

CANADIAN UNIVERSITY PRESS NEWS

Cancer on the rise

WATERLOO (CUP) -- The cancer mortality rate is on the rise and we must accept that there is no safe level of exposure to chemical carcinogens, says Dr. Samuel Epstein, author of the Politics of Cancer and a professor at the University of Illinois.

Speaking at the university of Waterloo, Epstein said the mortality rate will increase as the level of production of synthetic organic chemicals increases.

The most affected people he said, are those who work in the chemical industry and those who live in the immediate vicinity, although no one is exempt from the risks.

This fact should be of particular concern to residents of Alberta, said Epstein, since the province is on the verge of becoming the greatest petro-chemical center in the world.

If Alberta is to prevent itself from becoming another Louisiana, the chief petro-chemical area in the US where the mortality rate has risen dramatically in the past few years, the government must act quickly. Epstein said Alberta must

ensure that effective safety measures are introduced into the designs of planned industrial complexes.

Epstein criticized the chemical industry for downplaying the health risks posed by carcinogens in the environment and said it has also been reluctant to accept its share of the blame for the growth of cancer.

He stated that Monsanto, a producer of plastic bottles for Coca-Cola, had a bottle on the market before carcinogenicity tests were completed. The bottles were subsequently found to be highly carcinogenic, releasing 15 to 20 parts per billion of vinyl nitrite into the soft drinks.

The chemical industry also often suppresses information which proves the cancer causing effects of industrial carcinogens, said Epstein. "Obviously they're not going to present data which will undermine the marketability of their product."

Epstein accused the industry of conspiracy, distortion and manipulation of information. "They are a substantial number of executives in industry who should be accused of manslaughter".

Cost estimates for cleaning up the workplace have been so distorted that it seems to be fiscal suicide, said Epstein. However, he said, these estimates ignore the costs incurred if the clean up is not done (\$35 billion a year is spent on cancer treatment in the US) Industrial efficiency and stimulation of new industry are two economic advantages also ignored by the chemical industry, according to Epstein. The fastest growing industry

in the US today is involved with developing pollution clean up hardware, he said.

Epstein also said the role of smoking in the development of lung cancer has been "massively exaggerated by industry to divert attention."

Twenty thousand people who have never smoked die each year in the US from lung cancer. The mortality rate for non-smokers, said Epstein, has doubled since 1959.

Boycott Nestle

HALIFAX (CUP) -- The Mount Saint Vincent University student union has voted to actively support a boycott of all Nestle products.

Christine Fletcher, CUSO representative on student council said that an active campaign from an entire university could have quite an impact on the international boycott which has been going on for almost two years.

The boycott is centered on the sale by Nestle of infant formula to third world countries.

Milk nurses, who are not necessarily registered, are hired by Nestle to convince mothers in third world countries that bottle-feeding their babies is better than nursing. The mothers, convinced they are doing the right thing, are buying the expensive formula and when they can't afford more are watering down what they have.

As a result "the average age that infants are showing

up in hospitals for malnutrition is eight months instead of 18," said Fletcher. The boycott is appearing to have some effect on Nestle: their profits are down from two years ago. Many ideas were voiced as to how Council could be an active supporter of the boycott.

..Campaigning by hanging posters asking students, staff and faculty to individually support the boycott.

..Asking that all Nestle products be removed from the machines.

...Persuading the bookstore, student store and the canteen not to buy Nestle products.

...Asking food services to refrain from using Nestle products in their two cafeteria on campus.

...Contacting local radio and T.V. stations and publicizing the boycott.

Part-time students ignored

LENNOXVILLE (CUP) -- Part-time students at Bishop's University have been denied a seat on senate by their student council.


The part-time student's association approached Bishop's principal, Christopher Nichol, to have a new senate position created for them. Nichol referred the request to the student council and asked it to consider the possibility of giving up one of their five seats on the senate in favor of a part-time student. The recommendation was rejected by the council at an executive committee meeting last month.

According to student council president Ian Pennell, the part-time students have now backed down on their demand for senate representation with the agreement that the student council vice-

president of academic affairs, Cathy McRae, will convey information from the part-time students to the senate. "She can't really represent them," said Pennell, "because there could be a conflict of interest somewhere."

According to Pennell, there are situations in which required courses are offered only in the day, when many part-time students can only attend classes at night. Also the full-time student could provide information on the part-time students situation "but she can't really fight for them."

Pennell was also concerned about potential apathy. "We don't know that the participation from the part-time students in the future will be as keen as it is now," said Pennell. "I'm impressed with their organization, but we'll still just have to see."



DISCOTHEQUE NIGHTLY
9 P.M. - 1 A.M.

MONDAY NIGHT	TUESDAY NIGHT
IS	IS
ROCK NIGHT	STUDENT NIGHT

STEAK ROOM
11:30 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
with
DAILY SPECIALS

THE "INN OUT OF THE SUN" GAMING ROOM
1 - 7 Monday to Saturday
POOL **PINBALL**

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