

TWO ONTARIO STUDENTS FACE CHARGES

TORONTO (CUP) - An article exposing the poor controls on Ontario's age of majority cards has left two Ontario student journalists facing charges.

Janice Bell and Cathy Perry, editor and news editor of the Oblique Times at Seneca College, have been charged by the Liquor Licensing Board of Ontario with obtaining government documents by fraudulent means.

In December, Perry (18) obtained an age of majority card using Bell's identification. The cards, which show that the bearer is at least 19, are the only legal identification in Ontario to prove a person can be served alcohol.

Perry immediately returned the card, and wrote a news story on the incident for the Dec. 7 issue of the paper.

"It was an experiment for the paper. We wanted to see how easy it was to get them, and show that the system wasn't working as it should be."

On Dec. 15, the police informed Perry she was charged under a section of the Ontario Liquor License Act which states "no person shall use false identification to obtain government documents". Bell was charged with supplying false identification.

The maximum penalty for each conviction is \$10,000 or one year in jail.

According to police constable Frank Peek, the LILO had wanted to press 14 different charges, starting with fraud.

A reliable source informed the Oblique Times that the two staffers were being used as "examples". They are the first to be charged under the section, and

brought to court.

It was also revealed that, if the LILO is successful in its case against Bell and Perry, two more student journalists - from The Press at Brock University in St. Catherine's - could be charged.

The two Press staffers used the same identification to obtain two age of majority cards Dec. 8 and then turned the cards over to a Liberal MPP. On Dec. 11, the MPP confronted the

Ontario Consumer and Corporate Affairs Minister Frank Drea with the card in the Ontario legislature.

Drea then turned the matter over to the police. Press editor John Ferri said he expected the results of Bell's and Perry's case will decide whether the two Press staffers will be charged.

According to Bell, she and Perry were told when they returned the card that the police would not be

involved, although they were urged to contact an official in the Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. They did not contact the official because the length of time necessary would not have allowed them to run the story before Christmas.

Perry said she thought the two probably would not have been charged if the paper had not run the story.

She expected they would receive a summons shortly.

FEE INCREASE FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS?

HALIFAX (CUP)--Differential tuition fees for foreign students studying in the Maritimes may become a reality.

The Nova Scotia provincial cabinet is presently studying the possibility and will make their decision public along with other funding announcements in February.

Other Maritime provinces are also considering differential fees. Francis McGuire of the Council of Maritime Premiers said that although the decision is up to the individual provinces, there is always a concerted attempt to have identical

policies. "The Council of Maritime Premiers has discussed it although they haven't made the issue public yet", McGuire said.

Terry Donahue, N.S. Education Minister said it is hard to predict when the decision will be made. Donahue, who believes the presence of foreign students enriches the university communities, said the principal concern is cost. "Questions of benefits of the presence of foreign students must be examined", he said. "Differential fees aren't an attempt to discriminate."

Donahue said if cabinet approves of the con-

cept it will be worked into the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission funding arrangements and monitored through them.

Donahue feels public reaction would be mixed in this area. "I don't perceive any great support or opposition to the idea", he said.

Mike MacDonald, Nova Scotia rep on the National Union of Students Central Committee said differential fees are nothing less than discrimination against foreign students. Accessibility to education is important to everyone, not just local students, Macdonald said.

In 1977, there were 1,463 foreign students in Nova Scotia, 454 in New Brunswick and 62 in Prince Edward Island. Of the total foreign student population in Canada, 6.9% are in the Maritimes.

Differential fees are presently in effect at institutions in Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec.



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