

French Consulate-General subsidizes poster displays

By RANDY MCDONALD

If you've been walking on the third floor of Main building, you've probably noticed a collection of 20 French-language posters, and adjacent placards – sponsored by the French Consulate-General in Moncton. This series – entitled *Chateaubriand 1768-1848* – is part of a collection of poster sets subsidized by the *Association pour la diffusion de la pensée française* ("Association for the Diffusion of French Thought). The Association was founded in 1946 as a branch of the French Foreign Ministry in order to promote French culture abroad.

Chateaubriand 1768-1848 is part of a number of poster sets that are touring

Atlantic Canadian universities in the early months of 1999. The *Chateaubriand* poster set will be on display until January 29, at which point it will be sent to Acadia University. In February, a set of posters about the life of 20th century French Catholic writer Georges Bernanos will be on display on Main building's third floor.

Chateaubriand, born in 1768 to a noble family of Brittany, grew up to become one of the most important French Romantic writers of the first half of the 19th century. Of his many polemical works, novels, and essays, two books – 1802's The Genius of Christianity and his autobiography Memories from Beyond the Tomb – are particularly well-known.

Chateaubriand not only served under Napoleon for four years, but after the restoration of the Bourbons in 1815 Chateaubriand became a leading member of the French foreign service. Chateaubriand died in 1848, in Paris.

Web Link: (<http://www.mosquitoweb.fr/culture/biblio/adpf/presentation/present.html>)

This is the Association's home page. Non-bilinguals will be disappointed to find that it is French-only, but the Altavista Babelfish translation program (<http://babelfish.altavista.com/cgi-bin/translate>) provides adequate translations into English.

Questions raised about scholarship society

By IRFAN DHALLA

VANCOUVER (CUP BRIEF) -- Six-figure salaries, trips to Cancun and glamorous conventions with paid speeches from Hollywood actors do not fit the description of most non-profit organizations.

But the Golden Key Honor Society, an Atlanta-based non-profit organization that boasts the membership of several Canadian universities, is one exception.

The organization promises scholarships and contacts to high academic achievers to its 271 affiliates, including the University of British Columbia, the University of Toronto, McGill University, McMaster University and the University of Alberta.

The University of British Columbia joined the society last fall partly on the urging of

its president, Martha Piper, who sent letters endorsing the organization to about 3,200 of the school's top students.

More than 800 students paid \$80 each -- for a total of \$64,000 -- to join the society that according to Golden Key literature is associated with the likes of U.S. Presidents Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan, Nobel Prize winner Elie Wiesel and American Red Cross President Elizabeth Dole.

But questions are being raised about whether the Golden Key Honor Society is as good as it sounds.

The organization's submission to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, obtained by the *Ubsysey*, shows it spent just \$289,461 US on scholarships, or less than five per cent of its total expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997.

And according to the Atlanta Better Business Bureau, Golden Key has refused to provide it with its financial statements.

Valerie Maclean, general manager of the Vancouver Better Business Bureau, says withholding such information is highly unusual for non-profit organizations.

She and the president of UBC's Golden Key chapter, Fahreen Dossa, have also expressed concern over the society's spending practices. Dossa said she had expected scholarships would account for around 60 per cent of the organization's total expenditures.

She also pointed to the high salaries paid to Golden Key directors. The organization spent \$1,822,837 US on salaries and other employee

benefits in 1997 and its executive director, James Lewis, received \$247,600 US.

But Golden Key's representative in Vancouver feels that Lewis' salary is not extraordinary.

Kari Sivam, a former UBC student who is now Golden Key's Assistant Director of International Development, said that a recent study of for-profit as well as non-profit organizations revealed that the average salary of a chief executive officer in the US is \$225,000.

While Golden Key spends a lot of money on salaries, it spends even more on conferences and initiation ceremonies. More than half of the organization's budget is spent on these ceremonies.

Golden Key directors were unavailable for comment.

Despite her concerns, however, Dossa says UBC students are not being bilked of their money.

Aside from Piper's letter, some students were encouraged to join the organization by a member of the university's awards and financial aid office who recruited the first few students after being approached by Golden Key.

Carol Gibson, director of the university's awards and financial aid, says the committee charged with looking into whether to join the organization reviewed all information available about Golden Key.

Gibson said material available included an audit by the accounting firm Smith and Hart that clearly shows Golden Key's scholarship figure and conference expenses, but does not give a list of salaries.

We have a winner

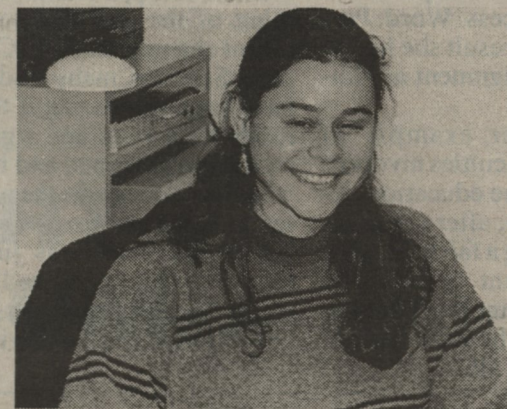
UPEI Psychology major wins Rhodes Scholarship

By RANDY MCDONALD

Over the Christmas holiday, fourth-year psychology major Hélène Deacon got a big surprise when she learned that she won a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford University in England. Deacon is only one of eleven students in all of Canada to have qualified for the Rhodes scholarship.

The Rhodes Scholarships were founded in 1902 by British industrialist Cecil John Rhodes, and are awarded to students from 18 to 24 years of age in the Commonwealth of Nations, the United States, Germany, and South Africa. The selection of students is based upon academic achievements, participation in sports, and leadership. The winner of a Rhodes scholarship has tuition and living costs subsidized for two years, with the possibility of an extension to a third year.

If Deacon's application to Oxford is accepted, she will go to England this coming October.



Helene Deacon receives Rhodes Scholarship

-photo by Richard Haines