

NEWS FROM UWFA

EDITOR: GEOFFREY SCOTT

1999 / 2000 UWFA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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P resident's Report

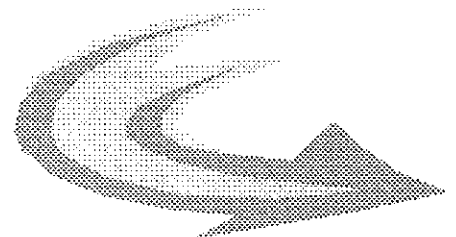
So, I made it into the new millennium, and my computer is working fine, so I should bring you up to date on happenings in UWFA.

As you know, the recommendations to appoint four Deans by July 1, 2000 are now adopted by Senate. These changes will affect the current Collective Agreement, and Dr Rooke has indicated her intent to convene, as soon as possible, a Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) to examine the changes that will have to be negotiated. No doubt some of these changes will be editorial ones, but it is equally certain that some changes will be substantive, and ones that we will need to ratify before they can be implemented.

Let me say a few words about process. The JCC is described in Article 4 of the current CA and is an instrument designed to deal with issue that arise between negotiations, or to deal with ongoing matters not concluded in the previous round of bargaining. It has membership from UWFA and from the administration, and each side makes recommendations to its respective principals at the conclusion of the negotiations. In this case, the matters being negotiated pertain to the changes that arise from subdividing decanal responsibilities previously vested in one person, as well as those which arise from creating a new Vice-President (Student Services).

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There appear to be, at first glance, several thorny issues facing this JCC. What, for example, is the future of the current Faculty Personnel Committee. Should this committee remain as one, or should it be split into four? What is the role of the proposed Council of Deans in appointments and promotion proceedings? Will Committees, such as the University Promotions and Tenure Committee, or the Study Leave Committee still function as university-wide committees, or will they too be subdivided? These are not simple matters, nor are they matters that have been discussed in any forum within the University. I can only say at this point that we need to move carefully before we agree to alter the well-established procedures that exist in our CA.

On another front, negotiations are proceeding on the disposition of the approximately \$9 million deemed surplus that has accumulated in the University Pension Plan. The university-wide Pension Committee has been examining many complicated issues surrounding our pension plan, thus progress has been slow to date. As much of this discussion is in the preliminary stages, I cannot meaningfully brief you now, but I anticipate having a General Meeting on pensions before June of 2000.

We await anxiously the announcement from COPSE on the subject of our operating and capital grant for 2000-2001. We have been encouraged by an apparent loosening of the purse strings for the public schools sector in recent announcements, and can only hope that the largesse will extend to us as well. We will soon know if the NDP rhetoric regarding the value of education is supportable.

ED BYARD, PRESIDENT

Below is an excerpt from a message sent to all Associations by the CAUT Defence Fund. Our colleagues at University College of Cape Breton (UCCB) went out on strike on Friday, Feb 11. I have included a web address, phone and FAX numbers for the FAUT. Please send messages of support—they are important!!

Ed Byard

MESSAGE FROM THE CAUT DEFENCE FUND

Our 115 colleagues at the UCCB Faculty Association of University Teachers (FAUT) are on strike. They started walking the picket line on Friday, February 11, at 7 a.m.. We cannot emphasize too much the appalling situation they are in and the despicable way their employer, by far the worst in Canada, has treated them over the past several years.

To give a quick review, here are some facts:

- labour relations between FAUT and UCCB have never been governed by a full-fledged collective agreement,

- FAUT members' salaries have been about 30% below the Maritime average for years,

- FAUT members haven't had a raise since 1989,

- FAUT has been bargaining for close to four years,

- FAUT members have patiently put up with delaying tactics, dirty tricks, and scare-mongering regarding the possibility of new provincial wage-freeze legislation,

- if FAUT members had accepted the latest "best" offer made by the Administration, they would find themselves 50 percent behind their Maritimes colleagues by the time the contract expired,

- UCCB President, Jacquelyn Thayer Scott, received a \$30,000 raise last year because the Board of Governors thought she deserved to earn a salary comparable to university presidents on mainland Nova Scotia,

- since 1989, academic salaries have taken up an increasingly smaller portion of UCCB's total expenditures. During that same period, the cost of student tuition fees and the size of UCCB's administration has doubled.

