

## SFU Student Society sues travel agent for \$15,000

BURNABY, BC (CUP) — The Simon Fraser Student Society is suing its travel office operator for up to \$15,000 following a summer of cancelled flights, unpaid commissions and illegal bookings on charter flights.

The Society has also obtained a Supreme Court Writ claiming nearly \$6,200 from Skyline Travel Services of Vancouver.

Student Society treasurer Bill Birge said the actions are a result of investigations into the travel service operation that were begun this summer.

The travel service's flight organizer, Gerry Ruddock, an employee of Skyline, was dismissed from the post August 27. He had held the position since October 1971, when the Student Society signed a contract with Ruddock to run the travel office as a service to the Simon Fraser community.

Under the contract, which summer council president Dave Rice has called "shitty", Ruddock was to keep three-quarters of his 10 per cent commission on flight bookings and pay the remaining quarter to the Student Society.

However, Rice pointed out, Ruddock was simultaneously running his own private travel service and the Student Society has had no way of ensuring it received its share of the commission.

A three man committee, comprised of Rice, Birge and Student Society resources secretary Roger Welch, has been examining travel office activities in an attempt to discover just how much Ruddock owes the Society.

Birge said the \$15,000 figure named in the legal action is probably an overestimate.

Birge said the travel office situation came to light in August

when the student society discovered that 35 to 40 out of 80 passengers on a charter flight from Seattle to Amsterdam were not students.

Birge and Ruddock had approached several small travel agents, or "bucket shops", to illegally sell tickets on the flights.

Birge said Ruddock was desperate to fill the flight because he needed the money to make good unpaid commissions to the student society.

"Apparently, he (Ruddock) was accepting cash from students and putting it in his pocket," Birge said.

Birge added however that Ruddock did not plan to steal the money.

In an attempt to ensure that the Amsterdam flight got off the ground the Student Society discovered a legal loop hole making the non-students members of the student society.

"We made them all members of the Simon Fraser Aerosport Club," he said.

In spite of the last minute effort, Martinair, a charter flight subsidiary of KLM airlines, cancelled the flight, threatening to withhold repayment of the \$11,750 already paid for the charter.

Martinair eventually agreed to repay the amount in full to Skyline Travel Services, which had made the bookings, but Skyline in turn refused to pay the money back to the Student Society.

By Friday, Skyline had relented partly and paid the Student Society \$5546. It is withholding the remainder, claiming it as unpaid commission due to Skyline from Ruddock.

Birge said the court cases are likely to drag on for several months. However, the Student Society has obtained a lien against Ruddock's house in an effort to ensure it gets its payment.

Student council is further hamstrung by the fact that only eight council members are active. To make any decisions, council require a nine-member quorum, which it will not get until after elections at the end of September.

Birge said the travel office is

currently accepting flight bookings until Christmas only.

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### 51%: Impeach defiant Nixon

WASHINGTON — A majority of Americans feel President Richard Nixon should be impeached if he refuses a Supreme Court order to surrender White House tapes of his conversations on the Watergate affair, the Harris Poll said today.

The poll showed that 51 per cent of Americans feel Congress would be justified in beginning impeachment proceedings if Nixon refused to surrender the tapes.

The poll said 60 per cent believe Nixon "did know about the attempt to cover up White House involvement in Watergate while it was going on." But 56 per cent believe he should not resign now.

The Gallup Poll said today that only 32 per cent of Americans now express approval of Nixon's performance as president. This is one percentage point above Nixon's low recorded early last month.

### Tuition antiquated ?

BURNABY, BC (CUP) — Claiming that "the continuation of tuition fees discriminates and belongs to the 19th century," the students' council executive at Simon Fraser University has asked the provincial government to abolish tuition fees.

"We believe that tuition fees should not be part of an education system in a democratic and progressive society," the council executive said in a motion to be presented to the New Democratic Party cabinet and backbenchers.

This motion was contained in a number of recommendations from the council executive to the government in an attempt to

influence the content of the new universities act that the provincial government has promised.

The students also requested a reorganization of the university's board of governors giving more representation to students and the non-university community and the establishment of a freeze on the creation of new departments or new programmes or other inter-departmental restructuring until either the new act is passed or a majority of students in a department agree to proposed changes.

Student council officials are attempting to get other universities in British Columbia to support their recommendations.

### Degree problem at University of Montreal

MONTREAL (CUP) — Students graduating from Loyola College next month or in May 1974 are uncertain about what university will grant their degree.

If the proposed merger of Loyola College and Sir George Williams University takes place by that time, the newly created Concordia University will award the degrees. However the University of Montreal has agreed to continued its degree granting plan with the college should the Concordia merger not take place.

In a recent interview, Loyola President, Reverend Patrick Ma-

lone, assured the students that the currently unresolved degree issue "will present no problem".

Although many students have expressed dissatisfaction with the prospect of getting a degree from a university they have not attended, Malone seemed confident that they "will go along with the general policy". However, should the idea of a Concordia degree prove unbearable to the students, the option to appeal for a change of degrees should remain open, the Loyola president said.

Sir George is in agreement with the accord, he said.

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