

...continued from page 12

Veterinary Undergraduate Student Awards

Amount	Name of Fund Of Award	Terms of Reference
\$500	Syntex Award	- Fourth-year Veterinary medical student - Proficiency in bovine medicine and theriogenology
\$500	Tuco Products Co. (Division of Upjohn Inter-America Corp)	- Fourth-year Veterinary medical student - Proficiency in clinical studies
\$500	Women's Auxiliary of New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association	- \$200.00 for book to library - \$300.00 to second-year veterinary medical student from New Brunswick - "Deserving", not necessarily the highest marks
\$1000	Veterinary Medicine Gold Medal	- Fourth-year Veterinary medical student - Highest aggregate in four years of Veterinary medicine

Gay and lesbian rights fragile in Canada

ism and homophobia.

by Pat Johnson

In December 1985, John Crosbie, then Justice Minister, pledged that the federal Government would take "whatever measures are necessary to ensure that sexual orientation is a prohibited ground of discrimination in relation to all areas of federal jurisdiction."

Crosbie's statement followed the release of the 'Equality for All' report, handed down by a tri-partite Parliamentary committee, which cited numerous areas where the government could end institutionalized prejudice against lesbians and gays.

Four years later, these proposals have yet to be implemented.

Primarily, the 1985 report called for an end to discriminatory hiring practices in federal jurisdiction, and called for the inclusion of sexual orientation protection in the Canadian Human Rights Act.

Today, Canadians in seven provinces and the Northwest Territories still have no explicit protection in any legislation against heterosex-

Implementation of the report's recommendations would be an important step in ending discrimination which permits loss of employment, loss of child custody, eviction and refusal of accommodation, non-recognition of long-standing same-sex relationships and the resultant loss of economic benefits, not to mention the unquantifiable psychological effects of discrimination on individuals.

The 'Equality' report marked the Canadian government's first attempt to address the issue of homophobia in a comprehensive way. In addition, the members of the committee were made aware - many for the first time - of the nature of bigotry experienced by gays and lesbians in Canada.

"We were shocked by a number of experiences of unfair treatment related to us by homosexuals in different parts of the country," the members wrote. "We heard about the harassment of and violence committed against homosexuals. We were told in graphic detail about

physical abuse and psychological oppression suffered by homosexuals...(and) of severe employment and housing problems."

Not only should the federal Government implement the fundamental protections proposed by the committee, but it must appear to do so for the right reasons. This would send a message to Canadians that anti-gay bigotry is unacceptable.

The failure to act on the report sends a different, worrisome message.

Recently, some politicians have sent out the message that gays and lesbians are less deserving of equality than other Canadians. One MP has spoken in the House of Commons against equality in the hiring practices of the RCMP, referring to his homosexual constituents as "fairies". British Columbia Premier Bill Vander Zalm condemned Svend Robinson as a poor role

model for young Canadians, and Saskatchewan Premier Grant Devine equated gays with bank robbers. During the 1988 election campaign, the Prime Minister of Canada also played on the stereotypical portrayal of homosexuals as cowards in his "Svend as Defense Minister" address.

Even former New Democratic Party leader Ed Broadbent did a disservice to the struggle for sexual orientation equality when he declared it a personal matter. The Alberta cabinet minister responsible for human rights stated in April 1988 that his province would not introduce human rights legislation because "people's sexual orientation is their own business." These laissez-faire positions ignore reality.

The dismissal of this injustice as an issue of individual privacy undermines the ability of Canada's estimated two and one half million

lesbian and gay citizens to function equally in society. It may also encourage violent attacks against homosexuals, such as the murder in 1989 of Joe Rose in Montréal, and a series of bombings of gay institutions in Vancouver, including a bookstore, a restaurant and a nightclub.

We must continue to demand these basic reforms to ensure legal equality for lesbians and gays, and our heterosexual friends must be convinced to support the struggle as well, not only for principles of human dignity and equality, but also because many gays and lesbians cannot defend their own interests without jeopardizing their jobs, housing, and personal security, or risking alienation from family and friends. Perhaps the Government could take John Crosbie's most recent advice, "get off (their) duffs", and act on the recommendations of the 'Equality for All' report.


Hey, You.....

What do you mean you're not going to the Co-ed!? You thought it was only for students living in residence? Well, you thought wrong. It has been a widely-accepted myth that off-campus students were unwelcome at residence semi-formals. Another popular myth conceived states that Co-eds are boring. Well, it's time that myths were replaced by facts. Anything can be boring if you don't try to make it fun; you can rest assured that this semester's Co-ed will be a good time. Additionally, ANYONE CAN GO, even you. Read the notices (they're all over campus),

and find out where you can pick up tickets. The Big Event is this Saturday (March 3rd), and the House Committees of the respective Halls would gladly welcome a large turnout, so find yourself a date, rent some decent threads, buy a ticket (they're about \$12.00 per couple), and get yourselves down to the Charlottetown Hotel, because the Co-ed will be a good time, especially if YOU want it to be.

If the reader thinks that the Pit Bulls are washed up, think again. The Dogs have been going through some lean times of late, to which a 2nd-round loss

to the Business Society in the recent Tournament attests. Due to the added pressures of other losses, the task has fallen to The Slinkster, the coach-GM of the Pit Bulls, to produce a winner. He and co-coach Don Won are currently giving the squad a major shuffling job, the results of which hope to be seen soon after the Break. Don and Slink, however, deciding that discretion is the better part of valour, declined to comment on specific lineup changes. In other words, O Ye of Lesser Teams, keep your heads up, both now and in the playoffs; The Big Dogs still plan on feasting!



**University of
Prince Edward Island**

presents

Paul Bernard
Classical Guitarist

Meijane Quong
Pianist

music by:
Chopin, Scarlatti, Giuliani,
Castelnuovo - Tedesco,
Boccherini

FRIDAY, MARCH 2nd at 8 pm
STEEL RECITAL HALL,
ADMISSION IS FREE

Presented by the Department of Music