

CUP Story

Defination of Terms

Canadian University Press (CUP) – a co-operative press service whose members are the newspapers of Canadian post-secondary institutions and are also various community or alternate papers across the country. CUP boasts it's the oldest student press association in the world, which is a true statement. It also claims to be the oldest national student organization in Canada. CUP provides member papers with a thrice weekly news service, a features service, a cartoon service, the opportunity to participate in a national advertising co-operative, a national conference, regional conferences, fieldworkers and an exchange of papers with other members.

Youthstream – a consolidation of CUP membership into one marketable advertising package in order to increase national advertising revenue in each paper. Youthstream, like the CUP national office, was set up by the member papers with their own best interests in mind, and thus functions solely to benefit the CUP membership. The best way to understand Youthstream is in terms of quantity: it pays an advertiser or his agency to deal with us now because, instead of having to deal with some fifty or sixty different full-time ad managers or part-time student ad salesmen or women, people often hard to locate, hard to pin down, the agency simply makes contact with our representative in Toronto, and with one insertion order and with a minimum of fuss and bother, places ads in all the member papers. (See also the note on responsibilities.)

CUPOTT – the national office, a collection (usually motley) of newspaper folk elected at the national conference for a term of one academic year more or less to function as petty bureaucrats, distinguished accountants, glorified news-hacks, underpaid hasslers and cetera.

The Co-op – usually refers to Youthstream, the advertising co-operative. Some starry-eyed dreamers still call CUP "the co-op".

The Membership – the members of Canadian University Press, you, the viewer/reader/writer/editor. This is an interesting example of a curious mathematical phenomenon: *CUP is the papers and nothing else*. It does not exist separately from them. You're it.

The Regions – almost arbitrary national divisions intended to make bureaucratic chores easier to manage. Years ago news stories were telegraphed to members of each region by one paper which was "in charge" for that region. By now the regions facilitate the division of labour with regards to fieldworkers. The regions today are the West (WRCUP), Ontario (ORCUP), Quebec (QRCUP), and the Atlantic Region (ARCUP). Because of the limited number of papers in QRCUP, it is fieldworked by the national fieldworker, and its members are invited to the ORCUP regional conference.

Regional Conferences – a weekend version of the national, the regionals usually take place in the autumn. They are short, sweet, useful, and relatively painless. In the old days, much of the legislation put before the Plenary Session of the national conference was initiated by the discussion, mandates and resolutions of the regionals. There is still some overlapping, but generally regionals are a time of introduction – to other CUP papers in the area, to technical questions and to national office people who attend the regionals whenever possible.

Travel Pool – a means of getting at least one representative from each newspaper to the national conference. Each paper pays a set amount into the travel pool and receives one return ticket from its city of publication to the conference. This means, for example, that a paper from the far west would not have to pay a ridiculously high fare to get to a conference in the east while a neighbouring eastern paper would pay no fare at all. The travel pool can best be described as an equalising mechanism. It is important to watch for notice in house organs regarding rebate procedure.

Fieldworkers – a nomadic cluster of other news-hacks, also elected at the national who spend their divided time among the member papers, helping with any problems, offering advice and technical assistance, and generally getting a far more realistic picture of the ways things are with the membership than the isolated and miles-from-anywhere national office gets.

The National – the national conference, held annually between Christmas and New Year's Day. A time of stress and struggle, torment and triumph, of policy-making, oath-taking, muckraking and back-breaking.

initiatives in the U.S. this year, only the California one obtained the support necessary to achieve a position on the ballot. Attempts failed in Washington, Oregon, Arizona, and Florida, but the Michigan initiative may be able to collect sufficient signatures for a place of the 1974 State ballot.

CMI has not only achieved what many regarded as "impossible" with the actual initiative, but in a drive to register voters, they trained 411 deputy registrars, and registered more than 20,220 voters.

At first, people were "paranoid, and thought they would be arrested," said Skinner but working within the law this time has avoided any hassles from police.

A sign on the steps up to the quaint CMI office pleads with visitors to "Leave your stash outside" and the only plants in the building are harmless ones, in terms of evidence.

Support has come not only from the underground media, but also from two television stations – KNBC in Los Angeles, a network affiliate, and KPIX in San Francisco – which have broadcast editorials condoning tolerance of marijuana.

Skinner predicts a number of police officers may also lend their support by giving their opinion on the referendum through a judge, to protect their anonymity. The initiative has already received support from the Police Officers for Justice and the San Francisco Deputy Sherriffs' coalition.

The campaign has spent a total of \$80,000 on the initiative, and plans to expend the same amount during the final two weeks on a last burst. Part of the money will be spent on radio spots. Most of this has come through small private donations, with an additional grant of \$15,000 from Amorphia, the marijuana foundation.

The remainder should be covered from showings of the film "Reefer Madness" by the Playboy-backed NORML (National Organization for the Repeal of Marijuana Laws).

The heart of the campaign still remains with those who struggled to collect signatures through the paranoia of the early days.

And if proposition 19 succeeds –

Simple: "I think we'll get into doing something for pot prisoners", says one volunteer, "amnesty or something."

by Phil West

veys in Los Angeles and San Francisco show support from as many as 57 % of those cities' inhabitants.

The California Marijuana Initiative (CMI) is described by Los Angeles County Co-ordinator Lawrence Skinner as "one of the most ideal solutions for one of the greatest problems in recent times."

The proposition does not affect present laws governing the sale of marijuana. "It does not deal with the complexities of trafficking marijuana," Skinner said, "and avoids the problems feared by many people that marijuana will eventually be advertised as being sexy, or something similar."

"Some supporters believe that approval in the referendum will give police a mandate to concentrate on the trafficking of marijuana and narcotics."

Of a total six marijuana