

# Fewer periodicals at Robertson in 1995

By Steven Ellis

## SOME STUDENTS AND FACULTY MAY NOTICE

A change at the Robertson library, following the ten percent reduction in its budget for this fiscal year. A net of seventy-two periodical titles have been eliminated from the list of over 1700 periodicals that the library subscribes to, and those subscriptions begin to run out this month. Additionally, a full time librarian position was eliminated, and \$400,000 less was budgeted for books.

The amount of money available for periodicals has not been changed from the amount budgeted in the previous year. Because of an increase in subscription rates and a skyrocketing US exchange, a fifteen percent increase in this budget would have been needed to maintain periodical services at their previous level.

None of the more familiar magazines and journals were cut this year. The Senate Library Committee, in co-operation with the academic departments, decided which periodicals had



to be cut based on usage. One hundred and forty two titles that had outlived their usefulness were eliminated. Enough money was generated that seventy new titles could be picked up, generating the net loss of seventy-two titles.

Chief librarian Dan Savage warned of the danger of further budget reductions. Savage said that further cuts could mean that even well used publications would have to be dropped.

At the same time, Savage was quick to point out library services that could compensate for the loss of periodicals. Many periodicals are accessible through interlibrary loan. Each student is entitled to five free inter-library loans per year, and each additional loan costs five dollars. The library is also looking into electronic alternatives to the expensive hard-copy periodicals.

# Large turnout expected for January 25 Strike Day

Ottawa (CUP)

UP TO 100,000 CANADIANS ARE EXPECTED TO participate in a January 25 student strike against the federal government's proposed reforms of social programs.

"Students are mobilizing across the country," said Pam Frache, national strike co-ordinator for the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). "Even non-member campuses are doing something. There is a phenomenal resonance of action to show the government."

The January 25 strike is one of a series of tactics to pressure the Liberal government to withdraw its plans to eliminate Ottawa's \$2.6 billion provincial transfer payments, which help fund post-secondary education. If the proposed cut becomes government legislation, it will send tuition fees through the roof and force students to support heavy debt burdens.

Demonstrations are scheduled for Vancouver, Victoria, Lethbridge, Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Toronto, Guelph, Sudbury, Windsor, Kingston, Peterborough, Kitchener-Waterloo, Montreal, Halifax, Fredericton and St. John's.

That afternoon, seven universities and colleges in Vancouver will be converging on the Vancouver Art Gallery to march through downtown on a 'treasure hunt' to look for places like corporate offices where the government could find money to fund education.

In Toronto, students are expected to join in a 'solidarity rally' with members from the National Action Committee on the Status of Women and the Unemployed Workers' Council, among other supporters. In Ottawa, a protest on Parliament Hill is scheduled for noon. The CFS is also planning a march to the headquarters of Canada's largest bank, Royal Bank, to protest its record profits this year, and to the Business Council on National Issues, a big-business lobby group.

But some say the time has passed for student protests. "Another protest would be detrimental," said Chris Lennon, a Carleton student union director. "Protests have a place, but we have already had a protest [on Nov. 16]. To repeat that is pointless." Lennon said the student movement should concentrate on negotiating with the federal government to make federal reforms of social programs better for students.

