

NEWS FROM UWFA

EDITOR: GEOFFREY SCOTT

1999 / 2000 UWFA
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Editorial

Of Mice and Members

"Faculty/Staff Club Closed Today!" This unexpected sign faced club regulars back on Monday, October 4, and at first glance it seemed innocent enough. After all, we have been conditioned to the possibility that things like the roof falling in could literally happen. What differed this time was that behind the door scurried one of the worst "campus critter" infestations in Wesley Hall history - four dead and at least three other mice seen scampering for cover. Both the Physical Plant and Swat Team Pest Services (contracted through our cleaning service, Bee Clean) responded promptly and the club opened the next day. But the incident was another sharp reminder that our rodent population was experiencing its fall population boom as outsiders came in from the cold to compete for scraps with our regular year-round rodent residents.

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Tales of Tails

At least mice give us one more topic to discuss during conversations over coffee or at lunch. People resort to "one-upmanship" recounting even more exaggerated tales of mice antics, agonizing deaths, twitching tails, and body counts. The coincidental rodent explosion at the time of reduction in office garbage removal, gets repeated once again. We have various traps in our offices and pink pellet bait to remind us of their presence, and then there are occasionally those little droppings on our desks, shelves and floors. Such symmetry from one so small! Why, they may be peering out at you at this very moment from behind some filing cabinet waiting for that sandwich crumb to hit the floor! Mice have been seen everywhere, including Riddell Cafeteria, and there is little comfort in knowing that the phenomenon is not unique to us. Many downtown buildings share our plight. At least there is relief in knowing that the Deer Mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), which carries a deadly strain of *Hantavirus*, has not been reported on campus or in the city.

Why a mouse infestation at all?

Suggestions vary, but natural mouse population explosions resulting from good summer outdoor food supplies and mild falls, combined with a major cutback in both office cleaning and garbage removal, seem to be key. Simply stated, the more food we supply them, the greater is our mouse carrying capacity. Swat Team Pest Services empties the multiple catch traps, replaces the "sticky" pads and tops-up the pink bait. As this takes place at four every morning, except Sundays, you may not ever see them at work. Norm Loat, Director of our Physical Plant, has prepared a "Mouse Watch" article which is coming out in an upcoming *In Edition* informing all campus users of the in-place control measures and how we can help. Recently completed measures include the

sealing of entry holes around campus and digging around the footings on the south and east side of Bryce Hall to add foundation barriers. But the big problem is still food supply, and as there seems to be no move toward returning to nightly office garbage removal and cleaning, the onus appears to be on us all to help starve the mice out. The item in *In Edition* details these measures. Note that the hallway garbage cans are emptied nightly and that classrooms, seminar rooms, theaters and labs are also cleaned nightly.

Ring 9262

Remember this Physical Plant number, 9262. It will respond to queries and action on traps and poison, on body removal, that strange stench, and on office clean up (which can include use of a chlorine bleach). They can also arrange to remove problem garbage at short notice. Remember that starving mice can attempt to eat most things that are organic so if you suspect mice are damaging items in your office, interfering with experiments, or chewing on wiring, equipment etc., ring 9262 for help. The University of Winnipeg Safety Office has provided our Workplace Safety and Health Committee with a report on safety measures surrounding the use of the pink bait. There has been no report issued on the possible health effects of mice and mouse droppings.

Containment or Eradication?

Do you ever think they will just go away? Sorry -- given the last three years of what has turned out to be a containment strategy, this appears unlikely. It may be that the costs of eradication are simply too high, or the task simply impossible due to the likelihood of annual reinfestation. But at least it does appear that the campus critter population can be contained, so get used to them. Unlike ourselves, it looks like they are here to stay!

Facts on Hantavirus



If you require additional information on this disease please contact Kim Best at 9430.

Kim can provide you with a copy of the Manitoba Health Fact Sheet on the topic. In addition, try the web site www.hantavirus.net

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Congratulations to Evelyn Schaefer, Psychology, who correctly identified John Ryan, a professor in Geography until his retirement in 1995, who was the blast-from-the-past in the *October Newsletter*. John was a tireless crusader for faculty rights, and helped lead the drive for unionization back in the early eighties. If you can identify this edition's "BLAST FROM THE PAST" please register your answer with Kim Best at 9430. The snag is that this time the competition is only open to people less than 46 years old! A draw will be made from the first twenty people with the correct identification. The prize? One free lunch at the club!



