

Mandatory Drug Testing Called Useless

By James Young of the Canadian University Press

Vancouver (CUP) — Canadian students would benefit if Brian Mulroney's support for mandatory drug testing disappeared in a puff of smoke, says a Simon Fraser University psychology professor.

"Mandatory drug testing is a hopeless idea — it creates humiliation and indignation and cannot solve the problem of drug dependence as it is supposed to," said Bruce Alexander.

On a trip to Vancouver in September, the prime minister said the government was examining the legality of mandatory drug testing under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and agreed he implement such tests if possible.

While Mulroney later denied the statements, which were recorded during a press conference, The Vancouver Sun stood behind its original report.

Meanwhile, American Motors Inc. has announced drug tests are being used for all of its employees. In the House of Commons Nov. 4, Mulroney defended his comments on Canada's drug problem, which he called an "epidemic" to the surprise of most health agencies and experts.

"I had the occasion to describe the drug situation in Canada as I saw it and felt it to be at the time. I am delighted to see that most Canadians agree with that," Mulroney said, referring to a recently released poll showing 75 per cent of Canadians agree there is a drug epidemic in the country.

Psychologist Alexander, who researched drug problems for 15 years, says there are many reasons to oppose drug testing.

"I have met a lot of people who lost their jobs in the U.S. because of testing," he said. "There are a lot of cases before the courts right now — people are arguing that the test results are wrong and it is unfair to dismiss them."

Alexander said the tests have a false positive rate of about five per cent, with one man fired for opium use after eating bread covered with poppy seeds.

In the past several years, millions of people have been forced to undergo testing in the U.S., including employees of one-third of the 500 largest companies, the armed forces, and sections within the federal government, said Alexander.

Another argument against test-

ing is its effect on employee relations, Alexander said.

"You go to work and have to pee in a jar — how many people want to work in that kind of atmosphere?" asked Alexander, adding the very premise for testing rests on very shaky foundations.

"It is predicted on the idea of rampant drug use in Canada and that's not true — 90 percent of the people

who use cocaine and marijuana, for example, do not have a serious drug problem, but are using drugs recreationally and not harming anyone," he said.

"If you fire people for using marijuana at a party two weeks ago, you are only harming them," he said.

Alexander said that many politi-

cians who succumb to anti-drug hysteria are simply naive, while others, including U.S. President Ronald Reagan, use it to distract from domestic issues and as an instrument of foreign policy.

"It serves all of us to have a scapegoat to blame for high taxes and unemployment — politicians are caught up in the same mentality as everyone else," he said.

UPEI Fencing Team at St. Mary's

Walter Wilkins, Jim Kyathfield, Steve Kyathfield, Phil Stewart,

Jennifer Jenkins, Susan Stewart, Johanna Eliot, Kathy Goodfellow,

John Handrahan, Chris Vessey, and Simon Berge.

by Chris Vessey

Over the weekend of November 1st and 2nd a team of 11 fencers, novice and experienced, set out to make

UPEI proud at the Saint Mary's Inter-University Fencing Bout. The

tournament was a great success, with UPEI taking 11 of 17 medals

in the competition. Three weapons were fenced at this competition — foil, epee, and sabre — and there were men's and women's divisions for each weapon.

Competition Results:

Men's Foil

Florian Friedrich Gold
Walter Wilkins Silver
Jim Kyathfield Bronze

Men's Epee

Florian Friedrich Gold
Steve Kyathfield Silver
Sid Styant Bronze

Men's Sabre

Florian Friedrich Gold
Steve Kyathfield Silver
Walter Wilkins Bronze

Women's Foil

Patricia Gonzales Gold
Susan Stewart Silver
Johanna Eliot Bronze

Women's Epee

Johanna Eliot Gold
Patricia Gonzales Silver
Jennifer Jenkins Bronze

Top Male Novice: Simon Berge

Top Female Novice: Johanna Eliot

JACK SCORPIO

BY BRIAN LINKLETTER



TYPING SERVICES

Professional Services for any material English/French Documents Term Papers Thesis Resume Financial Statements Spreadsheets Graphs Work done on Word Processor Changes made with minimum turnaround time. Work edited for spelling and grammar. Photocopying available. Documents available on 5-1/4" Floppy Disk

REASONABLE RATES FOR INFORMATION CALL 566-1274

After 5:00 PM Weeknights Anytime on Weekends 153 Westridge Crescent Charlottetown