Everyone fears that this strike will be a long one and our colleagues need all the help they can get: psychological, political, and financial. Many Faculty Associations have already sent donations, and letters to the University President and members of the Board of Governors are pouring in. The CAUT Defence Fund is organizing a National Solidarity Visit on Friday, February 18.

Trustees from across Canada will converge to Sydney, Nova Scotia, and bring support to our striking colleagues. The provincial association, ANSUT, will also organize such a solidarity visit, either on the same day or at a later date (details are not yet finalized).

FAUT Website can be found at: <http://member.newsguy.com/~faut/page/home.htm>

You can also phone FAUT headquarters at: (902) 539-0292, or fax them at: (902) 539-6352. **PLEASE SEND MESSAGES OF SUPPORT—THEY ARE IMPORTANT!!**

MOUSE HOT-LINE - 9267

In our last issue of News from UWFA we inadvertently provided the wrong telephone number for services dealing with mice. If you need any help or advice on mice related problems, please call the Physical Plant at 9267.

NEWS IN BRIEF FROM THE CAUT DEFENCE FUND

At the October 1999 meeting of the Defence Fund Trustees, the Treasurer reported the fund as standing at \$10,472,921., a healthy figure in light of the five strikes by academic staff at Canadian Universities over the past 3 years. The Trustees endorsed a formal policy on the sending of "flying pickets" to strike sites for moral support, as has been practiced for the past few years.

The reports from the Trustees raised two issues that will be of increasing concern in negotiations around the country. The first is the issue of intellectual property - defining it and determined ownership rights. The other issue is that of pension surpluses and the just disposition of them. Both of these issues can be pursued by contacting the CAUT Website at www.CAUT.ca.

After many years of excellent leadership, Robert Rosebrugh has stepped down as Chair of the Defence Fund, replaced by Denise Nevo from Mt. Saint Vincent. This change brought about my nominations as Chair of the Policy and Planning Committee. We hope to make a motion in the fall regarding the translation of the Website into French, as well as the timely updating of items.

In brief, the Fund is healthy and well administered. The Trustees unanimously agree that its continued existence is a vital tool in just negotiations.

**KAREN ZOPPA,
UWFA TREASURER**

WHAT'S NEW AT THE COLLEGIATE?

The answer to "what's new at the collegiate?" depends on what you want to know, or what you knew before! One of the most significant recent changes is that the Collegiate has been recognized, by the Department of Education, as unique in all of Canada; it is a high school integrated into a university, combining aspects of both to create a school year. That sense of connection has been a factor over the last three years in how the Collegiate sees itself and is seen.

One of the most obvious areas of campus integration is that we share, and in some senses compete for, the same space - the growth of the Collegiate is directly tied to expanding beyond Wesley hall. We also offer the telecourse Physics 40S, while the Bachelor of Education Program sees the Collegiate as a logical extension of its certification program. Members of the English Department also give lectures for the Collegiate's Literature and Creative Writing programs, and this year, as in the past, Collegiate instructors are teaching courses in the university.

The fact that Collegiate staff are on University Committees means that the myth that high school teachers never talk to university profs is constantly dispelled, and we often compare notes -- take for example the English Language Discussion Group. Discussions are often more informal and can occur on such occasions as "meet the faculty night" (aka parent's night) because seven of our students have teaching parents at the university. Like all high schools there is the usual direct parental contact and the usual array of clubs and teams. We even hold an annual Open House which includes a tour of campus-wide facilities.

