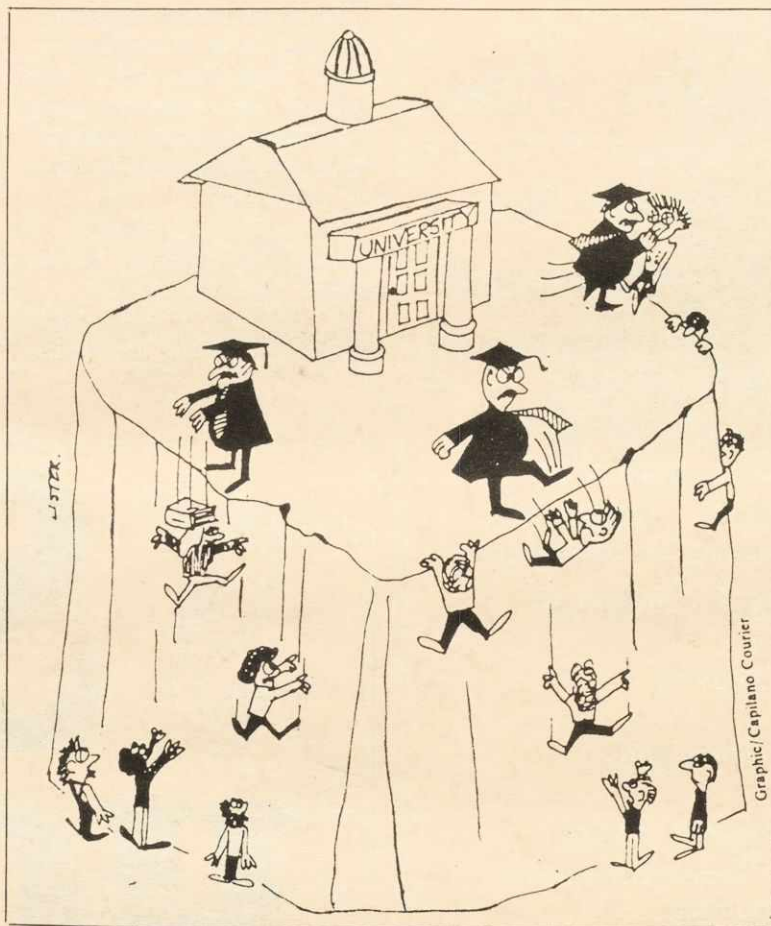
It seems that the least painful of these was extending their year into the summer break. This means starting summer jobs late, if the jobs aren't already taken by students from other provinces.

It also means problems with next year's student loans. University students' expected income over the summer is gauged on an 18 week work term. The PEI student aid department said they will account for the shortened summer, but students from outside of the province may have a lot of headaches.

So what does the university get out of this?

For a \$750,000 outlay — \$300,000 of which was supplied by a single alumnus — the campus receives a shiny new \$6.5 million fieldhouse. And for an extra \$550,000 they get a \$1.2 million cafeteria.

"Like every improvement," said President Eliot, "the benefits will be around for 40 years. The students in the first year will just have to foot the bill".



TYP — twenty years wiser?

BY SELETA CROMWELL

This year marks the twentieth anniversary for the Transition Year Program. The program, the first of its kind in Canada, reaches out to the Afro-Canadian and Native communities of Nova Scotia.

"alleviate poverty through education"

It is a transition for members of these communities who wish to acquire a university education. It's initial long-term mandate was to "develop leadership and a self-help capacity within these disadvantaged communities; alleviate poverty in these communities by edu-

cation." Although not carved in stone, there was an age restriction commonly practised. However, over the years the program has attracted the younger generation, having been failed by their secondary institutions.

The TYP overall has been a successful program. Several well deserving Afro-Canadians and natives have gained readmittance into the academic community. However, its original mandate seems to be forgotten. Perhaps the reason is the inadequacy of it in the first place. The survival of three hundred years of slavery must attest to our leadership and self-help ability. Yet, education is an essential need for survival, which makes me more appalled at Dalhousie's cancelling of the African Studies

Centre. Without a chance to learn of their past, today's Afro-Canadian youth are destined to be unsure of their future.

To add insult to injury the TYP has announced this year that they are returning to their old restriction on age. Although, this is supposed to be a ten year process, the 91/92 application form states, "Applicants who are 23 or older are especially desired." This is a clear signal to Nova Scotia's minority youth, who for twenty years have helped keep the TYP alive. Perhaps, the Dalhousie Administration has forgotten that an adequate school system is what brought these youths to the TYP.

Seleta Cromwell is a member of the Transition Year Program.