

CROSS CANADA

African Studies programs are insufficient

MONTREAL (CUP) — Although African Studies programs have been gaining ground at universities, educators say they need improvement.

McGill, York and U of T all offer programs, although none of the universities have granted African Studies departmental status. Each of the programs offer courses spread out through departments of history, anthropology, economics, political science and sociology.

"There is nothing that deals with ideologies specific to black people," said Christine Archer, an African-Canadian political science student at McGill.

Archer said the program at McGill lacks direction.

York's interdisciplinary program is taught by three black full-time faculty, and although it focuses on Africa, it offers a history course on slavery in Africa and the Americas.

Global warming research needs money

TORONTO (CUP) — Scientists at the University of Toronto are worried the shutdown of the university's supercomputer will cost them millions in research grants.

The \$46.3 million for the research is part of a \$85 million federal science program on global warming.

Marie Wiese, spokesperson for Pauline Browes, federal minister of state for the environment, said the new program will provide initiatives to solve global warming.

"Too often we don't know what the issues will be fifty years from now," she said. "This program will allow us to detect trends in the ozone, acid rain, and climate changes."

But Andrea Calver, president of the Ontario Public Interest Research Group, said the government isn't allocating resources for the environment properly.

"Of course you have to invest money into research on the environment, but if the government really wanted to fix existing problems, they would invoke legislation."

Going bananas over a painting

MONTREAL (CUP) — The press took a hacksaw to the feminist community in its coverage of a dispute over a painting for a Concordia University show.

The curating committee said the paintings — done by white women — depicted racist stereotypes of women of colour. The painting, "Femmes aux bananes," showed a black woman carrying bananas on her head.

The artist, Lynne Robichaud, said her painting had been censored, and her story was picked up by the national media.

Cathy Sisler, a volunteer on the selection committee for the show, said committee members discussed the painting extensively before rejecting it.

Sisler said reporters overlooked the text accompanying the painting, which made several references to the woman as "primitive," she added.

"Why is that primitive?" Sisler asked. "Anybody that's read anything about how this word has been used in anthropology or science can see that it's been used to exploit and degrade."

Students protest Rushton's hierarchy of intelligence

TORONTO (CUP) — It's been three years since Phillippe Rushton released his theory linking intelligence to race, and students are still protesting.

About 30 students from York University and the University of Western Ontario converged on UWO president George Pederson's office Mar. 20, demanding Rushton's dismissal.

Rushton triggered a media firestorm in 1989 by positing a hierarchy of intelligence, with black people on the bottom and Asian people at the top. Then-premier David Peterson called on Western to dismiss Rushton.

Despite charges of racism by students, Rushton continues to teach psychology at UWO.

ACE has pressured the university to fire Rushton, but the administration has refused, saying academic freedom is at the heart of the issue.

But ACE members say allowing Rushton to teach his theory makes the campus hostile to black students.

NEWS

Washing better than wasting

BY GAZETTE STAFF

Thousands of pounds of garbage, mostly in the form of disposable paper plates, cups, and utensils, are generated in the SUB cafeteria every year. One group of students, supported by a petition with over 1000 signatures, says it is time for this to end.

"The cafeteria is an environmental disaster," says Judy Davis, a student involved in the campaign to replace disposable dishes with permanent ones. Davis says that with a half million dollars worth of renovations being done to the cafeteria this summer, "there is no better time to make the necessary change over."

Others are not quite as enthusiastic. Opponents of the project cite monetary and environmental costs as reasons not to make the switch.

They claim that washing dishes with soap and hot water is more damaging to the environment than is the present use of disposable paper and plastic items.

Supporters of the change say that is not the case. They say changing to permanent dishes will be friendlier to the environment, creating less waste in landfills, preventing deforestation, and reducing ozone depletion

by eliminating foam cups.

Those against the switch to permanent dishes argue the costs of setting up and maintaining such a system are prohibitive. Not only the purchase of dishes and dishwashers a major financial outlay, but replacing stolen dishes is traditionally a considerable expense.

Supporters say the expenditure is worth it. The Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group says the long-term benefits of the change far

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outweigh the short-term costs. Heather MacMillan of NS PIRG says, "one of the largest benefits comes from educating people about the need to reduce, reuse, and recycle. University is a crucial time to form these habits."

Nationally, the tide seems to be headed in favour of permanent dishes. Lynn MacMichael, the DSU Re-

searcher, conducted a survey of universities across Canada that have already made the switch. Their response has been positive concerning both fiscal and environmental factors.

With regard to the environmental implications of permanent dishes, Kate Gibson of the University of British Columbia says to use biodegradable soap. "The energy to wash the dishes is less than the energy to produce disposables."

Doug Dawson is the head of Catering and Conference Services at the University of Alberta which has switched to permanent ware. Dawson says "we have reduced our number of dumpster pickups per week by fifty percent." Refraining from constantly purchasing paper products has also represented a considerable savings to the university.

It is up to the DSU whether to make the change to non-disposable dishes. A motion to do so was introduced at their last meeting on March 29, but was greeted with lukewarm support. The question will be considered again at the SUB-Operations committee meeting on April 3, and at the last DSU meeting of the year on April 9. Both meetings are open to students.

Student services under stress

BY LILLI JU

The end of the academic year is soon approaching, and with it come papers, exams, assignments, juries, presentations, and theses. It's the time of year when students really feel the burden of their stresses and anxieties. So what do you do when you feel like you can't handle it anymore? Who do you turn to when academic pressures start turning family and personal relationships sour? Where do you go for help?

Many students turn to Counselling & Psychological Services on the 4th floor of the SUB. But if you want to make an appointment with a counsellor now, you'll have to wait at least two weeks.

According to Judy Hayashi, Director of Counselling & Psychological Services, this wait is actually less than usual.

"During most of the year, people would have to wait three to four weeks," she said.

The counselling centre regularly serves approximately 10 per cent of the students at both Dalhousie University and Nova Scotia College of Art & Design (NSCAD). When you consider that 10 per cent represents over 1100 students and that there are only five counsellors other than Hayashi, you can understand how the centre can get so busy.

"By this time of year, the counsellors have worked very hard, often

working extra hours, and are getting quite worn down," said Hayashi. "We feel really bad that students have to wait so long just to see a counsellor."

A number of years back, the centre was able to accommodate students within one week. Since then the university population has increased but counselling staff size has remained the same. The centre's ability to accommodate students effi-

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ciently has been drastically reduced.

For urgent situations "we [at the counselling centre] keep one spot a day for such emergencies...but lately, even they've been filled the day before," said Hayashi. "And then, even after you've seen the person, you need to follow up on him/her within a week."

The difficulty in accessing the cen-

tre's services quickly is troubling. Students may back down from getting help because of the great personal effort involved in visiting the centre. Urgent situations occur year round, according to Hayashi. A wide range of situations arise, warranting immediate attention: depression, family, personal or academic problems, panic attacks, suicide, violent situations or abusive relationships, sexual assault and date rape. The centre also often gets referrals from residence, concerned faculty and friends.

The centre is funded through the operating budget of Dalhousie University and by a grant from the Counselling Federation of Canada.

"Ultimately, when the university is in the financial position to do so, we certainly need to get more staff," said Hayashi.

Meanwhile, students are encouraged to fill out a comments sheet at the counselling centre with their compliments and criticisms. "It's good for the administration to know what students' concerns are [about this situation]," she added.

The Counselling & Psychological Centre offers services ranging from individual counselling and personal development workshops (shyness, public speaking, study skills, exam anxiety, etc.) to career workshops (job search, career or major decision-making, etc.). Confidentiality is always strictly maintained.