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Since I last reported to you in October, much has happened, both inside and outside the University. The most significant development outside the University was, of course, the election of a new NDP government, thus ending a dozen years of Tory rule in Manitoba. I think all of us connect the Tories with reductions in post-secondary education spending, days-no-pay, and an upward spiraling of university tuition fees. We experienced the slash and burn policies of a parade of Ministers of Education "Derkach, Vodrey, Manness, Gilleshammer, McIntosh, and Macrae" who seemed determined to make the universities smaller and increasingly inaccessible. We can only hope that the new Minister, Drew Caldwell, will see education at all levels as an investment in our young people, and not as simply a drain on the public purse. At a meeting of the Manitoba Organization of Faculty Associations (MOFA), he told us that he is looking at changes to the membership of the Council on Post-Secondary Education (COPSE), and values the role of the universities in the province. We will soon see, in the upcoming Speech from the Throne, whether education issues are a high priority for this government.

Inside the University, we are all interested in deliberations of the newly-formed committee (dubbed the "Nuts and Bolts Committee") which is looking at ways in which the administration of the university might be changed. I am particularly interested, wearing my hat as UWFA President, in the structural changes that are being contemplated. If, to take an example, a Council of Deans is established, what does this do to our evaluation and promotion procedures? Do all the Deans provide merit recommendations, or just one? Will the V-P Academic still be "in the loop"? When new faculty are appointed, is one Dean empowered to make offers, or does the whole Council make these decisions. For committees

that have the Dean sitting *ex officio*, which Dean will sit? And, most importantly, must these changes be negotiated with UWFA before they can be implemented?

I believe that the answer to the latter question is yes, since almost certainly our terms and conditions of employment will be changed as a result of changes of this sort, and the well-defined pathways of authority that are outlined in our collective agreement will be altered. I believe that a careful scrutiny of the final report of the Committee needs to be done by UWFA, and should be ratified by us before it is implemented. I would hope that any future administrators, in whatever post, and however numerous they may be, would want to know that the Members of UWFA support the new structure.

Enough from me. I find that this time of year, I am feeling a little like "Wesley Hall" still standing, but barely!! The pressures of the end of term, and the upcoming exam period leaves us all feeling a little ragged. But I hope that you will make it through the end of term and examination rush, that you have something exotic and enjoyable planned for the end-of-millennium holiday break. Just keep your fingers crossed that your computer still works after midnight December 31!!

ED BYARD

**REPORT ON THE WESTERN REGIONAL
FACULTY ASSOCIATIONS MEETING
SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN
OCTOBER 14-16, 1999**

The Western Regional Faculty Associations Meeting is an annual event, where issues of common concern for western universities can be discussed. Representatives from faculty associations from British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, MOFA, Saskatchewan and

the CAUT were greeted at the opening reception by G. Hagel, the newly appointed Minister of Post Secondary Education and Skills Training for Saskatchewan.

Friday morning was occupied with reports from the member associations, as well as CAUT. Noteworthy in these reports was the new organizational structure of the central CAUT office in Ottawa. Under the leadership of the Executive Director, Jim Turk, the CAUT has been revamped in all its services and departments. Divided onto four main departments (Legal, Communications and Advocacy, Research, and Collective Bargaining), the CAUT seems to be taking a "grass roots" approach to getting at the problems facing post-secondary institutions in Canada. The changes are welcome.

On Friday afternoon, there was a provocative session on the newly minted Tri-Council policy on Research Involving Humans. Jim Miller (Saskatchewan) argued that the policy was poorly written, vague, and dealt poorly with issues around historical research involving groups (such as immigrants, First Nations peoples, or women). He warned that Associations might have to deal with appeals regarding implementation of the policy in the future.