Another practical benefit of our integration is "concurrent status" designation, with some 115 students presently enrolled in programs combining both collegiate and university courses. Acknowledging that many of our 425 regular and 280 part time students will go on to degree programs, our university grants Collegiate students early placement in credit courses. Dean Fox is also striving to improve on this by having the University extend tuition scholarships to include the Collegiate. The Collegiate continues to define its role as "part of", and not "apart from", the University.

**DAVID WELHAM,
UWFA Executive Collegiate Rep.**

BLAST FROM THE PAST!

The winner of our last issue's "Blast from the Past" was Roy Loewen, Mennonite Studies. He correctly identified Dr. Vince Rutherford, a former chair of the History Department, and one of those instrumental in leading the drive for faculty unionization back in the early 80's. Sadly, Vince passed away a few years ago. If you can correctly identify this edition's "Blast from the Past", a two-term UWFA President, please register your answer with Kim Best at 9430. One lucky individual will have their name drawn from the first twenty correct entries. The prize? One free lunch at the Faculty/Staff Club!



UWSA ORGANIZES ACCESS 2000 CAMPAIGN MARCH

CAUT, The University of Winnipeg Senate and the UWFA all endorsed the Canadian Federation of Students' Access 2000 campaign. On Wednesday, February 2nd, as part of this campaign, UWSA organized one of the most successful student demonstrations/marches that Manitobans have seen for many years. Joined by students from the University of Brandon, St. Boniface College and a few from the University of Manitoba, they held a noon rally on cordoned-off Spence Street. By the time the march set off for the Federal Resources Building on York Street their numbers had swollen to a thousand or more. Outside the Resources building Rob Hilliard of the Manitoba Federation of Labour addressed the students. UWSA President Matt Henderson would like to thank UWFA Members for their co-operation, support and understanding during this day of protest.



DISTINGUISHED FACULTY LECTURE SERIES

Without doubt the primary reason *Maclean's* magazine has ranked the University of Winnipeg first for two years in a row among primarily undergraduate universities in western Canada, is the quality and expertise of our Faculty. While locally the quality of our faculty has been known for decades, it is now very satisfying to see this recognition at the national level.

In 1996 UWFA President Alden Turner and University President Marsh Hanen entered into a cooperative, cost sharing venture, to recognize and highlight our distinguished faculty. A small committee of two administrators appointed by the University President and two members appointed by UWFA was formed to select and invite speakers. There is a general understanding that one of our UWFA reps chairs the committee and assumes primary responsibility for any arrangements pertaining to the lecture. Since the autumn of 1996 we have held two invited lectures each academic year, and everyone within our university community is warmly encour-

aged to share in these occasions. Our next public lecture will be at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 1, 2000, in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall and will be presented by Dr. Debbie Schnitzer, Department of English. Debbie's talk is entitled:

"Why, if all were said: Am I not dead?" The (almost) disappearance of Anna Wickham, Free Woman and Poet.

Please note that a reception honoring Debbie will be held in the Faculty & Staff Club immediately following her lecture. Entry to this reception is by ticket only and these can be obtained through the Faculty & Staff Club, in the Dean's Office, or from the Office of the VP Academic (786-9797). Tickets must be claimed by noon on Monday 28, February. Below is a brief background sketch to Debbie's talk.

"Anna Wickham, poet and activist, lived in London, England during the Modernist period from 1905 until she took her own life in 1947. At one point in her career, she enjoyed an international reputation and her work was anthologized more fully than poets such as W. B. Yeats whose own reputation in subsequent years has been beautifully established. Wickham's work, by contrast, has almost disappeared from the literary canon. That almost disappearance has been described by some as "one of the great mysteries of contemporary literature"; it is depicted by others in less flattering terms. Many found Wickham's poetry as "unfashionable" as her "person."

