

CUP CONFRONTS ISSUES

By John Cairns

At its recent national conference in Toronto Canadian University Press (CUP) confronted several controversial issues. Student journalists from across Canada voted overwhelmingly for motions supporting Quebec self-determination, South African divestment, and gay rights.

The Quebec motion was introduced by members of CUP's Quebec branch. Immediately, delegates asserted that Canada consists of more than just a French nation and an English one. Indians were most frequently cited as a third group.

Those present were also concerned that they had no mandate from their papers to back a motion for self-determination. This difficulty was overcome by allowing the delegates to vote as individuals rather than as representatives of CUP members. The normal procedure of one vote per paper was eliminated, and all two hundred conference goers acted equally in deciding the issue. The result was speedy passage for the following motion.

Whereas the Quebec people are a nation distinct from and equal in rights to other nations in the country of Canada, whereas all nations of the world have the right to choose freely their form of government, be it resolved that we, the delegates of the Canadian University Press 42nd Annual Conference, declare that we recognize Quebec's right to self-determination and denounce any form of impediment to the exercise of this right, such as economic, political, or military pressures.

The matter of South African divestment was raised by the McGill Daily of Montreal. That paper's delegates were indignant that Canadian universities invest in South African corporations and in banks

dealing with the South African government. They deemed these investments as support for racist apartheid oppression and argued that CUP should rebuff such support. Hence, the motion they introduced resolved that CUP urge the divestment of these university holdings and establish a committee to help CUP writers cooperate in covering divestment and encouraging it. This motion raised no question of mandate, and delegates heartily threw themselves behind it.

The third motion involved the Canadian gay publication, The Body Politic. In December '77 that magazine published "Men Loving Boys Loving Men", an article that led Toronto and Ontario police to raid the magazine office. Lists of subscribers, correspondence, business records, and articles for publication were all confiscated, and haven't yet been returned. The Body Politic was subsequently charged with using the mails to transmit "indecent, immoral, and scurrilous material". On February 14, 1979, a not guilty verdict was reached, but Ontario Attorney-General, Roy McMurtry, has filed an appeal.

The issue was placed before the CUP conference by The PEAK, a British Columbia student newspaper. PEAK representatives called the appeal an attack on a minority's freedom of expression and a challenge to the freedom of the press. They further disclosed the The Body Politic would purchase a page in The Toronto Globe and Mail to condemn the Attorney-General's actions. The PEAK wanted CUP support for The Body Politic, and it was successful in having a motion passed expressing this support.

In its statement of principles, Canadian University Press declares itself an agent of social change. Supporting motions like those recently passed in Toronto is one way to attempt to fulfill that role. Let it be known, however, that not all papers supported all three motions.

SUN CHALLENGES CIMN

The UPEI SUN has challenged CIMN radio to a grudge bowling match during the Bowl For Millions campaign in mid February. The showdown is to be February 16 at Showboat Lanes. Experts predict an easy SUN victory.



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All the World's A Stage ...

William Shakespeare's As You Like It (1599-1600) has been chosen by the UPEI Theatre Committee to be the 1980 Drama Production at UPEI. Directed by Ron Irving and produced by Alan Billard, As You Like It will be performed by UPEI students and staff, as well as members of the Island community. A comedy filled with wit, humour, and romance, the play will be staged March 20, 21, and 22 at the Steele Recital Hall on campus. With rehearsals presently underway, As You Like It is shaping up to be a production that will, as one critic said, "...please all tastes." You are encouraged to watch the UPEI SUN for a weekly corner on the progress of the production as well as for interviews with various members taking part both on and behind stage.