There was a lively panel session around the issues of security on campus. Of particular interest was the reality that the employer, as owners of the computer network that we all use, can snoop into our electronic mail and any other files we keep. Apparently, under current law, as soon as we enter into an agreement to get a password and a computer account, the employer has the right to the information we have on our computers. This is not true of phone conversations or snail-mail, where a warrant would have to be obtained to eavesdrop or open letters. All agreed that this discrepancy should

be challenged.

The Saturday sessions were varied, and included discussions of pay equity, early retirement, tax laws and taxable benefits, and the problems faced by sessional faculty. The latter discussion has been, and continues to be a thorny problem. Universities are replacing retiring faculty (some induced to do so by early retirement packages) with sessional appointments in increasing numbers. At the University of Regina there were 20 sessional faculty in 1974, and now there are 200!! Norma Wieland (UBC) reminded us that this practice is creating a "shameful underclass of faculty". At some campuses, the sessional faculty have organized into unions, and have become more active in improving their working conditions.

The meeting adjourned until the new millennium, with the next meeting to be held in Winnipeg (hosted by UMFA) in October, 2000.

ED BYARD

"Challenges for Academic Librarians & Libraries in the New Millennium"

(As UWFA Library Rep, Linda Dixon attended this CAUT Librarians Conference in Banff, October 21 - 23, 1999 -- her report follows. A fuller report will appear in a forthcoming edition of the *CAUT Bulletin*.)

In the opening session, Bill Graham, CAUT president, emphasized the dangers of the business-managerial model and the growing corporate agenda within the university environment. To address the university-funding financial shortfall, CAUT would like to see the government set up a Post Secondary Fund ($\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% of GDP) to return funding to what it was. Graham also stressed the advisability of a Post Secondary Act to govern this fund. The keynote address, by Joanne Matthews (Northern BC

University), examined the political and economic forces confronting academic librarians. She focused on the inroads of academic capitalism, the growing demands of distance education, and the demographics of the profession.

Four plenary sessions took place on Friday. The first dealt with changes brought about by new technologies. As the computer has revolutionized the way in which librarians communicate and perform their duties, so keeping up with rapid technological change is probably the single most challenging aspect of the job for most librarians. The second session addressed issues related to librarian workloads as compared to that of the faculty, and reviewed workload expectations as described in collective agreements.

The third session focused on partnerships between academic librarians and faculty. All academic staff have a role to play in furthering both the teaching and research missions of the university, and a number of suggestions for encouraging collaboration in the area of information literacy were brought forward. The final session considered whether library services conflict with the university business model. While stressing a positive view of the business model in the use of strategic planning, discussants cautioned that the profit-driven agendas of private interests are now beginning to have an increasingly negative impact on many campuses.

Saturday sessions included one exploring the topics of job security, program redundancy, financial exigency, training and transfers, and reviewed provisions in collective agreements. Another addressed the issue of faculty-librarian relations, focusing on faculty perceptions of librarians. This session included a review of the literature which suggested that the contribution of librarians to the education of students may not be seen by faculty. It was stressed that

librarians must make the most of their library skills to work with faculty in furthering the mission of the university.

The conference then wound up with an open forum led by Bob Moore from CAUT, where discussion centered on the impacts of library reorganization.

LINDA DIXON,
Library

COMMERCIALIZATION OF THE UNIVERSITIES SHOULD BE RESISTED, SAY THOSE AT OTTAWA CONFERENCE

It may have been Halloween everywhere in the country on the weekend of October 29-31, but at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Ottawa, dark forces of another sort were being confronted. The CAUT-sponsored conference on the *Commercialization of the Universities* concluded with a motion, adopted by all but one person of the 150 or so in attendance, that reaffirmed the value of publically funded universities for the public good, and warned all present to be vigilant about giving up our souls, our university spaces, our research, and our courses, as commodities to be sold in the marketplace to the highest bidder.

The conference itself was designed around several plenary sessions on Friday and Saturday that dealt with major issues of public versus private funding, followed by smaller workshop groups that debated the points made in the preceding plenary. The debates were lively, and all the points of view were recorded, to be reported back in summary form to the final plenary session on Sunday afternoon.

