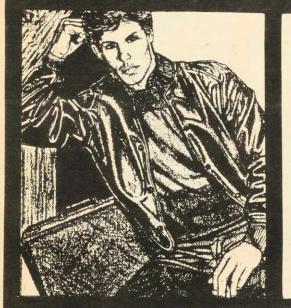
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Thirsty Duck Pub

BRIEFS

Students for Accessibility

OTTAWA (CUP) — A national organization representing disabled students and the administrators who deliver services to them will likely be started at a conference to be held here in November

The National Educational Association of Disabled Students — NEADS — will be the first national organization in Canada to represent disabled post-secondary students, says organizer Frank Smith.

"The idea is to hold a conference to bring together disabled students and administrators," Smith said. "But what we're really all for is making campuses more accessible."

A co-ordinating committee of four Carleton University students received \$35,000 this summer from the federal Secretary of State to organize the Nov 9 to 12 conference.

Smith says NEADS will provide relevant information to disabled Students, and will advise on how to lobby for change.

Big Brother Gets Big sister

HALIFAX (CUP) — Underage drinkers at Mount Saint Vincent university will have to find new ways to ply themselves at campus functions.

The student union is using a new system to process student identification cards. Students must now prove they are registered at the university, produce two pieces of signed identification, have their ID photo taken on site, and sign the card in front of a student union representative. Cards are stamped with a university logo, and then laminated.

"The process is tedious, but it's for the students, not against them," says student union president Susan Smith. "If the university is found with underaged students, it could lose its liquor license."

Reaction among students is mixed. "(It) is a good idea because when I was 18 I had to suffer waiting," said fourth year student Sue LaBreton.

However, says second year student Kristine Groom, "It bugs me because I can't cheat the system any more, or not as easily as last year. I'm in second year university, for God's sake. I don't like being the only person underage."

Lethbridge Goes Latin

LETHBRIDGE (CUP) — The student radio station at the University of Lethbridge has become one of the first radio stations in North America to 'twin' with a station in another country.

CKUL staff member Sheri Rhodes says the twinning with the Salvadorean Radio Farabundo Marti (FMLN) allows for exchanges of music, radio information and experiences to create greater international solidarity.

Rhodes says she got the idea to twin stations at an international forum of community broadcasters in Vancouver this summer.

Radio Farabundo Marti was started in 1982 as an alternative to the official government radio stations, which are backed by the United States government.

CKUL is branching out in other ways as well. It will share news from El Salvador with the campus paper, The Meliorist. Rhodes says the station is also planning to move to the FM band as a community station.

More Misleading Stats

OTTAWA (CUP) — Recently released statistics show the unemployment rate for returning students was the lowest reported this past July since Statistics Canada first started collecting the data in 1977.

The national rate for July of 13.3 per cent is six points below the 19.3 per cent registered in 1982. The federal and provincial job creation programs geared towards student employment.

Some student leaders says the statistics, while good, still mask what was actually a higher student unemployment rate. Shaleen Woodward, student union vice-president at the University of Saskatchewan, says the statistics do not differentiate between full and part-time work.

"If you worked for an hour in this office, you'd be considered employed for that month!" she says.

Students Fail Literacy Test

HAMILTON (CUP) — Almost half of the students who took a new, mandatory writing competency test at McMaster University failed, raising questions about the literacy of university-aged students.

Forty-two per cent of the first-year students who took the test in August failed, and 57 per cent of those who took it a second time failed again in September.

"We are not talking about a high level of competence to pass this test, let me assure you," Betty Levy, chair of the committee overseeing the test, told The Globe and Mail. "It's really looking at a person's writing skills, and saying of someone who fails that this is a person who really can't write a paragraph very well."