

# W5'S WASHOUT

by Ann Higdon

Television's W5 (I'm sure you've all heard of it) broadcasted a report Sept. 30 surrounding the idea that foreign students are taking university places away from deserving Canadian students. CBIE (Canadian Bureau of International Education), the principal source of information concerning foreign students in Canada, and the only organization quoted on the programme, responded by pointing out several factual errors.

W5 claimed that in Canada (at all levels of education) there are 50,000 foreign students, of which 20,000 are full-time university students. The proportion of foreign students in Canadian universities is actually smaller than stated

(really only 5% of the total student population). Also, there are only 85 foreign Med. students in all Canadian Med schools, contrary to the "more than 400" quoted by W5. And in opposition to W5's declaration that landed immigrant status is easily obtained by foreign students, it is now impossible for them to get landed immigrant status except for special reasons. And finally, the programme accused the Faculty of Pharmacy at U. of Toronto of excluding Canadian students in favour of foreign students. CBIE states, in defense, there is not one single foreign student in that faculty.

CBIE says that most of the errors are traceable to one false premise: that "foreign students" and

"landed immigrants" are similar. A landed immigrant has been granted the right to live permanently in Canada, and W5's concern about students leaving Canada with important skills (and costing Canada money) should not bear upon the landed immigrant.

CBIE also maintains that W5's choice of film suggested that any student who is not white is a foreign student. The film and manipulative words - "a foreigner is anyone who looks foreign", and "Canada is being suckered as a nation" - appeal to the worst instincts of an audience, as CBIE puts it.

As a final rebuke, CBIE mentions that Canadian universities now have some 20,000 "foreign students" who will leave Canada on completion of their studies. W5 stated these students are concentrated in technical and technological programs (for usefulness in the job market.) Nearly all the foreign students are in programmes with no shortages of space. And the programmes such as

medicine, dentistry, law and pharmacy are closed to foreign students; only Canadians are admitted. In closing, CBIE states that Canadian students are being excluded only due to an overall lack of space in universities rather than by foreign students.

CTV's treatment of the issue might make things more difficult for foreign students across Canada. And here on campus one of the coordinators of the International Students Association of UPEI (Chinedu Ibeanusi) commented on W5's blunderous program. He said that most universities will not take foreign students before Canadian students and that "W5 was raising a false alarm, and it's not good for the academic world."

Just out of curiosity, the International Students Association has three coordinators and about 35 foreign students. All that the group is missing is Canadian students, ironic as that may seem.

## IN THE CLASSICAL TRADITION

by Ann Higdon

An often attacked part of our university is the Classics. After an interview with associate professor John Quincey of the Classics department, I've tried to put the Classics in the proper perspective for you, the student.

The Classics courses are divided into two types, the languages (Greek and Latin) and the civilization courses which don't require knowledge of the classical languages. The civilization courses are a good idea for students who desire a well-rounded program, be they Arts or Science students. Contrary to popular opinion, they involve little if any written work, the main requirement being that the students attend all classes. In the classes slides take the place of a pen, thus making the course a good elective. Strangely

enough, as Professor Quincey mentioned, the UPEI course handbook does not suggest these courses for electives, although they would provide a cultural base for the "core" courses.

Professor Quincey also mentioned a few facts about the classics. He said that there has been 100% increase in Classics 101 in the past year. Also, most of the Classics students are seniors and/or girls.

Professor Quincey also came up with an idea of supplying UPEI with a motto and a heraldic coat of arms. He said that it would help university unity to use an official motto. I think it is a good idea and maybe we, the students, should look into it and get our Student Union working on it. Personally, I consider Classics a valuable asset to UPEI students. We just have to try a course or two.

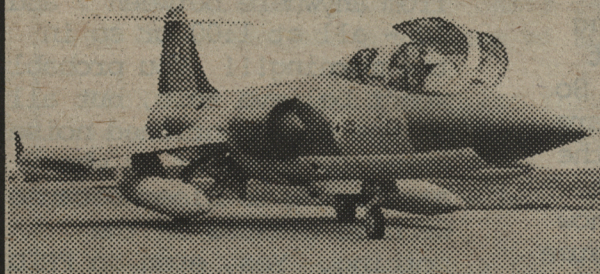
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