The conference began with a presentation by distinguished University of Toronto physics professor emerita, Ursula Franklin. As a young faculty member in the field

of metallurgy in the 1950's, she was pressured by her department head to consider funding from the US rocket industry-----research she described as "nose-cone research". She refused to do so since her ability to publish, and her students' ability to discuss their research with their colleagues was prohibited by the funders. She argued that we should all think very seriously about doing any sort of proprietary research that comes with these kinds of conditions attached, since it is in direct conflict with the notion of the university existing as a public institution for the public good, and draws the universities perilously closer to becoming production lines for corporations.

The opinions on what to do about the presence of private funding on university campuses were enormously varied. At one end of the spectrum were David Noble and Janice Newson of York University who argued that we should, individually, simply not comply with any request to do anything that could be construed as a "commodification" of our work. We need solidarity and clarity about what is going on, Professor Newson argued. Professor Noble suggested that we not submit course outlines, that we not post course materials online, that we not supply students with prepackaged course notes. He used, as an example of the dangers of commodification, the astonishingly high dropout rates in "distance education" courses. In some cases these rates exceed 80% of the initial registrations. This decline of quality for the sake of technological delivery continues, since the students pay up front, with no refunds, so there is no incentive to improve the courses. They are profitable, to be sure, but are of questionable merit.

Others, including Wayne Renke (Alberta) argued for a more moderate, but collective action, whereby private funding would need to comply with a set of careful guidelines, and be continuously monitored by an "oversight"

committee that would scrutinize the agreements made with corporations, whether it be to install drink machines, or build a research institute. Paul Axelrod (Queens) emphasized that we need to control academic planning, and do more than circle the wagons against the dark forces without. We need to present options, state clearly why universities are important for the public good, and continuously counter the notion that unless a skill is market worthy it is not important. Claire Polster (Regina) echoed this sentiment, suggesting more strongly that we should not accommodate the corporate agenda, but collectively challenge it. She forcefully stated that the public should be the beneficiaries of the intellectual effort of the universities; for example, if a new drug to fight a disease is discovered in a university lab, why not donate it to the World Health Organization instead of giving it to a drug company?

A vivid example of what can go wrong when the results of research are not what a corporate sponsor wants to hear was recounted by Nancy Olivieri (Toronto Sick Children's Hospital). When she published negative results on a new drug she was testing for Apotex, the company denied there was a problem, and attempted to discredit her ability as a scientist, although her findings were found to be valid by other scientists. Pediatrician Michelle Brill-Edwards, who was previously a central figure in the inquiry into the blood scandal in Canada, pointed out that in Dr Olivieri's case this strategy of deny, delay, divide, and discredit was also adopted by the University of Toronto. They denied their duty to defend Dr Olivieri, stating simply that it was a private matter to be dealt with by Apotex and Dr Olivieri. Even when a restoration of Dr Olivieri's research lab and office were agreed to (these had been taken away by the university during the dispute!), the university has made little effort to actually implement the terms of the settlement.

Although serious matters were being discussed, there were happy moments at the conference as well. The conference was kicked off with the launch of Neil Tudiver's new book *Universities for Sale* (James Lorimer and Company), which is the first in a series of CAUT monographs. His book is a readable account of the uneasy cohabitation of corporations and universities, and as Neil is a faculty member at the University of Manitoba, it is filled with local flavour. Another moment of high comedy was the presentation by Professor Langdon Winner from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute of New York. He rose to speak following David Noble's dire warnings of corporate takeover. He began by stating that he was there to sell us all on the merits of the "automatic professor machine" (the APM) that would replace us all, eventually. We all took a deep breath, anticipating what was to come. It was clear, though after he gave us his corporation's e-mail address (edu-sham.com) that we were in for a clever, and very funny satirical skewering of educational technology. The fact that we were deceived, for even a few seconds, is sobering!!

Ed Byard

FOOD FOR THOUGHT!!

MOFA is sponsoring a conference entitled "Food For Thought: Private Money, Public Interest and the University", to be held in Winnipeg, March 2-4, 2000. Sessions will address corporate involvement in university research (e.g. Monsanto), biotechnology, and what are the effects on the community beyond the university of these research trends. The conference will conclude with a Roundtable on the policy implications of corporations on campus. More information will be provided on this conference in our next newsletter.