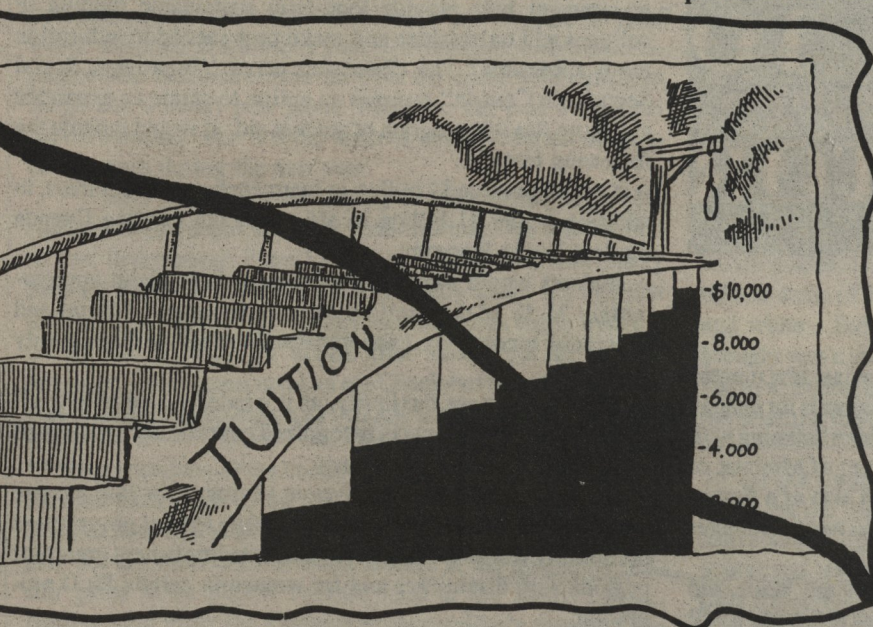
"It [another protest] would be a big photo-op," he said. "We got the attention of the government in November, and we got the attention of the Canadian people."

But Jean-Francois Venne, president of the University of Ottawa student council, says formal consultations have not worked. At a Nov. 21 meeting with Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy, only about 35 student leaders had access to the minister during a 45-minute discussion, Venne said.

"If they start a real consultation, we'll stop all the protests and we'll work through the channels that are put in place," he said.

McGill Social Work student Melissa Redmond, a mem-

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"The workbook is a perfect example of someone else defining the agenda," said Redmond. "Someone else is asking the questions and telling you what to answer. It says, 'Here's my vision of Canada. You tell me which parts you like.' Turn it into your own form of protest. Don't answer the questions because they're going to be used to shoot you in the foot."

Keith Patterson, also a member of Students for Social Justice, sees protests like the one planned for January 25 as a crucial part of the "consultation process."

"I think that the demonstration is not separate from -- it's in addition to the consultation process. Challenging policy reform at a Parliamentary committee level is not enough. We need to challenge their rhetoric, their ideology, their faulty

logic and their vision of this country because it's not one that includes us," said Patterson.

Axworthy is scheduled to table his proposals when Parliament reconvenes Feb. 6. Many students fear that once that happens, it will be too late to prevent them from becoming official policy.

"The key to getting these proposals defeated is to prevent them from being tabled," said Brad Lavigne, a vice-president with the Concordia Graduate Students Association.

If you look at the history of how legislation is affected in this country, there is only one example where once legislation is tabled it's been changed. [There are actually two: proposals for indexing old-age pensions in 1985 and the Mackenzie Pipeline in the late '70s]."

CFS chairperson Guy Caron says the CFS has obtained the support of 74 other organizations for the protest, including the Public Service Alliance of Canada, the Council of Canadians and several locals of the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

These three organizations and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, the Canadian Labour Congress and the National Anti-Poverty Association signed a 'Statement of Solidarity' January 12, in support of an accessible post-secondary education system in Canada.

And although one student association in Quebec, the Federation Etudiante universitaire du Quebec (FEUQ), has set its strike day for Feb. 7, the organization says it still encourages its members to hold 'general assemblies' against the reforms on January 25.

Still, FEUQ president Francois Rebello says the group will not encourage them to march January 25.

"We chose [to march] February 7 for a couple of reasons. First, the majority of CEGEPs open on January 22 or 23. So if you have to organize something on January 25, it's too late to do something with these colleges. Secondly, the Parliament at Ottawa opens on February 6. So if you organize a big event before the opening of Parliament, it's like talking to someone who isn't there," Rebello said.

The CFS represents 425,000 students in 69 colleges and universities nationwide. Organizers hope that all student associations, whether members of the CFS or not, will participate in the January 25 demonstration.