



Travel Cuts

CASA fights Price Discrimination



Student Exchange

There are still exchange positions available for the fall of 1996. Students can go on an exchange to Australia, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Florida. If you are interested, see the Student Exchange Advisor, Lynette Barrett at Student Services ASAP. My office hours are:

Tuesday 9:30-12:30
 Wednesday 12:30-4:30
 Friday 9:30-12:30

Ottawa, Ontario -- The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) today announced that it was appealing to the International Student Travel Confederation (ISTC) in Copenhagen, Denmark, regarding Travel CUTS' discriminatory pricing regime for the International Student ID Card (ISIC).

Currently, Travel CUTS -- which is wholly owned by the the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) -- is the exclusive Canadian distributor of the ISIC card, which is issued by the ISTC. Most student travel fares require the presentation of the card in order to obtain the discount. Travel CUTS charges students \$15 for the card if their student associations are not members of CFS, while allowing students at member associations to receive the card free of charge. The nonmember price is deliberately set higher than the CFS membership fee in order to entice schools to join their political lobby organization.

"The ISIC card is being used in Canada as a political tool by a politi-

cal organization [CFS]," said CASA National Director Alex Usher in a letter to the ISTC's Director General. "ISTC is a non-partisan agency whose brief is to be of assistance to all students, regardless of the partisan affiliation of the student association of which they happen to be members."

There are two problematic aspects with the current set-up; firstly that Travel CUTS has exclusivity over distribution in Canada, and secondly that its pricing regime is discriminatory. "We have

asked ISTC to revoke either the price regime or the exclusivity arrangement. It doesn't matter much which one we get -- either way, students who don't want to be part of CFS will pay less for their ISIC cards."

"The ISTC is a wonderful organization which exists to help all students, regardless of the partisan affiliation of the student association to which they belong. It is simply reprehensible that CFS has perverted this organization's mandate through its partisan, discriminatory pricing policy," Usher concluded.

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