Wickham struggled to write. She consistently defied the conventions which corseted women's thoughts and actions as well as the expressed desire of her husband, who embodying those conventions, committed Wickham to an asylum when she persisted with plans to publish her poetry. Reversing the terms of the longstanding academic cliché "publish or perish," composing in haste, sometimes on scraps of paper while out for tea, Wickham worked tirelessly, supported by friends such as D. H. Lawrence who found her poems significant and beautiful.

Wickham writes about her need and right to use her voice. She examines the lives of women exhausted by prevailing political, cultural and religious rules and regulations. She does not stop writing, but like many whose sense of entitlement is besieged by mainstream standards and customs, the cost is high. This presentation examines the almost disappearance which fringes Wickham's working life and contemporary reputation, this almost disappearance which informs and inspires her prose and poetry and our desire to read her work."

Ingeborg Boyens
Winnipeg-based
journalist; author of
Unnatural Harvest

Janice Newson
Department of Sociology
York University; co-
author of *The University
Means Business*

Student/ Senior/
Low Income \$25 _____

Regular \$50 _____

Institutional/
Sponsored \$125 _____

Fees include lunch both days, and
banquet and social event on Friday
evening.

Michelle Brill-Edwards
Formerly a senior official
with Health Canada;
critic of corporate influence

Claire Polster
Department of Sociology
University of Regina

Will you be attending the banquet?

Yes _____ No _____

Robert Chernomas
Department of Economics,
University of Manitoba

Bill Toews
Farmer; instructor,
University of Manitoba

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

Province _____

Postal Code _____

E-mail _____

Martha Crouch
Plant geneticist, Indiana
University; critic of
corporate control of science

Neil Tudver
Faculty of Social Work,
University of Manitoba,
author of *Universities for
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Leonard Minsky
Director and co-founder
(with David Noble and
Ralph Nadre), National
Coalition for Universities
in the Public Interest

Nettie Wiebe
Farm activist; former
President of the National
Farmers' Union

Anne Lindsey
Manitoba Eco-Network

Will Increasing Corporate Influence Threaten Our Health and Environment?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Private Money
Public Interest
& The University



Manitoba Organization
of
Faculty Associations

Does Corporate Influence Threaten Our Health and Environment?

FRIDAY
March 3

SATURDAY
March 4

MORNING AFTERNOON

A. Creeping Corporate Control

Leonard Minsky,
Neil Tudver

D. What's Happening in Manitoba?

Ed Janzen,
Rene Van Acker,
Kevin Vessey

A. Food and Thought

Ingeborg Boyens,
Bill Toews,
Nettie Wiebe

C. In the Public Interest

Roundtable of all
presenters

B. Why Is It Happening?

Robert Chernomas,
Janice Newson

E. Monsanto: The Only Game in Town?

Brewster Kneen

B. Health and Environment

Michelle Brill-Edwards,
Anne Lindsey

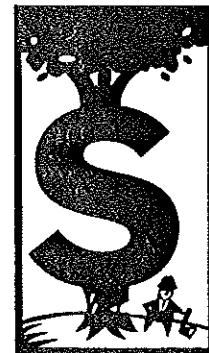
C. Privatizing Knowledge

Martha Crouch,
Claire Polster

FRIDAY EVENING
Food for Thinkers: Banquet and Social
Riddell Hall, U of W
dinner (vegetarian option available)
cash bar
live entertainment

MOFA

The Manitoba Organization is an umbrella organization of Manitoba faculty associations. The four MOFA members are the Association des Professeurs du Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface, the Brandon University Faculty Association, the University of Manitoba Faculty Association, and the University of Winnipeg of Faculty Association.



Last year, ground was broken on the University of Manitoba campus for Monsanto's newest experimental project in genetically engineered food. What are the implications of this global corporation testing its controversial products at our university? What is happening to the university's role as a place where science and technology can be looked at critically?

But this isn't just about our university campuses - it's about protecting our health, food, and environment. Food for Thought brings together academics, producers, activists, writers, and others from across the continent to examine the issues and present alternatives.



March 3-4, 2000 - Buhman Centre, University of Winnipeg