1999 - 2000 UWFA COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

COMMITTEE	MEMBERS	TELEPHONE
GRIEVANCE OFFICER	Amanda Goldrick-Jones	9453
ASSOCIATE GRIEVANCE OFFICERS (3)	Mark Forier Byron Sheldrick Sandra Zuk	9777 9377 9813
GRIEVANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE	All Grievance Officers above	
JOINT EMPLOYEE BENEFITS COMMITTEE (4 members)	Howard Mathieson (Coll. Rep.) David Burley Michael Wahn John Selwood	9245 9012 9303 9226
JOINT WORKPLACE SAFETY & HEALTH (3 members)	Doug Williams Ed Segstro James Hanley	9334 9290 9005
JOINT PENSION COMMITTEE	Howard Mathieson (Coll. Rep.) 2002 Ed Byard 2000 Alden Turner 2001 (on leave Jan - July 2000) Tim Babcock (replacement for A. Turner Jan - July 2000) Anne Lavack 2002	9245 9723 9283 9455 9425
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JOB ACTION COMMITTEE	In abeyance	
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE	Gail Loadman (Chair) Bruce Daniels Carol Harvey Geoff Scott (Newsletter Editor)	9385 9412 9476 9297
BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE	In abeyance	

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BARGAINING TEAMS: Main Unit: Collegiate Unit:	In abeyance In abeyance	
PAY EQUITY FOR WOMEN COMMITTEE	Claudia Wright Keith Fulton	9306 9333
STATUS OF WOMEN	VACANCIES	
DISTINGUISHED FACULTY LECTURE SERIES	Carol Harvey Robert Young (until 01/2000) Geoff Scott - replacement for R. Young	9476 9373 9297
CAUT DEFENCE FUND	Karen Zoppa - Delegate Gail Loadman - Alternate	9143 9385
MOFA DELEGATES	Ed Byard (UWFA President) Jim Clark Geoff Scott	9723 9757 9297

VOLUNTEERS NEED - UWFA STATUS OF WOMEN COMMITTEE

Volunteers are need to re-establish the UWFA Status of Women Committee. Five (5) Members are required to fulfill the composition requirements pursuant to the UWFA By- Laws and these are: one Librarian, one Collegiate representative, one Instructor, one Assistant Professor and one member who is either an Associate or Full Professor. Once the Committee has an opportunity to meet, it will be entitled to choose its own chair.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Kim Best at 9430 or email to uwfa@uwinnipeg.ca.

Just published by James Lorimer & Company Ltd.

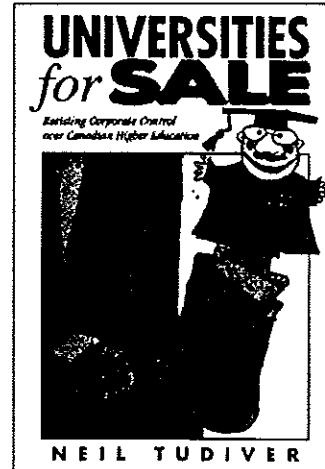
A CAUT Series Title

**Universities for Sale
by Neil Tudiver**

Canadian universities are being forced to defend themselves against an aggressive campaign of commercialization being waged by business. In this new book Neil Tudiver shows how erosion of the traditions of scholarly independence and academic freedom has accelerated to a point of crisis. Will corporations drive our universities? Or will embattled professors find new allies willing to defend free inquiry against the pressures of economic expediency?

“*Universities for Sale* is an excellent analysis of the troubled cohabitation of Canadian universities with business. Our children and grandchildren will have to live with the outcome, and Tudiver shows how university teachers must work to shape an acceptable future.”

-- University of Toronto medical researcher Dr. Nancy Olivieri



NEIL TUDIVER is a professor of social work at the University of Manitoba and former president and chief negotiator for the University of Manitoba Faculty Association. *Universities for Sale* is a title in the new CAUT Series co-published by CAUT and Lorimer.

Ordering information

To order this book, contact Formac Distributing:

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