

The Netted Gem

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Students Dying For A Good Time

OTTAWA — It's quiet at Carleton University's Renfrew residence at four a.m. Scattered pizza crusts, beer bottles and overflowing ashtrays are the only signs of last night's festivities. Three hours of rotten sleep on a lumpy mattress later, the peace is disturbed by dozens of women running screaming down the halls. Pounding on doors the res-fellows (floor leaders) are calling out the names of the frosh. They order frosh to get up for a game of Frisbee-football with the young men on the floor above.

The pounding continues for one hour. Orientation week has begun.

Orientation week, is a week of introduction to the university or college. A chance to meet people and participate in group activities before the day-to-day ritual of classes and studying begins.

That's one side of orientation week — full of information booths, helpful campus guides wearing easy-to-identify sweatshirts, open houses and campus tours.

The other side of orientation week activities begins at night, inside the residences.

It's less publicized in official orientation literature, but talked about far more by students. For those students living on campus, orientation week is often a blur of drunken parties and initiation pranks. The beer flows freely and drinking competitions are commonplace.

For new students living away from home for the first time, the tradition of partying through orientation week can be an exciting experience.

It's also a tradition that can lead to tragedy.

An orientation week accident at Wilfrid Laurier Uni-

versity in Waterloo Sept. 6 left one student dead and four others injured. Brigitte Bouckaet, a second year student and residence don, was crushed to death under the wheels of a bus while trying to control the crowd. Two other students also pushed under the bus ended up with broken legs. The bus was to take students from an annual orientation barbecue and party back to campus.

Accounts vary but student newspaper editor Fred Taylor said the students believed the bus that killed Bouckaet was the last one and in a frantic rush pushed others under the bus.

Despite media reports, to the contrary, the university denies that alcohol was a factor in the accident.

"It wasn't a drunken festive thing ... I don't know what anyone could have done," said the Dean of Students, Fred Nichols.

A coroner's inquest is being held to look into the accident.

That same night, the Friday night at the end of orientation week, 22-year-old David Gilmour died after having his throat slit with a broken beer bottle, less than 50 yards away from a Concordia University beer bash.

The attack occurred shortly after midnight after Gilmour asked 22-year-old Glen McCall for a sip of a beer he was holding. According to witnesses, McCall responded by smashing the beer bottle and slashing it across Gilmour's throat. Gilmour died shortly after he was taken to hospital. Although neither McCall nor Gilmour were Concordia students it is thought that they were headed to the beer bash at the Loyola campus.

On Monday morning, Sept. 9, the first day of classes on most campuses, police discovered the body of Carleton university student Raymond MacLean in the Rideau canal. Police say the death of the 22-year-old MacLean was accidental. They have been unable to locate any witnesses or find out how MacLean fell into the canal.

With tragedies such as these receiving public attention, university administration and student councils are beginning to crack down on orientation week events. Their biggest enemy is tradition.

At Ryerson Polytechnical Institute students were forced to attend their annual orientation party alongside 18 members of the Toronto police. For the 26th year in a row some 3000 students headed by ferry across to the

Toronto Islands for their orientation picnic. Police feared a repeat of last year's disaster when a drunken youth dove from the ferry as it neared the island and died when he hit his head on a

submerged piece of timber. Many students complained the police went too far when they began checking bags and picnic coolers for alcohol.

"We concede the value in having some kind of police

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Commission Says Scrap EPF For PSE

By Peter Kuitenbrouwer of Canadian University Press

OTTAWA (CUP) — If Donald MacDonald has his way, next year students will get an education voucher in the mail worth on average \$1850, to put towards the cost of getting a degree.

But tuition costs will be "considerably higher", and higher-demand or higher-cost programs will also cost more to enrol in. To compensate, the government will extend students' borrowing limits under the Canada Student Loans Program, and offer more generous scholarships and bursary agreements.

Costs to students will not "necessarily" increase, but students "could be expected to bear directly somewhat more of the cost."

These are some of the recommendations on post-secondary education reform contained in the report of the Royal Commission on the Economic Union and Development Prospects for Canada, chaired by MacDonald. The commission released its report in Ottawa last week.

Under the current university financing system, set up in 1977, provinces get a block of cash which they're supposed to match with their own money to fund colleges and universities. The amount a province gets is based on population and gross national product, and not post-secondary operating costs.

The federal portion of college and university funding has gone from 70 to 80 per cent between 1978 and 1985.

The commission says the rising numbers of students enrolled rising costs, and unwillingness of provinces to pay more to colleges and universities means funding, in real terms, has declined since 1977.

This year, because of the current formula, universities in five provinces, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Manitoba and British Columbia will actually give less to colleges and universities than the amount the federal government transfers for the schools. In short, in these five provinces, less than no provincial money is going into education.

MacDonald recommends abolishing this system, which will give the provinces \$2 billion in 1985-86. Instead, provinces will get tax points to collect part of the money themselves. The rest of the money will become direct to-student funding. \$1.55 billion, split between the current 850,000 full-time post-secondary students in Canada would come to \$1850 each.

The report suggests funding for students should vary according to the provincial tuition fees, but that students in one program should not get more than those in another.

The report also suggests much higher grants could be provided to graduate than undergraduate students. The report says nothing about tuition beyond "students should be responsible for a portion of education costs."

The commission says direct-to student financing, "although it is the most radical option" is the only one that will give schools the flexibility and excellence the commission thinks is wanted.

The report suggests tuition increases should "reflect such market factors as the expected return to the student of receiving an education in that institution."

The commission also recommends additional grants for institutions that publish more and get more grants from the private sector.

The commission said it did not get much help from within the university community itself in making its recommendations.

"The combination of faculty unions, the tendency to draw administrators from within the institutions, an aging and tenured faculty, uncertainty about the role of post-secondary institutions in society, all combined with a somewhat defensive attitude toward the status quo does not seem to us to provide a healthy situation," the report says.

